NORTH CENTRAL COLLEGE

CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY FEATURES

- Electric Vehicle Charging Stations
  - Available for students, faculty, staff and approved guests.
  - Encourage the use of electric vehicles to potentially reduce dependence on foreign oil and improve air quality around campus.

- Rain Gardens
  - Shallow depressions planted with deep-rooted native plants and grasses.
  - Allow rainwater runoff from impervious areas like downspouts, driveways, walkways or compacted lawns to be absorbed back into the water table.
  - Reduce rainwater runoff from flowing into storm drains, which cause erosion, water pollution, flooding and diminished groundwater.
  - Beautiful habitats for birds and beneficial insects.

- Native Plants
  - Occur naturally in a particular region, ecosystem and habitat without direct or indirect human intervention.
  - Require little maintenance once established, resisting damage from freezing, drought and common diseases.
  - Do not need fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides or watering.
  - Improve water quality by controlling soil erosion and moderating floods and droughts.
  - Increase biodiversity.
  - Remove CO2 from the atmosphere by absorbing it and using it in photosynthesis.

- Geothermal
  - Uses steady underground temperatures to heat and cool Res/Rec.
  - Contains 60 vertical underground loops, protruding 650 feet into the ground.
  - Eliminates need for natural gas lines.

- LED Lighting
  - Stands for Light-Emitting Diode.
  - More efficient and long-lasting compared to other lighting options.
  - Does not produce heat, unlike incandescent bulbs.
  - Does not contain mercury or need “warm-up” time like fluorescent lights.

- Permeable Pavers
  - Comprised of layers of stone that allow water to infiltrate otherwise impermeable ground, controlling storm water at the source, filtering pollutants and reducing runoff.

- Community Garden
  - Organic, no synthetic herbicides, pesticides or fertilizers are used.
  - Uses water from the spring-fed pond on campus for irrigation.
  - Plots available for students, faculty, staff and community members.

- Composting
  - Food scraps are collected and turned into compost.
  - Kaufman composts over 40 tons of food scraps annually.

- DuPage County Adopt-A-Stream
  - The College adopted a section of the DuPage River, which borders campus.
  - Student and staff volunteers do two cleanups per year.
  - Keeps rivers healthy, clean and attractive.
  - Reduces debris pollution and clogging of waterways.

- Res/Rec: LEED Silver Certification
  - Geothermal heating and cooling system.
  - Precast building envelope.
  - Energy-efficient windows and lighting.
  - White membrane roof.
  - Water-efficient fixtures.
  - Solar PV panels and energy storage system.

- Dr. Myron Wentz Science Center: Electrochromic glass
  - The windows on the west side of WSC are made of a smart glass that senses the solar heat and adjusts the tint of the glass.
  - Saves energy, provides abundant daylight and user comfort.
  - Did you know: Wentz Science Center, while not certified like Res/Rec, was built to LEED silver standards and is home to the Environmental Studies program.

- Solar Installations
  - Photovoltaic
    - Res/Rec: 538 kW system provides 22% of the building’s electricity.
    - Wentz Science Center: 60 kW system provides 4% of the building’s electricity.
    - Business Operations: 56 kW system provides 68% of the building’s electricity.
  - Thermal
    - New Hall: 30 panels use the sun’s energy to help heat the building’s domestic hot water.

Other sustainability features throughout campus:

- Water bottle refilling stations
- Red Bike program
- Office composting
- Campus Arboretum
  - Level 2 Arboretum through Arbnnet
  - Tree Campus Higher Education certification annually since 2016
- Recycling programs
  - single stream
  - electronics
  - plastic bag and film
  - batteries, bulbs and ballasts
  - move out collections program

For more information on North Central’s sustainability initiatives, visit our page on The Hub.