

50th Anniversary Sustainability Statement

Lakeland Community College understands the importance of sustainability thinking as we move into the 21st Century. Sustainability is about doing things in a wholistic way, using creativity, openness, adaptability, resilience and preservation to guide the choices we make with the goals of doing no harm to humans or to the environments on which we depend, while increasing the well-being of all.

In this context Lakeland has shown leadership in many areas. In both renovation and building new spaces, creative energy goes into how to design for success, for cost savings and for over-all health and well-being. Over the years the momentum has grown in this regard culminating in the new Health Technologies Building that was designed to be a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified Gold and a net zero energy use building. This success is built on the existing energy program started in 2009 that has reduced campus energy use by 47%. With the efficiencies and advance technology built in to the new building campus energy use reductions will hit 52%, though the campus size increases by 80,000 square feet. This is a great example of multi-stakeholder teamwork, and an application of multi-disciplinary creative thinking; being open to new ideas, and building in resilience and adaptability to future energy and regulatory changes, while preserving resources and improving health and environmental quality.

Lakeland encourages prudent use of all resource and has expanded the recycling program to include reuse when possible. Indoor and outdoor environmental quality is maintained by using low impact materials that benefit air quality and conserves water through use of low flow devices, green roofs, storm water detention basins and bio-swales. Ecosystem diversity is encouraged with the use of native plants and low-mowing areas.

Other examples of efforts for promoting sustainability thinking are that Lakeland has an Employee Wellness Program and a Diversity Committee. The Employee Wellness Program is offered to both help individuals manage their physical and emotional stress, but also because it has been shown to reduce the cost of overall health care for institutions in the long run while increasing employee well-being and productivity. The Diversity Committee works to help students and staff understand that differences are important in human society, just as biodiversity is imperative to the long-term success of ecosystems.

Lakeland is a member of AASHE (The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education). To read more about Lakeland Sustainability go to <http://www.lakelandcc.edu/web/about/sustainability> .