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News

Contact:
Debbie Goldberg
Director of Media Relations
goldbergd@philau.edu
215.951.2718

Philadelphia University and Honeywell launch energy awareness and education campaign

Act! Earth program will promote sustainability practices to optimize energy savings and reduce environmental impact

Philadelphia, Oct. 25, 2011—Philadelphia University and Honeywell International have launched a campus-wide energy education and awareness campaign aimed at promoting sustainable practices among faculty, students and the local community that will help reduce the university's energy costs and environmental impact.

The sustainability campaign, Act! Earth, builds on the university's decade-long relationship with Honeywell, which has focused on modernizing school facilities and infrastructure with energy-efficient equipment and processes. These efforts have already trimmed annual utility costs by an estimated \$400,000.

As part of the campaign, Honeywell is working with PhilaU to develop educational events and student activities that promote improved energy management practices. Honeywell also will help communicate the university's initiatives through digital and social media, such as PhilaU's [sustainability website](#). In addition, Honeywell hired a graduate student in sustainable design as the campus Act! Earth coordinator, who will help organize and manage the campaign.

“Educating people about sustainability practices is not just a feel-good exercise—it’s an important part of optimizing bottom-line energy savings that building upgrades can deliver,” said Philadelphia University President Stephen Spinelli Jr. “With this Honeywell program, we’re going beyond the retrofit to make a broader impact on how our campus community manages energy, ultimately driving greater economic and environmental benefits for the university.”

Act! Earth will help PhilaU fulfill its goal of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as part of the American College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment (ACUPCC). Honeywell has helped the university maintain its GHG inventory, a comprehensive snapshot of emissions tied to university operations, which is the first step in the commitment process.

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In addition, Honeywell has installed an energy dashboard kiosk in the university's new Center for Sustainability, Energy Efficiency and Design (SEED) — a 14,000-square-foot facility built to LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) silver standards. The web-based dashboard pulls data from electricity, gas and water meters across several campus facilities into a single, easy-to-read view to show real-time energy consumption data, energy cost savings, and carbon dioxide emissions reductions.

Act! Earth builds on a relationship established in 2001. Since then, Honeywell has helped outfit PhilaU with a variety of building control systems and energy conservation measures across 25 campus facilities, covering more than 840,000 square feet of space or approximately 80 percent of the campus. These improvements included enhanced building controls, an energy management system and sub-metering to improve visibility into energy consumption. Honeywell also integrated the SEED building's heating and cooling systems, temperature controls and meters into the school's energy management system.

To date, Philadelphia University has reduced its carbon dioxide emissions by 3,360 metric tons per year, which is equivalent to removing more than 650 cars off the road, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

“Demonstrating carbon neutrality and improving campus facilities while keeping an eye on the bottom line are pressing issues facing nearly every college and university nationwide,” said Paul Orzeske, president of Honeywell Building Solutions. “Through the awareness, communication and education efforts of the Act! Earth initiative, we are helping Philadelphia University establish a long-term energy sustainability strategy to responsibly address these challenges.”

Philadelphia University, founded in 1884, is a private university with 3,600 students enrolled in more than 60 undergraduate and graduate programs. As the model for professional university education, the University prepares students to be leaders in their professions in an active, collaborative and real-world learning environment infused with the liberal arts. Philadelphia University includes the College of Architecture and the Built Environment; the College of Design, Engineering and Commerce; and the College of Science, Health and the Liberal Arts. For more information, go to www.PhilaU.edu.

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