

# The Journey to Creating a Sustainable Campus

Stevenson High School  
Green Committee  
March 17, 2011

"We travel together, passengers on a little spaceship, dependent on its vulnerable supplies of air and soil, preserved from annihilation only by the care, the work, and I will say the love, we give our fragile craft."

Adlai E. Stevenson  
July 9, 1965

speech to the United Nations Economic and Social Council  
Geneva, Switzerland; he died five days later



## Adlai E. Stevenson High School District 125 Green Committee Mission Statement

The Green Vision Statement, as established by the Stevenson High School Green Committee, has been established to empower individuals to set goals to advance the vision. In order to maintain leadership in education, Stevenson High School must lead by example. According to the Vision and Values of Stevenson High School District 125, the students, staff, and community should be collectively engaged in making Stevenson an authentic learning community, where our actions are guided by a "search for sustained excellence" so that students can "develop into productive and responsible citizens."

Our search for sustained excellence must exceed itself beyond the walls of the classroom to incorporate the sustainable use of resources within the contexts of our local and global environment to produce students who are not only responsible citizens, but responsible global stewards as well.

In order to provide and maintain a healthy environment within the school and on its grounds, while promoting ecological sustainability with minimal environmental impact, students and staff must maintain an up-to-date knowledge base of science and technology and how best practices can be applied to improving the campus and community environment. The application of this knowledge should be reflected in the curriculum, be continually monitored, and guide all aspects of school operations and the daily lifestyle decisions made by everyone on and off the campus. This vision, and its application, is shared with all members of the Stevenson community through continued outreach and engagement with residents, businesses, and other organizations.

*Developed upon the committee's establishment during the 2007-08 school year*

## Carbon Emissions Comparisons 2009 vs. 2010 (Barrels of Oil)

**Electricity Down 7%**



**2008-09**  
16,776 barrels

**2009-10**  
15,618 barrels

**Natural Gas Down 5%**



**2008-09**  
4,019 barrels

**2009-10**  
3,826 barrels

## 2010-11: Reaching the Next Level

### Our Goals For the 2010-11 School Year:

- Increase **awareness and participation** in green initiatives. Weave into everyday life at SHS.
- Reduce **kilowatt burn** by 5% per fiscal year.
- Increase **recycled waste** content by 50% in the next year.
- Reduce **paper** usage and number of **copies made** by 10%.
- Reduce **natural gas** consumption by 5% over the next fiscal year.
- Reduce number of **fossil fuel vehicles** on campus by 10% over the next fiscal year.

## 2009-10: Pursuing LEED Certification

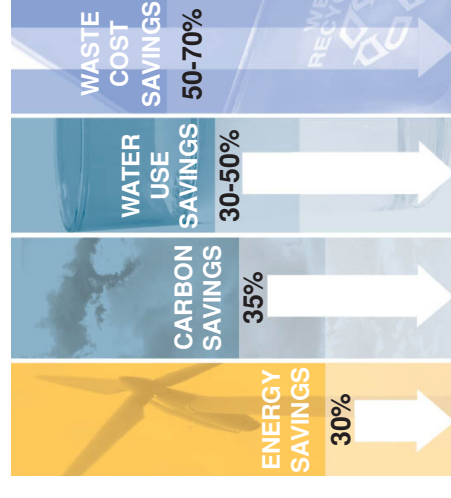
### The Committee Led the Effort to Pursue LEED Certification:

The U.S. Green Buildings Council has four levels of LEED certification. Stevenson is going for **Gold LEED-EB**.

If it is successful, Stevenson would be the only public school in the country to earn that level of certification.

### Why Is LEED Certification Important?

LEED certification meets economic and environmental goals. The certification process results in a thorough assessment of best practices in most areas of building operation. LEED-EB provides a national benchmark.



## 2008-09: Setting Standards

### The Committee Set These Initial Goals:

- Increase awareness and participation in **green initiatives**.
- Reduce **kilowatts** by 5% per year.
- Increase **recycled waste** content by 50% in the next year.
- Reduce **paper** usage and the **copies made** by 10% next year.
- Reduce **natural gas** usage by 5% next year.
- Reduce **fossil fuel vehicles** on campus by 10% next year.

## 2007-08: Committee Established

### Developing a Mission, and Measuring Our Carbon Footprint:

The committee grew out of the District 125 Board of Education's desire to have Stevenson examine and implement strategies that would reduce its environmental impact. The first task of the committee was to develop a mission statement (see above). The committee roster was comprised of Stevenson faculty, staff, administrators, students and parents, as well as community members and business partners. The committee also worked with Sodexo School Services to determine the amount of carbon emissions Stevenson produces on an annual basis.

# Our Structure

## Green Steering Committee Merv Roberts, Terry Moons, Dave Wilms

### Goals

1. Develop the Sustainability Mission Statement.  
*(weave into everyday life at SHS)*
2. Increase awareness and participation in green initiatives.
3. Reduce kilowatt burn by 5% per fiscal year.
4. Increase the amount of recycled waste by 50% in the next fiscal year.
5. Reduce the amount of paper used and number of copies made by 10%.
6. Reduce natural gas consumption by 5% over the next fiscal year.
7. Reduce the number of fossil fuel vehicles by 10% over the next fiscal year.

### Academic Programs

LEED'er  
Troy Gobble

### Operations

LEED'er  
Mark Michelini

### Student Activities

LEED'er  
Ted Goergen

### Community Engagement

LEED'er  
Greg Diethrich

### Science Division

LEED'er  
Steve Wood

## Academic Programs

### Mid-Year Meeting

**Goal - Share latest science on climate change/ Mission of sustainability**

- Action Steps**
1. Don, Jason, Lisa present the science of climate change.
  2. Dave introduces the concept of sustainability, LEED certification, and the role of the school as a model for the community.
  3. Invitation to get more involved at the Lunch and Learn.

