

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



OnCampus ecoAmbassadors

OnCampus ecoAmbassadors are college students who implement projects from EPA's partnership programs to help carry out the Agency's mission to protect human health and the environment. The program is open to ANY college student, regardless of program, age, or background. All interested students are encouraged to participate.

Did you know?

- Commercial buildings and industrial facilities, including college and university buildings, generate about 50 percent of the nation's carbon dioxide emissions.
- Thirty percent of energy consumed in buildings is used unnecessarily or inefficiently.
- The average person in the United States emits approximately 6.6 tons (almost 15,000 pounds carbon equivalent) of greenhouse gases every year.
- Implementing cost-effective, energy-saving strategies can create jobs, cover more than half the expected growth in energy demand over the next 20 years, save more than \$100 billion annually, and significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Learn More

ENERGY STAR® is a joint voluntary program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) that promotes energy-efficient products and practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. ENERGY STAR helps individuals, schools, businesses, universities, and other organizations save energy, save money, and protect the environment by improving energy performance. For more information, please visit: www.energystar.gov



ENERGY STAR College Course

The ENERGY STAR College Course, *Introduction to Commercial Building Energy Efficiency Through EPA's ENERGY STAR Program*, is a free-of-charge, off-the-shelf package from EPA that can be added to your school's course catalog to give you and your classmates an edge in the rapidly expanding green workforce. Backed by ENERGY STAR, the nation's flagship energy efficiency program, this course package has everything you need to bring commercial building energy efficiency to your campus.

Goals of the ENERGY STAR College Course

- Improve the energy efficiency of your campus
- Incorporate energy efficiency into the curriculum on your campus
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Educate students about links between energy use and the environment
- Lead your school to become an ENERGY STAR partner

If You're Interested In:

- Planning fun events to get students interested in energy efficiency
- Designing educational courses and curricula
- Meeting new people
- Designing creative messages
- Empowering and motivating students to change their energy behavior

...then the ENERGY STAR College Course is for you!

See page 2 for a step-by-step checklist for the ENERGY STAR College Course.



Students Taking Action

Metropolitan Community College (MCC) of Omaha, Nebraska was the first school to pilot the ENERGY STAR college course in spring 2010. Students benchmarked the energy performance of a building in their community and identified ways to improve its energy efficiency.

Georgia Tech's College of Architecture incorporates energy efficiency, sustainability, and green construction into its curriculum. The energy-related courses in the College of Architecture's professional degree program introduce ENERGY STAR and the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design® (LEED) green building certification program as two widely accepted measures of energy and environmental performance.

The ENERGY STAR College Course is ideal for students pursuing degrees in business, communications, education, environmental science, engineering, and public policy.

Checklist for the ENERGY STAR College Course

Follow the steps below to bring the ENERGY STAR College Course to your school, integrate content into an existing class, or take the course as an independent study.

☐ 1. Familiarize yourself with course materials.

The ENERGY STAR College Course, *Introduction to Commercial Building Energy Efficiency Through EPA's ENERGY STAR Program*, introduces students to the benefits of and barriers to commercial building energy efficiency through an in-depth look at EPA's ENERGY STAR program for commercial buildings. It includes a class project in which students apply their knowledge learned in the classroom to assess the energy efficiency of a local community building and identify potential energy efficiency measures to implement.

Details are provided on the right for online access to the course package, including the outline, descriptions, syllabus with reading list, lecture plans, and presentations.

☐ 2. Gain momentum by combining efforts.

Team up with friends, classmates, and faculty and staff members to jointly support efforts to advance sustainability education at your school. Talk with student groups and students in engineering and sustainability classes to gauge interest in the course and to build support for the new course offering. Meet with professors to talk with them about teaching the ENERGY STAR course. Encourage others to download and review the course materials.

☐ 3. Create a plan.

Decide how you are going to present the ENERGY STAR course to your school's administration. Review the course materials and decide on the structure that best accommodates your school. Keep in mind that the course can be set up as a traditional instructor-led course or an independent study, and individual units or groups of units can be selected to be taught as a short course or as a workshop. Make recommendations for the course structure based on your school and input from professors and students.

☐ 4. Approach your school's administration.

Refer to your school's guidelines or speak with a representative in the Office of the Registrar, Dean's Office, or a specific department about how to propose a new course offering. Use the information you have collected and support you have gathered to complete the necessary documents and follow instructions for submission. Follow up with school administrators and periodically check on the status of your request. As possible, try to schedule in-person meetings with appropriate faculty and staff to discuss the course.

☐ 5. Enroll and encourage your friends to participate.

Work with your school's administration and faculty to promote the course on campus once it has been approved. Enroll in the course and encourage your friends to sign up too. Follow the tips for campus involvement on the right to spread the word about the course around campus.

☐ 6. Fill out your completion form.

Record the information that you are required to report to EPA on the event completion form, including your name, date of the event, name of your college, a description of the event or events, the number of interactions (include any interesting comments), and additional comments.

Resources

ENERGY STAR Higher Education Website

Visit www.energystar.gov/highered to read more about the ENERGY STAR College Course and other higher education offerings.

Course Materials Available

Download the course materials from www.epa.gov/highered

1. Course outline: Features an overview of the course, objectives, and the reading list. The outline can be tailored for your school's course approval process.
2. Course description: Use the description for your school's course catalog.
3. Syllabus with reading list: Review the course syllabus and reading list to learn about the structure of the course, readings, student objectives, and review questions.
4. Lecture plans: These plans provide a suggested schedule for each class and a helpful break down of weekly activities.
5. Lecture presentations: The multimedia presentations serve as the basis for the weekly lectures.

Questions about the course materials?
Contact Caterina Hatcher, EPA ENERGY STAR National Manager for the Public Sector, hatcher.caterina@epa.gov.

Tips for Campus Involvement

- Approach the members of your school's sustainability group for their support.
- Create fliers and posters to promote details about the ENERGY STAR college course and when it will be offered.
- Create Facebook and Twitter pages to attract attention, generate interest, and update students and faculty about the status of the course.
- Ask friends to spread the word.

EPA Contact Info

ENERGY STAR Hotline
(888) STAR-YES; (888) 782-7937

EPA OnCampus Team
EPAOnCampus@epa.gov

EPA OnCampus Websites

Visit the EPA website at www.epa.gov/ecoambassadors/oncampus



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