

RRCC's Green Campus Initiative – Outline 2012

Red Rocks' Green Initiative Efforts and the Green Committee Pledge

We pledge to contribute to the greening and sustainability of Red Rocks Community College by working with students, faculty, and staff to support resource conservation, recycling, waste reduction, reduced energy consumption and environmentally sound operations. The RRCC Green Campus Initiative is dedicated to the pursuit of campus sustainability.

The Green Committee wants to share with you the exciting and sustainable ideas and initiatives that are going on on campus! If you already know about them and are helping with or using these items - thank you! If this is new information to you - welcome to the movement!

So what have we done this far? One of our green practices is planned purchases by the RRCC staff, meaning we only get deliveries once a week. Red Rocks staff attends national conferences about sustainability, and have quarterly meetings to discuss sustainability at Red Rocks. When we replace equipment, we make sure we buy the most efficient brands available to us. Red Rocks uses biodegradable and green cleaning products, such as the [activeion](#) ionator. This is a chemical free cleaning unit that uses strictly tap water that it deionizes to make a cleaning agent. These units have replaced many different harsh chemicals that are hazardous to our environment.

We continue to promote recycling here on campus; recently we added 12 new blue recycling bins throughout the campus and more are coming. We use a single-stream service, which means we do not have to separate out the different materials, we just need to make sure they are clean! We are able to recycle plastics number 1-7, tin and aluminum, paper products (white and mixed colors, newspaper, cardboard, magazines), and glass. Please utilize this way of reducing our footprint and double check you're putting the items in the right bin! If you need a bin closer to you - just let us know! We'd be happy to get one to you.

We have also recently added pens and markers to the recyclable list! There are separate receptacles for these, as we have partnered with Office Max and the RRCC Foundation Office to offer this service. The Foundation will receive 2 cents for every pen/marker recycled. Drop off boxes are located in several places around campus, so please look for them when your pens and markers have run out! A list of locations follows so you can find the closest one to you!

Locations for Pen and Marker Recycle boxes

1. East hall just to the east of Red Fox room (on Shred it box)
2. Foundation Office
3. In corridor of learning center at stair well wall (on Shred It box)
4. Administration, financial aid, advising offices on Shred It box (just outside across from conference room)
5. In library on return book desk
6. Student life desk
7. Instructional services (by front door)
8. On table just east of Child Care Innovations
9. Outside of mail room and Facility services (on Shred It box)
10. Facility offices (on desk by message board)

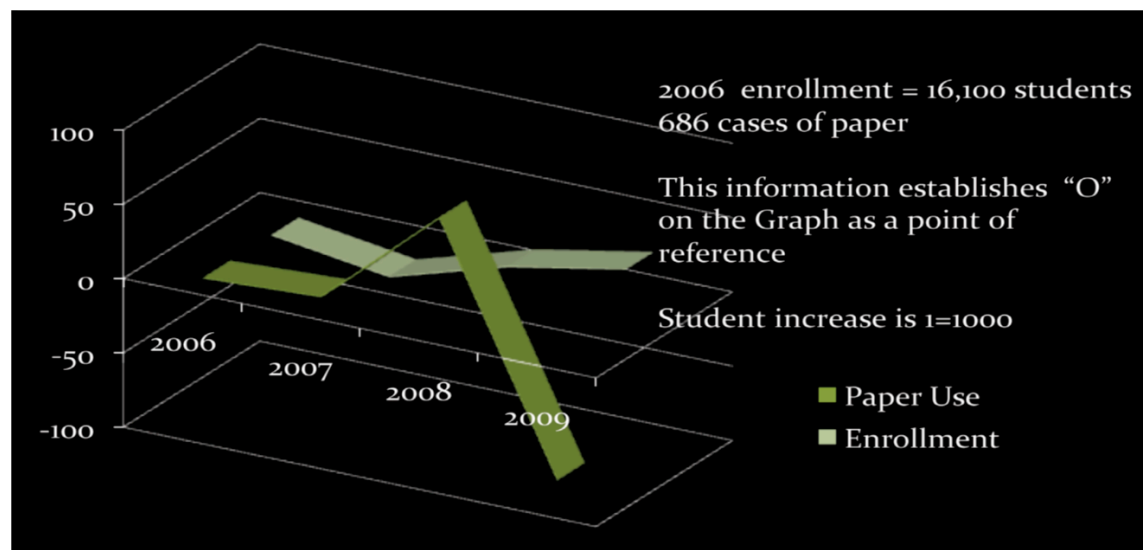
We have recently added some of these items to an insert in the table tents in the cafeteria to continue to share our initiatives as well. We will continue to use this way of communicating to update you on future events and services.

