

## Second Nature 2012 Climate Leadership Awards APPLICATION FORM

Submit application to [ACUPCC@secondnature.org](mailto:ACUPCC@secondnature.org) no later than November 30, 2011

### I. CONTACT INFORMATION:

- ▶ Your name: Mary Harris
- ▶ Email address: [m.harris@gmail.com](mailto:m.harris@gmail.com)
- ▶ Position: Physics faculty member
- ▶ Institution name: Glendale Community College

### II. INSTITUTION CATEGORY:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Doctorate Granting University | <input type="checkbox"/> Master's Colleges & University      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baccalaureate College         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Associate/Tribal College |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Focus Institution     |  |

### III. NAME OF NOMINATED INSTITUTION:

Glendale Community College, Arizona

### IV. In 500 words or less, please describe why your institution would be a deserving recipient of an award:

(For more information on the evaluation criteria, visit [www.secondnature.org/awards](http://www.secondnature.org/awards).)

#### Adaption Innovation

Collaboration and communication (C<sup>2</sup>) are two ways in which Glendale Community College has prepared the campus and surrounding community to adapt to climate change. Engines of C<sup>2</sup> include the [Environmental Club](#) and the [Green Efforts](#) committee which champion and guide sustainability activities, a dedicated sustainability web site, issuance of regular “green tips” to the college, panel discussions and speakers for Earth Day and Focus the Nation events. Many events are supported by multi-station TV coverage helping GCC reach all stakeholders. In progress is the development of a social media tool in collaboration with [Green Nurture](#) to collect and assess ideas, and to change behaviors, especially SOV commuting.

## Climate Action Strategies

GCC's principal signpost towards climate neutrality is through the college's [GHG Inventory](#). GCC chose a faculty scientist to work with the college to create a comprehensive 20-year baseline which included assumptions and methods for dealing with missing data. The inventory informs GCC employees about college progress since 1990, where gaps exist and their significance, so that better informed actions are implemented. A key result of the inventory was the quantification of the impact of improvements in building design and efficiency on electricity usage. This data is a significant motivator for many and continues to inform maintenance and construction decisions. Inventory information is the key to setting realistic Climate Action Plan targets, dates and interim success metrics.

## Strategies and Financing

GCC has invested significantly in energy conservation and systems efficiencies, taking advantage of capital bonds to modernize its Central Plant, converting facilities from single zone HVAC systems to Variable Air Volume (VAV) systems, incorporating motion and carbon dioxide sensors in all rooms, installing energy efficient glazing, re-lamping buildings and parking lots and consolidating room schedules during the summer. The inventory shows that these improvements resulted in significant reductions in energy use and GHG emissions per square foot of building space. GCC has almost completed its conversion to an all electric utility cart fleet and a CNG and hybrid automobile fleet. GCC will soon install electric vehicle charging stations for the community and is partnering with PACE Global to develop RFPs to scale up carbon-reduction investments.

GCC was a 2010 recipient of a Coca-Cola/Keep America Beautiful Bin Grant that enabled the college to deploy nearly 300 recycle bins and stations. Following the introduction of commingled recycling, encouraged by dumpster dives, recycled content increased from 40.88 tons in 2010 to 110.43 tons in 2011. Finally, GCC co-sponsored an e-cycle event in 2010 that brought in 60,189 tons of electronics from the community.

## Learning Experiences

GCC sponsors many learning opportunities, to include: recycling activities and events run under the auspices of the Green Efforts committee and Environmental Club, and the hosting of nationally known speakers. GCC addresses academic aspects of the Commitment through [Sustainable Classes and Classroom Ideas](#), and the new [Sustainability and Ecological Literacy Certificate Program](#). GCC also trains faculty, staff and administration on climate action through campus events and online information, funds travel to ACUPCC events and workshops, and currently has [a faculty member on sabbatical in Kyoto](#) studying Modern Environmentalism.