



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

PRESS RELEASE

August 11, 2014

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California Community Colleges Makes \$45 Million Investment to Cut Power Costs, Improve Energy Efficiency Job-Training Programs

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Thanks to Proposition 39, the voter-approved initiative that provides funding for energy projects in state schools, the Chancellor's Office dispersed \$45 million to community colleges to pay for energy efficient and clean energy infrastructure improvements, and to enhance green jobs-training programs.

The infrastructure upgrades will save the California Community Colleges \$4.6 million each year in power bills and reduce electricity consumption on campuses by 32.8 million kWh per year and natural gas consumption by 600,000 therms per year. The total energy saved is equivalent to reducing gasoline consumed annually by approximately 2.9 million gallons.

"The Chancellor's Office must wisely steward the precious taxpayer dollars it is given," said California Community Colleges [Chancellor Brice W. Harris](#). "The projects we are investing in today will save the system millions in power bills tomorrow and build better green jobs training programs so that students can pursue rewarding careers in this dynamic field."

California voters passed Proposition 39, also known as the California Clean Energy Jobs Act, in 2012. The measure allocates funding for the next five fiscal years to improve energy efficiency and expand clean energy generation in K-12 schools and community colleges, and to create clean energy jobs.

Of the \$45 million awarded in fiscal year 2013-14, about \$40 million was given to community colleges to make energy efficient upgrades, build solar generating systems, or conduct surveys to determine how to reduce energy usage on their campuses. The Chancellor's Office awarded funds for 313 projects state-wide. Some of the projects include:

- Replacing outdated and wasteful heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) units with modern units and updating HVAC software programs to optimize cooling and heating distribution to a building. Seventy-seven HVAC-related projects were approved;
- Replacing outdated and wasteful light bulbs with more efficient bulbs, like light-emitting diodes (LEDs), and installing lighting controls that turn lights off when a room is not in use. Approximately 195 of the projects approved are related to lighting upgrades; and,
- Constructing solar generating arrays. Two such projects were approved.

Notable projects launched with the help of Proposition 39 funding include Canada College's new 1.2 MW ground-mount solar photovoltaic array. A utility incentive of \$777,107 and \$553,635 in Proposition 39 funding

offset the \$3.6 million construction cost. The system will supply about half of the college's electrical needs once it comes online early next year. It will save Canada College about \$219,000 in electricity bills each year and generate about 15 job-years (one job-year is defined as one employment position that lasts one year). Annual electricity savings at this college will be 1.9 million kWh. Canada College is in Redwood City, Calif.

"In an era which threatens diminished classroom resources, this project serves to expand those resources through insightfully planned cost savings," said Canada College President Larry G. Buckley. "Campus greening ultimately allows us to better serve our community."

Long Beach Community College District received \$706,947, which was used primarily on a central plant expansion and optimization project. The project included a new 900 ton high-efficiency chiller, new energy efficient water pumps, four additional 1,200 ton cooling towers, and the installation of an "intelligent" HVAC software program that reduces energy consumption. The annual savings for the district will be over \$181,000 and about 1.1 million kWh each year. In the future, the District plans on retrofitting two buildings to make them more energy efficient and installing Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) lighting at other sites with Proposition 39 funding.

"We are pleased to have received these Proposition 39 funds which will support our college in efforts to become more energy efficient," said Long Beach City College Vice President of Administrative Services Ann-Marie Gabel. "I am proud of the work our facilities team is doing in partnership with the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office."

All 72 California community college districts were allocated funds to make improvements to their campuses. Approximately 11 percent of the projects started in 2013-14 were completed by June 30, 2014.

In addition to funds for infrastructure improvements, the Chancellor's Office also distributed \$5 million in competitive grant money to colleges state-wide to help them improve their green jobs-training programs. The money will be used to add professional development programs, update curricula, purchase equipment, and for other expenditures that directly improve instruction to college students in energy efficiency. Students in these programs can go on to earn jobs installing or repairing HVAC systems, lights and lighting controls, or conducting energy efficiency surveys for utility companies.

Mendocino College in Ukiah, Calif., Laney College in Oakland, Calif., Kern Community College District, Los Angeles Trade and Technical College, and Cuyamaca College in El Cajon, Calif. received grants for their energy efficiency education and workforce development programs. They also distributed funds to participating colleges with energy efficiency programs in their respective regions.

The California Community Colleges will [receive more funds](#) for energy projects in the new fiscal year, which began in July. To learn more about the California Community Colleges and Proposition 39, go to: <http://extranet.cccco.edu/Portals/1/CFFP/Sustainability/CMAA%20CCC-IOU%20Prop%2039%20Presentation.pdf>.

The [California Community Colleges](#) is the largest system of higher education in the nation composed of 72 districts and 112 colleges serving 2.1 million students per year. Community colleges supply workforce training, basic skills education and prepare students for transfer to four-year institutions. The Chancellor's Office provides leadership, advocacy and support under the direction of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. For more information about the community colleges, please visit <http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/>.