



Thomas Nelson Community College Hampton, Virginia Energy

SCHOOL

Thomas Nelson Community College, public, 2-year, Hampton, Virginia.

GOALS AND OUTCOMES

Goals and Accomplishments

Thomas Nelson Community College (TNCC) proposes to research and create a solar demonstration on a small scale to show affordable and practical ways to collect, store and use solar energy. TNCC proposes to attach solar panels to two motorcycle storage containers (shipping containers) that are located adjacent to one of the campus parking lots. The panels would provide energy for lights inside the containers and motorcycle battery chargers.

Accomplishments include a real-world, in-the-field experience for students, a teaching demonstration site for faculty and industry experience installing solar. Ultimately the project acts as an example of affordable solar application to the College Sustainability Committee.

ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

Leaders and Supporters

TNCC Engineering Technology faculty members are excited about involving their students in doing research on peak load for power needs; calculating battery storage capacity needed; calculating best orientation and placement; as well as installing wiring to storage batteries.

The design work for attaching the panels to the storage containers would be performed by Computer-Assisted Drafting and Design (CADD) students.

Commentary and Reflection

Advice for those engaging in similar projects:

- Be creative
- Seize opportunities
- Be inclusive
- Leverage resources

Funding and Resources

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

Contacts

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MORE ABOUT YOUR SCHOOL

Campus Sustainability History

Please view the TNCC Sustainability Task Force webpage:
<http://tncc.edu/about-2/general-information-2/sustainability-task-force/>