The WaterSource and Green Gazette newsletters are now printed on recycled paper, and a campus cleanup is done annually. Our big event has been the Earth Day celebration, which we plan to continue to host. We also want to be more active year round and are discussing other events we can host. Current ideas include theme appropriate movie nights, having more than one Green Career Fair, and offering electronics recycling more than once a year. We will let everyone know when we start collecting ewaste, as this is easy, convenient and responsible way to get rid of those unwanted or non-working electronics.

Did You Know: From 2006-2009, Paper use per RRCC students has been reduced by 25%

Approximately 26 trees have been saved by this alone!

These are our initial efforts as a college to go green.



Please use reusable cups! This is another effort we are actively implementing. We have two purified water stations where you can fill your water bottles; one outside the Learning Commons and one by the bookstore and coffee shop. Coffee mugs are a great way to reduce waste during the colder months too, since they can hold both cold and hot beverages! Please help us minimize the plastic bottles and Styrofoam cups we toss out and recycle the plastic you do use. This is part of our effort to eventually reduce or eliminate purchasing bottled water on campus, by having additional, accessible filtered water systems at both campuses instead.

Our campus is also utilizing scanning to digitize documents instead of making and storing paper copies. Upgrading this type of filing system reduces both storage space needed for documents, as well as future use of paper.

RRCC has developed GreenApps for teachers, students and individuals to use! There are several options and applications in the topics of Math/Science, Career Technical, Social Sciences/Humanities and Communications/English/Foreign Language. They can be found at www.rrcc.edu/green/greenapps.html. Take a look!

Although we have accomplished allot, we still have many goals that we would like to reach in the near future. Some of these goals include:

We are wanting to have the RRCC Catalog becomes totally digital, no more paper catalogs on campus but available on flash drives provided to students. We would like to have campus-wide electronic billboards for student and faculty advertising – meaning paperless advertisement for entire campus one day - whoohooo! We have a few of these on campus already, located at the bookstore and behind the student life desk. Check them out for campus news and events. We are interested in installing hand dryers to reduce paper towel waste, and getting smart strips throughout campus to help with conserving energy consumption. By continuing to incorporate the most recent green innovations and technologies, as they can be applied to our operations, are hopes for the future RRCC is bright!

We are also discussing other sustainable ideas like shuttle options when the RTD light rail comes closer and more sustainable options within the curriculums that are currently available. As an educational institution, our first goal is to educate all of our students in this manner and hopefully be a leader in "green campus" initiatives. Teaching ourselves how to better do this is another big topic within the Committee. Not only do we want to influence each student positively, but we also want the faculty and staff to be a cohesive force in this momentum as well. As we clearer define what being sustainable means for us, we will share that information with you. If you have ideas you'd like to share and/or are interested in joining the movement, please let us know! We welcome new input and energy!

We are working to involve the student body more with our initiatives and are currently in the process of creating a student run sub-committee. Please let us know if you are interested in helping out with our movement towards making RRCC a greener campus!

Thanks to all of you for doing your part by leading by example, and we look forward to where this new venture takes us as we continue to strive "to be the college of first choice" and show "our passion for learning through our dedication to students, our commitment to excellence and our own love of learning".

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