



*Southern Growth Policies Board presents
Southern Energy: Abundant, Affordable and American –
2009 Innovator Award Winner*

Green Innovation
University of Central Oklahoma

Objective: To become a green university that provides initiatives for students, faculty, staff and our surrounding community.



In 2004, the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) made the decision to become a green university. While UCO has taken on multiple energy-saving initiatives, the most innovative of our initiatives include performance contracting, purchasing 100 percent of its power from wind, and the on-site creation of biodiesel.

Performance Contracting – In 2001, UCO moved to resolve long-standing facility energy and capital investment problems. Performance contracting, which allows for the financing of expensive energy efficiency improvements with low up-front costs, was recognized as the medium to resolve UCO’s energy problems. Since its implementation, more than \$3.8 million has been saved and we have reduced our CO₂ emissions by 60,000,000 pounds.

Wind Energy – In 2006, UCO began to purchase electricity from wind power. To date, UCO has saved over 50,000,000 kwh of electricity provided via wind.

Biodiesel – In response to the rising cost of petroleum and its environmental effects that run counter to UCO’s mission as a green university, the UCO physical plant developed and designed a biodiesel production system. Since 2006, the biodiesel project has saved over \$10,000 by substituting 2,400 gallons of biodiesel for traditional diesel, and from yearly supplies of a degreaser for mechanics which is created from a byproduct of the biodiesel manufacturing process.

1. UCO’s Old North building.
2. UCO beautification garden.
3. View of UCO’s Broncho Lake.
4. The University of Central Oklahoma’s website, www.ucorecycling.com, has information about university recycling programs and sustainability projects.