CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK—QUEENS COLLEGE

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GREEN HIGHLIGHTS
Often referred to as “the jewel of the CUNY system,” Queens College is a place of contrasts: “An urban school in a suburban setting, where a diverse student body receives personalized attention.” It is these contrasts that allow Queens College to excel in developing creative sustainability solutions. The college has built a 10-year sustainability plan incorporating initiatives for water conservation, alternative transportation, waste reduction via recycling, procurement and energy. Queens College is participating in Mayor Bloomberg’s PlaNYC by committing to a 30 percent reduction in carbon emissions by 2017. With the help of O’Brien and Gere Engineers (OBG), the school assessed the campus’s energy usage and identified opportunities to reduce energy consumption. Now Queens College is developing initiatives to turn those recommendations into realities. Queens College is looking to perform energy-related retrofits on many campus buildings, and has recently completed its first residence hall, The Summit, which received LEED Gold certification. Facilities Services now uses exclusively Green Seal Certified cleaning products and campus grounds are maintained 100 percent organically. Each year the career center hosts a Green Job and Internship Fair, which exposes students to the variety of opportunities available in the green jobs space. Students have the opportunity to get involved by joining the Queens College Sustainability Council, which meets regularly and aims to reduce the carbon footprint of the college by developing sustainability-related initiatives.