

LEARNING ACTIVITIES EXAMPLE FOR GREEN MLS LISTINGS:

This learning activity could be integrated into any social science, natural science, technology, humanities or math course. (Each academic area has concepts that contribute to the topics below.)

Provide the overview of the idea of including energy bills on MLS listings to encourage energy wise behaviors in society (see the bottom of the page for the overview). Then assign students the following.

Using concepts that you have learned in this course, complete (faculty can pick what is most appropriate for the course) a research paper, position paper, persuasion paper, video, speech, computer graphic, piece of art, or classroom presentation/project that addresses one or more of the following topics:

1. Why energy conservation in buildings is important for environmental, economic and human health
2. How information on utility bills on the “for sale” (MLS) websites could help inform consumer choices to be more energy efficient and persuade building owners to upgrade the energy efficiency of their buildings
3. The reductions in energy and pollution when a building is more efficient (you can use the calculator at <http://www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-and-you/how-clean.html> for the pollution reductions by zip code) and contact Debra Rowe at dgrowe@oaklandcc.edu for the simple equations to calculate dollar savings from energy reductions.
4. Why this is the right thing for realtors and the MLS to do and how it could enhance their business
5. How this can help grow the green economy

Awareness of energy efficient homes and the operational savings that energy efficiency brings can not only encourage energy-wise home purchasing, and energy wise behavior in general, but it will also increase demand for jobs we are training our students to do. For more information see: <http://theseedcenter.org/Special-Pages/Action-Community--Policy-and-Civic-Engagement-for> (or just www.theseedcenter.org), <http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CMSPageID=2605> (or just www.USGBC.org/campaign) with descriptions of successful activities around the country. Another good source is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ddnft2zx5p4> an explanation of an existing Green MLS from Midwest Real Estate Data (MRED).

Any of these presentations or papers should then be shared with the local or state board of realtors and the students could ask them by email or in person to move forward on this proposal. Any feedback received should be shared with the Bert Jacobson at bjacobson@kcc.edu (on behalf of the Policy and Legislative Work Group of the Green Universities and Colleges Subcommittee for the Illinois Green Government Coordinating Council) so it could be used by higher education institutions and other stakeholders on a coordinated effort .