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**Sullivan County Community College
Loch Sheldrake, New York
Spring 2008, Energy**

BACKGROUND

Campus Profile

Sullivan County Community College (SCCC) is a small, two-year community college nestled in the scenic Catskill Mountains of New York. Our rural, 405-acre campus is conveniently located less than two hours from New York City, Albany and Scranton. SCCC, which is part of the State University of New York system, offers approximately 40 associate degree and certificate programs, as well as continuing education and specialty courses, in today's hottest industries.

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GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Goals

Sullivan County Community College has had a geothermal heating and cooling system since 2002. This past year SCCC expanded its commitment to sustainability by entering into an energy performance contract that is expected to save the college \$6 million in energy costs over the next 15 years. In particular, the contract calls for geothermal heating and cooling to be installed in the college field house along with lighting retrofits, Solatube installation, daylight harvesting, building envelopes, window tinting, water conservation measures, vending machine misers, hot water improvements and the installation of a wind turbine.

The contract is expected to result in financial savings for the college. In addition, it is expected to result in building modernization and efficiency, as well as environmental gains including improved indoor air quality and a reduction in greenhouse emissions (3,379,759 pounds annually, the equivalent of removing 509 vehicles each year). The project's water conservation is expected to equal a savings of 1,532,477 gallons a year. In addition, the 3,634,352 kilowatt hours that will be saved each year will equate to 1,054 trees planted annually.

With an eye to the future, the college has plans for a new Center for Advanced Sciences and Technology (CAST) building to house renewable energy, sustainability and allied health educational programs. This building will be located next to a planned Green Technology Commercial Park, linking higher education with business in a first-of-its-kind undertaking on a New York college campus.

As part of the college's new master plan, we plan to build a greenhouse on campus that will be used as an educational tool by various academic programs, such as the sciences and culinary arts, as well as the building and grounds department to grow flowers and plants for campus landscaping.

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SCCC not only practices sustainability, but is committed to educating the “green” leaders of tomorrow. It is expected to seat the first class in its new Green Building Maintenance and Management program this fall. This associate’s degree program will teach students to manage and maintain high-performance commercial buildings. In addition, students will get the theory and hands-on training needed to work with rapidly evolving technologies including photovoltaic cells, wind generators and geothermal heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) systems. Over the past couple years, we also have offered noncredit courses on topics including photovoltaics, wind power and permaculture.

Accomplishments

The college is currently in the midst of installing the energy performance measures to realize the projected savings. The installation of the geothermal system in the field house and other initiatives are occurring during the summer of 2008.

Pending registration with the State Education Department, the first students will enter the Green Building Maintenance and Management program this fall.

The infrastructure and design phase of the CAST building is expected to begin during 2008, with hopes that students will be using this hands-on laboratory by the fall of 2010.

Challenges and Responses

The installation portion of the energy performance project is expected to be completed by 2009, at which point energy savings can begin to be realized and compared.

The Green Building Maintenance and Management program has received positive feedback from a variety of audiences, including those working in the construction trades.

ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

Leaders and Supporters

College President Dr. Mamie Howard-Golladay had the full support of the Board of Trustees in moving forward with the energy performance contract, new sustainability programs and the CAST building. During 2007 the Board of Trustees also passed a resolution of support to use sustainable practices whenever possible.

Funding and Resources

Fifty percent of the \$15 million cost to construct the CAST building will come from our sponsoring county, with the remaining 50 percent from the State of New York. An annual cost savings of \$408,000 is expected from the energy performance contract.

Community Outreach and Education

SCCC President Dr. Mamie Howard-Golladay has been the featured speaker at numerous community events throughout the Hudson Valley. She also has presented to the college’s faculty and staff to outline the aspects of all energy-related projects. She regularly presents to the county legislature and keeps the Board of Trustees informed about these projects.

In addition, the college has initiated an integrated marketing-communications campaign, including media relations, print/radio advertising and collateral development, in support of the new Green Building Maintenance and Management program. The campaign is designed to build community awareness of the

program and new green-collar career opportunities, as well as encourage interested students to contact the admissions office.

CLOSING COMMENT

The future is definitely “green” at Sullivan County Community College. We are eager for all elements of the energy performance contract to be executed, especially the wind turbine. Next year at this time we will have a better idea of the exact amount of cost savings being realized. Construction of the Center for Advanced Sciences and Technology building should also be in progress, as well as plans for the planned Green Technology Commercial Park.