

THE CLOSER WE GET

THE TRAIL TO ZERO CARBON

By Lorinda Hill

Mad Maven of Mulch

Rockland Community College

Where Do We Begin

a brief history of time

First, there was massive energy consumption
Then came conservation - and it was good

Next was expansion and more conservation - and it
was better

Environmentalism Erupted into the 3R's and a P but
it wasn't enough

SOOOOoooooooooooo came to be the signing of the
ACUPCC and the investigation began.

Come Out, Come Out Wherever You Are !!!

Where could that carbon be hiding?

**Once found, how to itemize?
Clean Air Cool Planet**

Biggest Headache

Transportation

- 2 yr commuter school with classes 7 days a week and some classes during winter and summer.
- No real all county public transportation system
- No real info on student/ faculty/ staff vehicles or driving habits

Biggest Relief

Extremely good and accurate records for all utilities
Institutional research records on personnel

What We Expected

Transportation & Utilities the largest contributors

What We Didn't Expect

- That calculating our carbon footprint was going to be this involved and complicated
- Understanding the calculation results would be difficult even for Mensa.
- That we use over 7 million gallons of water per year
- That we use over 173,000 pounds of paper every year
- That our electric carts are not efficient taking 14 hours to recharge for a 2 hour run time at over

**So, What *is* Our
Carbon Footprint?**

What Do We Do?

Easy Stuff

- ✓ Education – ongoing, regular, timely
- ✓ 3R's and a P

Hard Stuff – Part A

- ✓ 0 to Little \$
 - ✓ Transform the mindset
 - ✓ Push Public Transit/ car & van pools
 - ✓ Install bike racks (make sure showers are available!)
 - ✓ Turn Stuff Off to reduce electric consumption
 - ✓ Lower temps to reduce gas/ oil consumption in winter, raise temp in summer (don't worry, you don't have to freeze or roast to make a difference)

Hard Stuff - Part B

- ✓ Lots of \$
 - ✓ Install green power - pv, wind
 - ✓ Water conservation - rain barrel irrigation
 - waterless urinals
 - low volume / dual flush toilets
 - ✓ Plug ins - Find some more efficient electric carts
 - Prepare for electric cars with a few designated recharge spaces

Combine for Economic Feasibility