



News Release



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For Immediate Release

Alliance Partners with TVA on ‘Green Campus Network’ Promoting Energy Efficiency from Classroom to Workplace

Washington, D.C., July 28, 2011 – Six college and university campuses in four Tennessee Valley states can expect dropping energy bills and increased energy-efficiency education, thanks to a pilot program by the [Tennessee Valley Authority](http://www.tva.gov) (TVA) and the [Alliance to Save Energy](http://www.ase.org).

The Green Campus Network (GCN) is a classroom-to-workplace program that involves students, faculty, administrators and campus support staff in cutting energy use on college campuses, incorporating energy efficiency into curricula, encouraging students to pursue careers in sustainability after graduation and generally increasing awareness of energy efficiency.

Six Campuses Chosen for Pilot

A competition in the TVA service area resulted in selection of five universities and one community college for the pilot during the 2011-12 academic year. Campuses chosen are:

- Calhoun Community College, Decatur, Ala.
- University of Alabama in Huntsville, Huntsville, Ala.
- University of Memphis, Memphis, Tenn.
- University of Mississippi, Oxford, Miss.
- University of the South, Sewanee, Tenn.
- Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Ky.

Bob Balzar, TVA vice president, Energy Efficiency and Demand Response, said that TVA chose the Alliance for this partnership after looking for a program that had a track record of success.

“This partnership among the schools, the Alliance, TVA and distributors of TVA power will provide benefits – economic, educational and environmental – to the region for years to come,” Balzar said. “Energy efficiency is part of TVA’s vision for clean, low-cost power for the future. The Green Campus initiative will help TVA make that vision a reality.”

Alliance President Kateri Callahan hailed TVA's long association with the Alliance and its significant and growing portfolio of energy-efficiency programs, saying, "TVA is a major force in driving energy efficiency as a means of saving its customers money while also ensuring reliable service and reducing its environmental impact in the region."

"We are confident that the new GCN program in the Tennessee Valley will be successful at saving energy, training new sustainability leaders and raising the profile of energy efficiency and its many benefits," said Alliance Vice President for Education Merrilee Harrigan.

TVA funding will cover program implementation and wages for paid student interns, who will develop and execute on-campus energy efficiency projects and campaigns, with support and guidance from the Alliance.

Campus "Stakeholders" Get Involved

Each campus team of four interns will work closely with a "lead stakeholder" – a member of the college staff or faculty – and with a "stakeholder committee" comprised of individuals such as campus energy managers, members of campus sustainability committees and housing, facilities and dining operations staff, as well as with students, professors and other academic officials. They will all work together to help identify projects and areas where energy-efficiency education can be incorporated into college curricula across different subject areas and majors.

Alliance Green Campus Program is Model

GCN builds upon the seven-year success of the Alliance's [Green Campus Program](#) in California, which currently involves 16 universities and colleges and employs over 75 interns each academic year. They spearhead campus-wide educational campaigns and engage faculty, staff, administrators and fellow students in energy-efficiency projects.

"We are excited about expanding our Green Campus program beyond California, thanks to TVA's generous support," said Harrigan. "Green Campus has been successful at achieving immediate savings of energy and money on campuses while inspiring many of our program interns to pursue 'green' careers after graduation."

Green Campus projects have ranged from energy audits and assessments, energy competitions in residence halls and laboratories and intern-led, faculty-sponsored academic courses to green career fairs and energy efficiency retrofits in campus buildings. The TVA-supported GCN will use similar initiatives to empower and encourage college students to become tomorrow's energy efficiency leaders.

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The Alliance to Save Energy is a coalition of prominent business, government, environmental and consumer leaders who promote the efficient and clean use of energy worldwide to benefit consumers, the environment, the economy and national security.

The Tennessee Valley Authority, a corporation owned by the U.S. government, provides electricity for 9 million people in parts of seven southeastern states at prices below the national average. TVA, which receives no taxpayer money and makes no profits, also provides flood control, navigation and land management for the Tennessee River system and assists utilities and state and local governments with economic development.