

Energy Action Month Contest Results

This document describes the results of two Job Corps Energy Action Month contests begun in October 2013, and recognizes the strongest entries. Job Corps centers submitted entries in response to two contests announced in Information Notice 13-19.

- For the Best Sustainability Project contest, six centers submitted project descriptions: David Carrasco, Edison, Gary, Glenmont, Hubert Humphrey, and Pittsburgh. The Office of Job Corps selected three winners: Pittsburgh, Glenmont, and Gary. The Office of Job Corps will work with these centers and their regions on funding additional projects and improvements.
- For the Oldest Refrigerator contest, nine centers applied. Keystone was the winner. The center is receiving a new, efficient Energy Star refrigerator.

The Office of Job Corps expresses appreciation for all the applicants and regions for their efforts in saving energy, reducing costs, and advancing sustainability along with other program goals.

Sustainability Project Contest Winners

Pittsburgh Job Corps Center, Philadelphia Region

The Pittsburgh center partnered with an edible garden program. Homegrown is a Phipps Conservatory program dedicated to increasing community access to fresh produce, promoting better food choices, promoting waste reduction, recycling and improving the overall health of families and children. The Pittsburgh Job Corps Facility Maintenance students played the first significant role in this program by building then installing raised garden bed boxes at households in underserved neighborhoods. The second step will be Phipps Conservatory staff providing training in energy conservation through mentorship and classes that the Job Corp students will also take part in for additional sustainability training.



Pittsburgh Job Corp students built 60 garden boxes and impacted the lives of 12 families in several Pittsburgh neighborhoods.



Homegrown supports participants over 2 years, equipping them with the resources they need to become self-sufficient gardeners by teaching soil conservation and green techniques for low-cost sustainability. Each family receives help with installation, soil, seeds, plants, and garden tools, as well as gardening techniques and the impact on health and finances.

After gardens go in, Homegrown keeps in touch throughout the season, offering participants: a garden mentor to answer questions; gardening and cooking workshops; and help getting started again the second year. The Pittsburgh Job Corps students will also continue this partnership as its ongoing green initiative to aide in the students training and employability.

Glenmont Job Corps Center, Boston Region

The Glenmont Job Corps Center is very proud of its actions over the last year to reduce waste. Promoting waste reduction and recycling has been a main focus at Glenmont. The center has emphasized educating staff and students on these efforts. This has only been possible since the Glenmont Green Team met with the local waste management representative.

Glenmont identified areas to pilot the recycling programs. The Maintenance Department, Food Service Department, and Education Department were identified and were willing to get involved. Participants discussed and decided which items could be recycled. They then invited the local Waste Management representative to meet with the Glenmont Green Team for an informational session. The team practiced single-stream recycling, and enjoyed additional benefits like fewer truck visits to the center, which reduces emissions, and wear and tear to the center roadway.

The most recent change Glenmont has made is the installation of a compactor (see photo). The pad for the compactor was poured as a CTST Project. The compactor has reduced the number of pickups. The center has removed the three large six cubic yard dumpsters, which has reduced costs, roadway wear and tear, and animal infestation. The center also uses two containers to collect cardboard, metal and plastic.



The Glenmont Green Team continues to identify ways that it can “Reduce, Reuse and Recycle” during everyday operations.

Gary Job Corps Center, Dallas Region

Gary center staff and students worked to recycle products and reduce waste going into landfills. Compost materials such as food scraps were a significant portion of the total, as were scrap metal and cans.

Staff and student volunteers also participated in a waste audit (see photos). During the audit, the volunteers listened to radio while sorting the items, with opportunities to find hidden prizes, making the recycling project more fun and challenging. They sorted through 4.19 tons of trash, compost, and recyclables! The waste audit checked whether materials were being placed in the correct collection receptacles. Gary found that 63



percent of materials were already being diverted from landfills, but that an additional 14 percent or total of 77 percent could be diverted. Other centers likely would find similar opportunities.



The mandate is 50 percent diversion by 2015 (for both non-hazardous waste, construction and demolition debris). However, centers are asked to go beyond 50 percent, as some rural centers do not have any companies or municipalities nearby that accept recyclables.

Oldest Refrigerator Contest Winner

Keystone Job Corps Center, Philadelphia Region

Old refrigerators use two to three times as much energy as new, energy-efficient models. The refrigerator pictured, a Philco Model A621, was the winner. Entries were received from Blue Ridge, Denison, Edison, Finch-Henry, Joliet, Pittsburgh, and Springdale.

Oldest Refrigerator contests have been used by several organizations, including the U.S. military. The contests draw attention to the simple ways that facilities can save energy and also save money after a short payback period. Other measures include vending misers for vending machines, low-flow showerheads and faucets, energy-efficient lighting, and information and incentives for staff and students. Job Corps must reduce its energy usage by 3 percent annually relative to a 2003 baseline.

