

*Matthew J. Brubaker, AIA  
LEED AP BD+C  
Campus Energy Manager  
Facilities Operations and Services*

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The SUNY Cortland Renewable Energy Credit purchase makes a significant contribution to our environment. It tells the rest of the world that SUNY Cortland students, staff, and faculty care about the environment, and we believe in the value of market driven energy sector transformation. The general goals of the Renewable Energy Credit purchase program are as follows:

- Identify SUNY Cortland as a leader by our actions and taking positive steps to lower the impact from greenhouse gas emissions by the purchase of Renewable Energy Credits.
- Make a conscientious effort to recognize the value of RECs both local to the New York State electricity grid and the federal electrical infrastructure system.
- Engages the campus community through programs and outreach to assess electric energy needs and use this outreach to help encourage energy reduction.
- Tabulate total net energy used on a regular basis compared to fossil fuel derived electricity within New York State. Goal is to balance the fossil-fuel derived electricity with the purchase of Renewable Energy Credits.

In the late summer of 2013, SUNY Cortland became the first of 64 campuses within the SUNY system to purchase one hundred percent of its electric power from renewable energy sources. SUNY Cortland has worked with the SUNY system as well as individual SUNY campuses to discuss and replicate the purchase of Renewable Energy Credits. This helps encourage cooperation between system and satellite campuses as well as encourage more renewable power being brought to market for use as opposed to fossil-fuel derived electricity. By sharing information on the purchase of Renewable Energy Credits we have helped develop system wide survey on the desire to purchase Renewable Energy Credits. This may develop into larger purchase of Renewable Energy Credits for multiple campuses sharing the cost for direct investment in renewable power development projects.

SUNY Cortland structured the purchase of Renewable Energy Credits to procure renewable power from two primary sources; electric power generated from renewable sources on the aggregate market, typically outside of the New York State electricity grid and then power generated from renewable sources within the New York State electricity grid. SUNY Cortland structured the purchase in this way to invest some of the allocated budget to renewable energy investment closer to New York State. It should be noted, that this is not a requirement for SUNY agencies. This also provided SUNY Cortland a base line for cost structure within the New York State electricity grid and outside of that territory.

The campus engagement as it relates to electricity use and Renewable Energy Credits has many levels, both extracurricular as well as co-curricular. Also, SUNY Cortland has had and continues a strong connection to the direct local community engaging in many activities as they relate to Sustainable Planning as well as energy awareness. Some of the activities on campus include Earth Hour like events which focus students attention on Reduction or lowering of consumptive behaviors, Reusing items of consumption, and Recycling items of consumption. Within the residence halls, our GreenReps work with

students to foster energy awareness and several energy reduction programs throughout the academic year. Finally activities that engage the outside surrounding community include Sandwich Seminars which are free and open to the public where we present the concepts of Renewable Energy Credits and energy planning practices as they relate to Carbon emissions and common energy benchmarking tools and strategies.

The purchase of Renewable Energy Credits is a one step that can be taken by large consumers of electricity. There are many others strategies that SUNY Cortland is actively working to lower energy consumption and work to plan, design, and operate lower consuming, high performing buildings for our students to learn and thrive. As time passes, the local electricity grid will become more diversified and distributed, harnessing more of the power of the sun, wind, and water than natural gas, coal, and nuclear power. We are constantly assessing our consumption in an effort to gain greater awareness and improve performance.

It is through this assessment and analysis that we will develop the next steps to fostering an electricity grid based on renewable power generation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew J. Brubaker', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Matthew J. Brubaker, AIA  
Campus Energy Manager