### Lunch & Learns

**Goal - Follow up, LEED certification/ question to mid-year meeting**

- Action Steps**
1. Dave and Mark present the need for fiscal and environmental responsibility.
  2. Describe details and numbers of the Green Initiatives at SHS.
  3. Start a running list of best practices for teaching in a sustainable manner.
  4. Ask for topics for future helpful Lunch and Learns in this area.

### Division Meetings

**Goal - Potential Curricular Connections**

- Action Steps**
1. Troy Gobble, Dave Wilms, division directors, and faculty members develop a list of potential curricular ties. Poll division for interested faculty.
  2. TG/DW attend division meetings and ask for ideas that might allow divisions to work into the curriculum.
  3. Share some best practices from faculty members.

### Team Meetings

**Goal - To assist with specific course connections**

- Action Steps**
1. When requested, Dave Wilms could help specific teams develop team content activities.
  2. Dave Wilms could provide details and sources for ideas for specific teams.

### Course Targets

**Goal - To have specific curricular connections in each course**

- Action Steps**
1. Teams would be expected to eventually weave targets that include sustainability concepts into their courses.
  2. School Board must support this step.

## Operations

### Sodexo Campus Services

**Goal - To insure sustainable maintenance standards are followed.**

- Action Steps**
- Following existing LEED guidelines.
  - Continue to actively look for ways to improve sustainable practices at all levels of the facility.
  - Monitor new LEED criteria for incorporation into existing standards.

### Sodexo Food Service

**Goal - To promote awareness about sustainable issues.**

- Action Steps**
- Incorporate just-in-time practices for ovens, stoves, and other energy utilizing equipment.
  - Utilize local food purchases whenever possible.
  - Advertise best practices at food counters.

### Siemens

**Goal - To evaluate sustainable projects on campus.**

- Action Steps**
- Develop strategies for operational efficiencies.
  - Develop long-term solutions for energy efficiency.
  - Develop strategies for energy, procurement that maximize existing resources.

### OWP/P Cannon Design

**Goal - To insure sustainable design is incorporated in every building project.**

- Action Steps**
- Consider sustainable design on every project:
    - Daylighting
    - Local materials
    - Water retention
    - Energy efficiencies
    - Building envelope
    - Air quality

### Gilbane

**Goal - To insure sustainable building practices are followed in every building project.**

- Action Steps**
- Use local materials whenever feasible.
  - Recycle construction debris on every project.

## For More Information

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**Merv Roberts, District 125 Board of Education**  
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**Mark Michelini, Assistant Superintendent for Business**  
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## Student Activities

### Green Council - NHS and Student Council

#### SLAC

**Goal - To weave sustainable concepts into all club functions.**

- Action Steps**
- Attend SLAC meetings and discuss new projects and developments at Stevenson
  - Have clubs share their ideas of what they can do to raise involvement
  - Have Student Council establish a "Sustainable Code of Conduct"
  - Have mutual focus events that SLAC, NHS, and Student Council all reinforce (i.e., Earth Day, Recycle Week, Reduce Week, Reuse Week, etc.)

#### SAVE

**Goal - To promote awareness about sustainable issues.**

- Action Steps**
- September kickoff
  - What every student should know about sustainability
  - January - Recycle Week
  - April - Earth Week
  - Weekly announcement on sustainable practices
  - Video contest
  - Morning announcements

#### Green Team

**Goal - To evaluate sustainable projects on campus.**

- Action Steps**
- Pick an annual project, for example:
    - Green roof
    - Photovoltaics
    - Solar thermal
    - LEED certification
  - Work with APES students to coordinate, promote and report out on sustainable projects
  - Each project should have an annual report
  - Update "green" displays

#### FMP

**Goal - To introduce freshmen to sustainable practices.**

- Action Steps**
- ACE Presentation
  - FMP modules
  - Cats, CO<sub>2</sub>, and You
  - Recycling
  - Sustainable tour of school and grounds

#### Club Dirt

**Goal - To explore sustainable food stream practices.**

- Action Steps**
- Continue vermi composting
  - Plant vegetable garden every spring
  - Start vegetables in green house
  - Coordinate with Buildings and Grounds Department

## Community Engagement

### Communications

**Goal - To promote community awareness and engagement with sustainable issues**

- Action Steps**
- E-Minuteman: regular articles or standing "green column"
  - Green team web page
  - Periodic press releases on green activities and initiatives

### Green Symposium

**Goal - To co-host a half-to full-day symposium with CLC for students and community**

- Action Steps**
- Coordinate with Dara Feiff at CLC
  - Best practices sharing
  - Presentation on content areas
  - Involve student volunteers with Seimerns, etc., and tie into career options at CLC (long range - host another Greenown meeting with 7 Generations Ahead, ACE, etc.)

### Student Education

**Goal - To educate and engage sender school students on sustainability.**

- Action Steps**
- Develop green tour field trip program - hold after school or non-school day
  - Tour and presentation, work with curriculum integration program
  - Involve students
  - Tie to students for sustainability pledges, e.g., Friday before Pulaski Day, MLK Day, Yom Kippur, end of year

### Green Plan Facilitation

**Goal - To become a local resource for green plan development for sender schools, local businesses and community organizations**

- Action Steps**
- Adopt school/small business version of tour/ presentation
  - Submit SHS as candidate to host Illinois Schools Sustainability Program
  - Promote through groups, chambers of commerce, Rotary, etc.

### Partnerships

**Goal - To partner with and leverage local and regional resources to achieve our objectives.**

- Action Steps**
- Seek local business partners for expertise and financial support
  - Remain active in Community Partners for Sustainability
  - Explore resources of IGEN, CLC, etc. to develop outreach programs

