IGEN Illinois Community College Monarch Migration Network: Frequently Asked Questions

1) What is IGEN?

IGEN is the Illinois Green Economy Network, a consortium of Illinois community colleges working together to advance the green economy and sustainability through education, outreach, and partnerships. IGEN sponsors the Monarch Migration Network and is the host for the website. Visit IGEN’s website for additional information: www.igencc.org.

2) Who is eligible to join the Monarch Migration Network?

Any public community college in the State of Illinois. Your college does not have to be an active member of IGEN.

3) After we have signed the Pledge and joined the Network, what are the requirements for our college to certify as Monarch Protector and Monarch Champion?

Monarch Protectors have completed the Network’s four required actions. Monarch Champions have completed six additional optional actions. Once these are reported, the college will be certified as a Protector or Champion. Please view our Action Steps document for details.

4) What if our college is already taking the four required actions or the four actions plus the six optional actions on the list at the time we sign the Pledge?

If you are already taking either the four required actions or the four required actions and six optional actions, please indicate this as directed in the Action Steps to get certified and keep doing them during the year. If you are already taking the four required actions, keep doing them, report, and get certified, and then consider selecting and implementing additional actions.

5) What kind of support can I expect from the Monarch Migration Network?

The Network will share best practices through the “Monarch Resources” page at www.igencc.org. We will send out notices about webinars and events and will hold breakout sessions at the IGEN sustainability conference. The Network will consult with any college that is interested in signing the pledge—just send us an email IGEN.monarchs@igencc.org. We will promote and foster sharing among Network members.

6) Does our college have to start on these actions before signing the Pledge?

No. We ask that you make a commitment up front and start taking the actions within one year. When you have completed them, you will be certified as a Monarch Protector with the option to also certify as a Monarch Champion.
7) Will the college report back to the Monarch Migration Network on our actions?

Yes. We will ask all colleges to fill out a simple report survey at the end of each year so we can communicate the collective impact of our work to help save the monarch butterfly.

8) What is done with the data that colleges report?

We store the data, and also report it out to the Illinois Monarch Project (IMP). The IMP is a collaborative umbrella organization that “was established to bring together representatives of natural lands, rights-of-way, urban, and agriculture sectors to combat the stressors on monarch butterfly habitat, enhance existing habitat on the ground, and plan additional conservation actions for the monarch butterfly.”

9) When does the Agreement end? Is there a deadline?

The Monarch Migration Network Pledge can be signed at any time and can be renewed yearly. We ask that you start taking the actions that you checked off on your Action Steps Report within a year after you join the Network. Once the college has been certified, we ask that you report yearly, keep taking the actions, and add to them if possible.

10) Can we get credit for items not included in the pledge?

Please email us at IGEN.monarchs@igencc.org if you have a specific action that is not listed on the pledge form.

11) What about the other pollinators?

What’s good for the monarch butterfly is also good for other pollinators! By planting native milkweed and other native nectar plants, colleges will also be creating habitat for all pollinators.

12) The former president signed the Pledge and we have a new president. Can the new president continue the Agreement?

Yes! In cases such as these, we ask that the current president re-sign the Pledge so that we have a record that they are staying in the Agreement and continuing the Action Steps to become or stay certified.

13) What if the main contact person at the college changes?

Please fill out a new Pledge so that we have contact information for the new person.