

Somerset County Goes Green!

RVCC Power Plant Project to Save \$400,000 Annually

Reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions is essential to conserving the planet's critical resources. It is so essential that in February 2001, the presidents of all 56 New Jersey colleges and universities joined together to endorse a Sustainability Greenhouse Gas Action Plan for New Jersey that calls for a 3.5-percent reduction in the state's GHG emissions by the year 2005 (<http://www.state.nj.us/globalwarming/index.shtml>). The historic signing of the plan proves that the college presidents are looking to the future and are teaching an important lesson to students and all New Jersey residents.

In the years since signing the Sustainability Greenhouse Gas Action Plan, Raritan Valley Community College (RVCC) has continued to be dedicated to reducing GHG, increasing energy efficiency and being a leader among community colleges in New Jersey. In 2005, RVCC began the replacement of underground piping for distributing hot and cold water from the central plant. The replacement of the piping was quickly followed by the installation of a combined heat-and-power unit.



The project was completed in 2007, and RVCC

became the first and only community college to have a cogeneration power plan in the state. The plant will generate 85 percent of the college's electrical needs and has additional capacity to support the future growth of the college. The engine generates 1.4 megawatts of electricity, which is enough to power more than 180 residential homes.



replacing old boilers and ones that increase also recently added an Air Science building to recover the near future, RVCC will swimming pool to decrease electricity use by 35 percent.



Other energy initiatives that are under way at RVCC include chillers with new energy-efficient efficiency to 75 percent. RVCC has to Air Heat Exchanger on the energy from the exhaust system. In be adding a voltage reducer in the

In the next three to five years, RVCC plans for the installation of a 400-kilowatt solar plant on the roofs of some of its current buildings. RVCC will be installing energy-recovery technology for older buildings, such as Hunterdon Hall, that still use 100-percent outside air. The college also looks forward to the conversion of the Science Building to central heating and cooling from the newly rebuilt plant.

With support from both Hunterdon and Somerset counties and a \$1-million-dollar rebate from New Jersey's Clean Energy Program, RVCC continues to be a leader for all community colleges around the state.