

Template Email to Student Groups and Student Life Staff

Students groups and student life activities open to the campus or even the community have a unique and important role to play to educate our students and the public about how to create a more environmentally sound future. There are multiple opportunities to relate to today's issues that will give students and the public the opportunity to help create real world solutions to our shared sustainability challenges.

The Policy and Legislative Workgroup of the Green Universities and Colleges Subcommittee of the Green Government Coordinating Council of Illinois is sharing information you can use in your student groups and student life activities. The issue we are sharing with you now involves the fact that more energy efficient housing in our community will result in a healthier local economy, healthier humans due to higher air quality, and more jobs for our students. We are sharing this information with you so you can help encourage key actions to grow jobs. The issue we are sharing with you now is about getting information on how energy efficient a home is into the Realtor listings for potential buyers. This has already happened in 80 listing services across the country yet we do not yet have it across Illinois.

Benefits of including this information in home sales listings (called the MLS for Multiple Listing Systems):

- Helps buyers quickly find green homes.
- Makes it easy to fully promote the special features of a green home.
- Supports apples-to-apples comparison when it is time to appraise a green home.
- Supports the flow of green home information/performance between the players in the marketplace.
- Creates value for green homes.

Your student groups and student life schedule could get involved in the following ways:

1. Bring in a speaker on the issue.
2. Send a letter of support for this issue.
3. Convene community stakeholders to address this issue and help deepen the understanding of the benefits and clear the way for productive action.

Helping students and the public become educated and active citizens and community members is one of the goals of higher education. Please let us know what you choose to do and how else we could assist you.