

New Jersey Higher Education Partnership for Sustainability (NJHEPS), launched in 1999, is a partnership of 42 New Jersey higher education institutions hosted by New Jersey Institute of Technology. The NJIT Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) organization, serves as NJHEPS' fiscal agent.

**The mission of NJHEPS:**

*“transform the higher education community to consistently practice sustainability and to more effectively contribute to the world’s emerging understanding of sustainability, through teaching, research, outreach, operations, and community life.”*

**Sustainability**—providing human societies a rich quality of life within the means of nature—requires social equity, a healthy environment, and an efficient, productive economy that recognizes the contributions of flourishing ecosystems, thriving communities, and educated people. Achieving these inter-related goals will require *inter-disciplinary, systems-based solutions*--and higher education's leadership is essential in devising these solutions.

NJHEPS creates on campuses the culture, operations, curriculum, and programs that advance sustainability, and seeks to connect these campus efforts to sustainability initiatives in communities, in New Jersey, and beyond.

*NJHEPS* pursues **four overarching goals:**

1. We **create, communicate and disseminate knowledge** about sustainability and sustainable choices.
2. We **help people understand sustainability** and its relevance to their lives, their careers, their research, and their society.
3. We **promote partnerships and collaborations** to advance sustainability.
4. We **increase capacity for practicing sustainability**, on campus and beyond, through **building skills, transforming attitudes, and providing resources.**

*NJHEPS asks all New Jersey faculty, administrators, staff, students, communities, organizations and government agencies to work with us to devise sustainability solutions and to provide tomorrow’s leaders and citizens with sustainability skills, knowledge, and “habits of the heart.”*

*NJHEPS invites all New Jersey colleges and universities to join our partnership.*

**NJHEPS Accomplishments**

- **Securing commitments from all NJ institutions to the Greenhouse Gas Action Plan**, a pledge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2005 (*supported by the NJ Board of Public Utilities and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection*).
- **Comprehensive green energy campaign**, including joint-purchasing of fuel cells and wind power, publications, campus energy plans and workshops.
- **Progress in high performance (“green”) design**, through handbooks, guidelines, technical support, and workshops.
- **Comprehensive campaign to implement EPP** (Environmentally Preferable Purchasing) and reduce waste on campuses.
- Partners in a **National Science Foundation-funded sustainability curriculum project**, currently developing modules based on local sustainability achievements and challenges..
- Diverse, in-depth **sustainability-related training, seminars, conferences, meetings, and presentations** at state, regional and national events.