



For Immediate Release

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**Minneapolis Community and Technical College completes first steps toward
reducing its carbon footprint**

College quantifies its carbon footprint and begins Climate Action Plan

Minneapolis, October 12, 2009—As part of its ongoing initiative to create a “climate neutral” campus, Minneapolis Community and Technical College (MCTC) has partnered with McKinstry consulting to complete a comprehensive greenhouse gas inventory, establish a baseline of its carbon footprint, and recommend strategies for a carbon reduction plan.

MCTC’s Climate Committee will use the findings and recommendations to complete a climate neutral action plan detailing the policies, strategies and steps the College will implement to sharply reduce and eventually eliminate its global warming emissions.

In December 2007, MCTC President Phil Davis joined leaders from more than 450 educational institutions and signed the American College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment. This high-visibility national effort addresses global warming by garnering institutional commitments to neutralize greenhouse gas emissions and accelerate the research and educational efforts of higher education to reverse global warming for current and future generations.

“Establishing a baseline for MCTC’s carbon footprint and creating a climate action plan are two important first steps toward attaining our institution’s long-term goal of carbon neutrality,” says Davis. “I applaud the progress already achieved by our climate committee and recognize McKinstry’s contributions to our initiative. Because MCTC is one of the largest organizations operating in downtown Minneapolis, our climate-enhancing strategies will benefit our students, faculty and staff as well as the broader community. We are dedicating our resources to help achieve the promise of a ‘climate neutral’ campus.”

While creating and executing its action plan, MCTC's Climate Committee will consider conservation and behavioral changes as well as renewable energy solutions. Committee members plan to measure and track the carbon reductions attained each year against the recently established baselines for emissions produced from natural gas, fuel oil, electricity, solid waste and commuting.

A key first step for climate committee members is identifying and implementing facility improvements that attain energy conservation goals in areas like boiler utilization, heating and air conditioning, lighting and windows. Committee members will also consider campus-wide facility changes such as re-setting building temperatures and scheduling classrooms to reduce energy usage.

With more than 12,000 students, staff and faculty commuting to its downtown Minneapolis campus, transportation and commuter emissions account for more than half of MCTC's greenhouse gas emissions. Climate committee members are looking at ways to change the culture of commuting on campus including providing educational resources and incentives for carpools, bicycling and public transportation.

The committee will also look at renewable energy sources like solar and wind energy and will consider ways to incorporate sustainability initiatives into the MCTC curriculum.

In addition, curriculum offerings have been enhanced to include more green technologies in the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning program, the addition of an environmental ethics course, a course on eco-feminism, and Race to Save the Planet, an initiative that focuses on four courses across multiple disciplines that allow students to elaborate and exchange in-depth dialogue with their instructors and peers on issues involving the planet and the environment.

About Minneapolis Community and Technical College

MCTC is the most ethnically diverse college in Minnesota. A member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System, MCTC offers students more than 80 liberal arts, technical and career programs designed to prepare people for good jobs in high demand professions. Located in downtown Minneapolis, MCTC enrolls more than 13,000 students annually and is an active partner in initiatives to strengthen the social, economic and cultural vitality of the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

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