



# NETWORK NEWS

Biweekly Edition No. 9  
December 15, 2010

Network News will be emailed and made available on [www.igence.org](http://www.igence.org) each quarter with shorter, biweekly updates on the 1st and 15th of each month. If you have topics, items or events you'd like to see included in the Network News, please send an email to Alessandra at [allessandra.cairo@igence.org](mailto:allessandra.cairo@igence.org).

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## What's Happening With IGEN

### Organization Building

#### 1. IGEN Seeks Executive Director

The Illinois Green Economy Network was created by the Illinois community college presidents. To accelerate this effort, the Presidents recruited Leith Sharp (founder of Harvard's Sustainability Office) to undertake a 12 month start-up Executive Director role. The intent of this start-up phase was to launch the Network; establish its vision, branding, staffing structure, core programming and governance structure; and to secure funding for the next phase of growth. This start-up phase being completed, IGEN seeks a new Executive Director to lead this statewide collaboration for sustainability and for accelerating workforce development in the green economy.

The Illinois Green Economy Network is seeking applicants for a full-time executive director to oversee and coordinate operations throughout the network. The successful candidate will serve as the primary contact person on all issues related to the development and implementation of network programs and services, including green workforce development, greening of curriculum, green community outreach and green campus activities.

To view, or apply for this position, visit [www.igencec.org](http://www.igencec.org).

#### 2. IGEN Hires Web Design and Content Specialist

The IGEN administrative team welcomes Vjeko Hlede, IGEN's new Web Design and Content Specialist. As a vibrant and growing collaboration of the state's 48 community colleges, the administrative team hired Vjeko to take [www.igencec.org](http://www.igencec.org) to the next level in order to promote, educate and begin the branding process of the Illinois Green Economy Network.

Vjeko will work to create a robust, user-friendly web portal to allow the IGEN administrative team; sustainability professionals; faculty, students and staff; and key stakeholders the ability to find relevant green economy and sustainability information quickly, research college best practices, share resources and collaborate in the most time efficient and effective way possible.

If you have ideas for the future IGEN website, please contact [Alessandra](#).

#### 3. IGEN's Network Retreat

IGEN held its third state-wide meeting, November 30-December 1, at Heartland Community College in Normal. 35 representatives from 24 colleges and organizations, including the ICCB and USGBC, attended the Network retreat.

Dr. Allen Goben, president of Heartland Community College and IGEN Steering Committee member, welcomed retreat attendees on November 30. Following his welcome, Executive Director, Leith Sharp, briefed the group on the current status of the Network which included a funding update, and provided an overview of the four program areas of focus; green campuses, green communities, green workforce development and green curriculum.

Representatives from Richland Community College, Lewis and Clark Community College, Heartland Community College, Lincoln Land Community College, Illinois Central College, McHenry County College and Moraine Valley Community College made presentations about the initiatives taking place at their campuses related to green campuses, curriculum, workforce development and communities.

With the assistance of retreat attendees, the IGEN administrative team created a work plan for the next four to six months which includes tasks such as taking the IGEN GYC program to the next level, including a potential conference in May, moving forward with FY'12 funding prospects, continuing the



IGEN webinar series with topics such as master planning, the integration of sustainability into general education requirements, demystifying myths at the facilities level, and more.

Stay tuned to IGEN's Network News and [www.igencec.org](http://www.igencec.org) for more information!

#### 4. IGEN Creates Members' Task Force Committees

At the IGEN Network Retreat two task forces were created to influence and change policy (at a local level), and to share best practices on transportation and local foods. A third task force was created to assist Network members with their master and sustainability planning, and will work together to draft plan templates that integrate sustainability principles throughout the entire organization's structure. Specific goals and objectives will be decided by members of the task forces.

Task Force Committees will begin meeting in January. Each task force will have a different meeting schedule and frequency based on the facilitators discretion. Facilitators were chosen at the Network retreat and are as follows:

##### **Local Foods Task Force**

###### **IGEN Staff Liaison:**

Rob Hilgenbrink

###### **Co-facilitators:**

Lavon Nelson, ICCB

Julie Bates, Lincoln Land Community College

###### **Members:**

Rebecca Rossi, Heartland Community College

Martin Pieters, Kennedy King College

Dave Inman, Wilbur Wright College

Dara Reiff, College of Lake County

Rich Schultz, Kankakee Community College

##### **Transportation Task Force**

**IGEN Staff Liaison:** Amy Endicott

###### **Co-facilitators:**

Marcia Lochmann, Lewis and Clark Community College

Stephenie Presseller, Moraine Valley Community College

###### **Members:**

Karen Stallman, Southwestern Illinois College

##### **Weatherization Task Force**

###### **IGEN Staff Liaison:**

Jesse Foote

###### **Co-facilitators:**

TBD - Please contact Julie Elzanati if you are interested in volunteering

###### **Members:**

Dave Inman, Wilbur Wright College

Tim Gibson, John A. Logan Community College

Martin Pieters, Kennedy King College

Bruce Boyd, Black Hawk Community College

##### **Sustainability and Master Planning Task Force (this group is full)**

###### **IGEN Staff Liaisons and Co-facilitators:**

Leith Sharp and Julie Elzanati

###### **Members:**

Rob Hilgenbrink, IGEN

Dara Reiff, College of Lake County

Anthony Corso, Illinois Central College

Rebecca Rossi, Heartland Community College

Greg Florian, Richland Community College

Doug Brauer, Richland Community College

Marcia Lochmann, Lewis and Clark Community College

Bruce Boyd, Black Hawk Community College

Vikki Crnekovic, Parkland College

Karen Stallman, Southwestern Illinois College

Stephenie Presseller, Moraine Valley Community College

If you are interested in participating on any of these task forces, please contact Julie Elzanati at your earliest convenience. **Space is limited, and selection of members will be on a first come, first serve basis.**

