

Houston Community College
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As the new chancellor of Houston Community College and signatory to the ACUPCC, I've had the privilege of enlisting HCC in this important effort. In ten months since my arrival, the college community has raised its awareness about ways to advance climate neutrality. We have just completed our three-year strategic plan. One of our six goals is to develop a global perspective. This goal explicitly states the college will "implement the standards and guidelines of the ACUPCC." Further, we will "define and infuse global awareness and proficiency across the curriculum and into College activities."



In support of this strategic goal, Dr. Deborah Rowe, a recognized expert in sustainability issues, will come to HCC for All-College Day to address the faculty about strategies to infuse sustainability into the curriculum. Further, as a direct result of signing the commitment, we are conducting an energy audit of our 26 sites dispersed throughout Houston. That assessment will enable us to

identify areas where we can have the most positive impact on reducing our energy use. Before my arrival, the Board of Trustees' committed to new buildings in the Capital Improvement Program constructed to LEED standards. The audit will thus support greater efficiencies in existing buildings.

A meeting with Brian Yeoman, Director of the Clinton Foundation Climate Change Initiative, was the stimulus for HCC to initiate a certificate program in green building practices, the first such in Houston. We are creating a City-HCC partnership program in Energy Efficiency for Houston area builders and contractors that will assist in actively reducing greenhouse gas emissions in practical and measurable ways. With over 25,000 Energy Star houses built in the city last



year, the houses require an independent third party rater to perform a systems check of heating, a/c, and plumbing systems. Once completed, the builder submits the documentation and receives the "Energy Star" guarantee. This "natural" new program for HCC is being developed for both CEU and credit offerings. Thus through this program, HCC is working to support energy efficiency improvements and more sustainable development. The network of builders and contractors supporting and promoting this type of development will expand and the likelihood of best practices being used will increase.