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SUBJECT: Environmental Conservation Initiatives at HCCC

**SOURCE: Tom Stock, Director of Facilities
Brian Marhaver, Executive Director, Faculty-Student Association**

Herkimer, NY—Herkimer County Community College has expanded its environmental conservation and waste reduction program to include several new initiatives.

HCCC has implemented the first food composting program on a college campus in the two-county region. In partnership with the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority, the College installed a self-contained, three-cubic yard Earth Tub Food Waste Composting System with the capability of composting 40 to 200 pounds of pre-consumer waste per day. "HCCC has developed an excellent solid waste management and recycling program, and it is the perfect time to take waste reduction to a new level," said David Lupinski, Director of Recycling for the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority.

The benefits of composting food waste include reducing waste in landfills, reducing the cost of hauling and disposing of solid waste and lessening the waste of large quantities of recyclable raw materials. "This approach to handling food waste is environmentally sound and good practice. It complements an already impressive waste management program at Herkimer, and it is a practical way to further educate our students and support their interest in environmental issues," said HCCC President Ann Marie Murray.

The College recently distributed reusable shopping bags to all faculty, staff and students. Donated by AmeriCU Credit Union, the cloth bags were distributed in an effort to cut down on the number of plastic bags used.

Battery recycling containers have been placed throughout the campus. "Students and staff are encouraged to bring their used batteries from home and discard them in our recycling containers instead of putting them in the trash," said Tom Stock, Director of Facilities.

In College and housing facilities, equipment has been upgraded from old technology to energy-efficient technologies: motion activated lights, LED lighting, compact fluorescent bulbs, programmable energy set-back thermostats and low-flow shower heads have been installed. The College transports Styrofoam packaging to Meyda Tiffany in Yorkville, NY, and recycles paper, containers and electronics.

The Faculty-Student Association, food services provider for the College, recently made a shift to using biodegradable plates, reusable plastic food baskets, paper cups, wrapping, baskets and lining, significantly reducing the use of polystyrene. Concentrated coffee machines are used to brew coffee sold in the cafeteria and bookstore, eliminating coffee grounds and filter paper.

"We are proud of our environmental conservation program on campus, and hope it encourages our students and staff to recycle and conserve resources in their homes as well," Stock said.

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