## Pilot Pathways

### 5. IGEN Webinar Series: Strategic Planning for Sustainability

Are you interesting in incorporating concepts of sustainability into your college's strategic plan? Looking for what to include, what impacts this can have, or how such a plan can be leveraged once it is in place?

Join this webinar to learn from colleges who have successfully navigated this process. The webinar will include presentations from schools that have completed or are in the process of developing sustainability strategic plans, as well as a discussion of best practices and potential stumbling blocks.

If you would like to present your schools work, please contact: [Jesse.Foote@igence.org](mailto:Jesse.Foote@igence.org)

**Thursday, January 27, 2011**  
**10:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.**

To register for this webinar, please visit <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/IGENwebinar>.

## What's Happening Around Illinois

### Community College Highlights

#### 6. The SWIC-Express

Southwestern Illinois College offers free Metro service passes to all credit-class students, faculty and staff; these passes cover both MetroLink and Metro bus services. MetroLink access offsets the financial burden of building additional parking and is a powerful recruitment tool for the commuter college located on the Metro line. Metrolink access is also one of SWIC's many "green" initiatives.

The train has been designed to serve "as a giant billboard moving through the heart of our area to promote fuel-saving ridership," said Southwestern Illinois College President Costello. "MetroLink is a great option for students who attend our Belleville Campus, Scott Air Force Base and the East St. Louis Community College Center, all of which are Metrolink stops."

MetroLink trains can carry up to 212 passengers and travel at speeds up to 55 miles per hour.



#### 8. Kankakee Community College Publishes 8<sup>th</sup> Issue of GreenScene

Kankakee Community College started publishing GreenScene issues quarterly in winter 2009. They have recently published their 8<sup>th</sup>, Winter 2010. This edition, and past editions can be accessed through [KCC's Sustainability](#) website.

The GreenScene publication addresses the local green scene with topics such as energy efficiency, water, local foods, and more. For more information on the GreenScene publication, contact [Rich Schultz](#).

#### 9. Lewis and Clark and SWIC Complete Inaugural Year of RCGA's St. Louis Green Business Challenge

The St. Louis Regional Chamber & Growth Association (RCGA) presented achievement awards to Lewis and Clark and SWIC at the St. Louis Green Business Challenge awards ceremony, December 7.

As one of RCGA's key initiatives for advancing the green economy in the St. Louis region, 58 local businesses, institutions and organizations compiled a scorecard of requirements to form "green" teams, reduce waste, conserve water and energy, improve indoor air quality, and provide clean transportation options. This challenge is part of the RCGA's Climate Prosperity Project, the mission of which is to create and sustain regional prosperity by cultivating green savings, green opportunities and green talent.



## Of Interest

### 10. The Illinois Energy Now Lighting Sale

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) State Energy Office announces a special lighting sale through its Illinois Energy Now program. The Illinois Energy Now program offers a portfolio of electric efficiency programs to achieve targeted annual energy savings goals.

These special sale incentives are available to local governments, public schools, community colleges, public universities and State and Federal government facilities in the Ameren Illinois and ComEd's electric service areas.

The Illinois Energy Now special sale incentive will be available from December 13, 2010 to March 31, 2011.

For more information, visit [DCEO's Bureau of Energy and Recycling](#).

## Events

### 11. McHenry County College: Food Council Round-Table Discussion

The Agriculture Conservation Easement & Farmland Protection (ACE) Commission invites you to attend a Round Table Discussion for A McHenry County Food Council. The intent of this meeting is to hold an open discussion to promote the potential establishment of a food council within McHenry County by bringing together agricultural educators and growers, and restaurant and business owners. A food council would allow for the promotion of education, production, sales and consumption of locally produced foods in McHenry County.

Wednesday, January 19, 2011, 7:00 p.m.  
McHenry County Government Center  
Administration Building  
667 Ware Road  
Woodstock, IL 60098

To register, please contact [Kim Kolner](#) by January 10, 2011 at 815.334.4560.

### 12. Women in Green

Join experts from the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor, the Illinois Community College system, and around the State for two captivating events that will examine sustainability programs and initiatives which support the development and advancement of the green economy; explore ways to recruit and retain women in green careers; emphasize the importance of women in green occupations; and highlight green programs of study in Illinois.



Wednesday, February 23, 2011, 10:00 a.m-3:30 p.m.  
Lewis and Clark Community College  
National Great Rivers Research & Education Center Field Station

Thursday, April 28, 2011, 10:00 a.m-3:30 p.m.  
Illinois Central College  
Agriculture and Industrial Technologies Building