



Mount Wachusett
Community College

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Press Release

for immediate release

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MWCC WINS NATIONAL GLOBAL WARMING AWARD

Reston, VA—Mount Wachusett Community College in Gardner, Massachusetts, has been named a winner in the National Wildlife Federation's Campus Ecology *Chill Out* contest. The competition recognizes colleges and universities around the country which are implementing innovative programs to reduce the impacts of global warming, the No. 1 environmental threat facing the nation. MWCC was one of eight winning schools chosen from over 100 competition entries received from colleges nationwide.

"Colleges and universities are key places for demonstrating how to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide, the major culprit of global warming," said Julian Keniry, director of campus and community leadership for the National Wildlife Federation. "Mount Wachusett has demonstrated its leadership in promoting renewable energy options both on campus and throughout the surrounding community."

"We are so honored to be recognized with this well-regarded award from the National Wildlife Federation," said MWCC President Daniel M. Asquino. "I am very proud that what we're doing here is helping the environment and inspiring our students to find innovative solutions to this crisis."

"I congratulate Mount Wachusett Community College for receiving this well deserved award," said Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Ian Bowles.

“When it comes to switching to renewable energy sources, conserving energy, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, Mount Wachusett is truly leading by example.”

The National Wildlife Federation noted that this prestigious award was given because MWCC’s renewable energy team, which includes Edward Terceiro Jr., executive vice president and resident engineer; Bill Swift, director of maintenance and mechanical systems; and Rob Rizzo, director of facilities administration, has aggressively pursued numerous initiatives and projects to decrease the college’s dependence on fossil fuels and to educate its students and community on the benefits associated with utilizing renewable energy options.

The college’s conversion of its all-electrical campus to a heating system run on locally available bio-fuels has drastically reduced greenhouse gas emissions while having a positive impact on the college’s operating budget. By eliminating electricity as a primary heat source, MWCC has reduced electricity use by 45.9 percent and saved \$2 million.

This project, along with related energy conservation measures, has resulted in a 24 percent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions over the past four years, the equivalent of 7,638 tons of carbon dioxide.

The college’s efforts in renewable energy have led to a number of grants from the U.S. Department of Energy, including \$1 million to install and test a biomass combined heat-and-power gasifier that will produce electricity and thermal energy for heating and \$100,000 to coordinate the efforts of eleven state energy offices to encourage the use of bio-fuels for large private and public users. MWCC is also working with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory to install a large-scale wind turbine on campus and partnering with GreenFuel Technologies Corp. to build a world-class training and research facility to recycle carbon dioxide profitably into bio-fuels. Furthering their commitment to sustainable energy, the college will soon install a 100kW photovoltaic array.

For these impressive efforts, the National Wildlife Federation will be featuring MWCC in their *Chill Out* webcast on Wednesday, April 18, broadcast live from George Washington University in Washington, D.C., which will include a taped address from Al Gore and testimonials from leading climate experts and campus sustainability heroes, including MWCC Executive Vice President Edward Terceiro Jr. The webcast will be part of global warming events scheduled on over 70 college campuses throughout the nation. MWCC will carry the webcast in the Murphy Conference Room at the Gardner campus. The college will also receive a \$1,000 grant to continue innovating global warming solutions.

The other winning schools in the contest are: California State University, Chico; Monmouth University, West Long Branch, New Jersey; Richard Stockton College, Somers Point, New Jersey; Oregon Institute of Technology, Klamath Falls, Oregon; University of California at Santa Barbara; Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio; the Lawrenceville School, Lawrenceville, New Jersey.

The National Wildlife Federation's Campus Ecology Program has been an integral part of the campus greening movement since 1989. The nation's 4,100 colleges and universities educate more than 15 million students in any given year making these schools important laboratories for creativity and innovation – keys to tackling a monumental crisis like global warming.

The National Wildlife Federation is America's conservation organization protecting wildlife for our children's future.

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