

THE INSIDE STORY



Green Institute at Community College of Allegheny County

In May 2009, the Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) and Allegheny County Executive Dan Onorato announced the establishment of the Green Institute, which will launch this fall with a broad range of topics related to both green technology and energy conservation. The college will offer three free “green” informational classes in alternative energy and energy conservation this summer as a preview of the institute’s fall programs.

CCAC’s Green Institute will help us to stay ahead of the curve when it comes to green jobs and infrastructure, and will position our region for continued success in the green economy. The institute’s courses will also help residents to become more sustainable and save energy and money by showing them how to go green in everyday life. Summer classes tackled various topics, including residential solar panels, hybrid vehicles, and increasing efficiency and environmentally responsible techniques at home.

CCAC’s Green Institute is partnering with several local leaders in both residential and commercial aspects of green and energy conservation. These experts, such as Stationary Operating Engineers, Local 95, will assist in the development of curriculum and the delivery of the training.

The courses offered in the fall will cover a broad spectrum of green opportunities. Some will help to prepare a workforce with the skills needed for a green economy, including commercial and residential energy conservation. In addition, there are courses to help individuals become better informed consumers and partner in the efforts to reduce the carbon footprint of the region.

In March 2009, CCAC and Allegheny County Executive Dan Onorato hosted U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu and Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, who toured a sampling of the college’s green training programs and praised CCAC for its leading-edge contributions to the emerging green economy through partnerships in training and workforce development.

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