



Lincoln Land Community College Springfield, Illinois Green Jobs

SCHOOL

Lincoln Land Community College, public, 2-year, Springfield, Illinois

GOALS AND OUTCOMES

Goals

Develop the Lincoln Land Green Model Home as a state-of-the-art mini home that will be designed and built by Lincoln Land Community College students with the assistance of local professionals, business, organizations, and unions. It will be designed using a whole-house systems approach and will be constructed following either the National Association of Home Builders National Green Building Standard or the LEED For Homes system, with an emphasis on innovative, sustainable building techniques and materials. In addition to featuring green and energy and water efficient building techniques and materials, the Green Model Home also will showcase sustainable landscaping and renewable energy technologies, including some combination of solar photovoltaic panels, solar hot water heating, geothermal, and/or small wind.

Accomplishments and Outcomes

We are currently on track with the goals we laid out in our initial grant application. To date, we have been working to lay the groundwork for the actual construction of the model home. Completed steps include:

- Determining the exact size and major features of the green model home as well as the location of the model home on campus
- Developing a proposal on the green model home and obtaining approval from the vice president of workforce development, assistant vice president of facilities and construction, president of the college, and board of trustees of the college
- Integrating the project into the Renewable Energy and Green Construction workforce certificate curriculums that were recently developed
- Creating and meeting with an advisory committee comprised of 15 local renewable energy and building industry professionals who are helping to guide the plan for the model home as well as provide assistance in terms of time, equipment, etc. once construction begins
- Collaborating with for-credit classes on the project. During the fall 2011 semester, architecture classes at LLCC were involved in developing initial designs for the mini model home and then presenting those designs to our advisory committee. During the spring 2012 semester, architecture students will help finalize a design for the home. As construction begins, we also will enlist other classes on campus, including HVAC, landscape design, and more.

- Researching specific materials and building techniques to be used in construction of the home, with assistance from students in our architecture classes as well as advisory committee members, and creating a master list of what will be used
- Connecting with local partners, suppliers, and others who can assist with providing materials, supplies, equipment, and the skills necessary to construct the model home; this has included reaching out to local stores including Lowe's and Ace Hardware, local renewable energy companies, and Grainger, whose rep is connecting us with some of their suppliers
- Teaching workforce students the specific hands-on skills needed to work on construction of the green model home—two groups of students in our renewable energy program are currently attending classes; one group of green construction students will start classes Feb. 13
- Beginning to market the project to the community and other interested groups/organizations to garner support and interest in the project

Challenges and Responses

One of the biggest challenges we faced was obtaining approval for the project on campus. Although initial support was in place prior to applying for the grant, the process of getting approval from the many stakeholders on campus involved in such decisions took longer than expected. Fortunately, we have now completed the necessary approvals to move forward.

Determining the size of the house also proved challenging. Originally, we planned on designing and building a "mini" green model home that would be about 300 square feet. Upon meeting with stakeholders on campus as well as our advisory committee, however, it was recommended that we rethink the size of the model home and look at building a larger structure that would be more of a showcase, would allow our students to do more hands-on training, and would serve multiple functions on campus. For this reason, we have now decided to build an 850-square-foot model home.

Securing additional grant funding for the project continues to be an ongoing challenge. One large source of funding did not come through as we thought it would. However, we have identified other sources of funding that we are currently pursuing. In addition, we are beginning to meet with local businesses and suppliers about donations of equipment and materials.

In order to build the model home, some old modular buildings must be removed from the site. Until this past week, there was concern that no one wanted the buildings and that they would not be removed in time for construction to start. Fortunately, we learned that two different individuals are now interested in the buildings, so are expecting that they will be removed from the site in the near future.

Funding and Resources

This project received a Greenforce Initiative grant. The Greenforce Initiative, a partnership of Jobs for the Future and National Wildlife Federation, strengthens the capacity of community colleges to green the skills of the modern workforce.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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