



Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Pollution Prevention Champion

The College of Southern Idaho
Twin Falls, Idaho
2011

Environmental Commitment

The College of Southern Idaho is a comprehensive community college located in Twin Falls in south-central Idaho. As part of its mission, CSI “prepares students to lead enriched, productive, and responsible lives in a global community.” In keeping with this mission, CSI has undertaken numerous and significant steps to reduce pollution on campus. As an institution of higher learning, CSI has been able to use its efforts in reducing pollution to provide educational opportunities for students, college employees, and the greater community as well. Through the school’s Sustainability Council and participation in organizations such as the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, CSI has promoted actions that have led to significant positive reductions in pollution on its campus.

Pollution Prevention Success

CSI has successfully prevented pollution through three key strategies: minimizing waste, using environmentally preferable purchasing practices, and conserving energy and water. The impacts from these strategies are helping to protect Idaho’s land, air, and water.

Waste Minimization

CSI has undertaken several waste minimization efforts at its campus in Twin Falls. Recycling has been a major component of the school’s pollution prevention efforts. CSI’s recycling program accepts paper, cardboard, plastic bottles, aluminum cans, newspaper, and white office paper. Based on the success of the existing program, the school is streamlining its recycling program toward a “commingled” system that does not require as much product segregation. In 2010, CSI recycled 43,425 pounds of cardboard, paper, cans, and bottles, and over 15,000 pounds of materials were recycled in May and June of 2011 alone. In addition, Aramark, the food concession at the campus, composts 125 pounds of non-protein food waste per week, reducing the amount of food waste shipped to the landfill.

Additional actions that the school is taking to reduce pollution include:

1. Prioritizing recycling bin availability when students arrive on campus, increasing recycling capacity during targeted times when it is needed
2. Offering a donation option in the spring to students moving out of student housing so products can be re-used rather than thrown away. Sixteen 35-gallon drums of donated items were collected and sent to the CSI refugee center last year.
3. Providing discounts on beverages offered to students who use reusable containers
4. Donating used furniture to local charities
5. Recycling metal products and tires

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

For 2011, CSI has introduced non-toxic/environmentally friendly cleaning products and has also purchased two hybrid cars to replace other cars in its motor pool.

Energy and Water Conservation

CSI has undertaken significant measures to reduce its use of energy and water. One key component of CSI's approach to pollution prevention has been the active engagement and buy-in of students on campus. This is seen in the student-proposed "One Degree Program" in which thermostats are set to one degree warmer in the summer and one degree cooler in the winter. The energy-saving effect of this student-led program was increased further with the installation of insulation in the Shields Building, the oldest on campus, which will allow for greater energy efficiency. Additionally, geothermal heating has been extended to 10 buildings on campus, and the new Health Science's and Human Services building, completed in 2010, is LEED-certified Gold in large part for its numerous energy-saving features. The campus is also an active participant in Idaho Power's summer shutdown program, saving energy when parts of the campus are not in use. Additional steps that CSI has taken to reduce energy and water use include:

1. Purchasing two hybrid cars to place into their motor pool
2. Adding reflective roofing material on five buildings to reduce energy consumption for cooling
3. Using electric golf carts for transportation of staff on campus
4. Converting existing 3.5 gallon per flush toilets to 1.6 gallon per flush toilets, and 1.5 gallon per flush urinals to 0.5 gallon per flush urinals
5. Using xeriscaping landscaping and drought-tolerant grasses around the Health Science and Human Services Building
6. Using non-potable water for landscaping
7. Using sediment ponds on the Breckenridge Farm to reduce sediment and phosphorus loading of the Snake River.
8. Installing motion-detecting lighting and HVAC systems to reduce energy use when buildings and rooms are not occupied

For More Information

To learn more about CSI's commitment to pollution prevention, read its Strategic Plan on the web at <http://planning.csi.edu/planning/strategicPlan/theme4.asp#goal9>.

Information on this fact sheet represents an example of pollution prevention projects undertaken by Idaho organizations and does not constitute Departmental certification or approval of compliance at this or any other time with federal, state and/or local regulations.