



NJHEPS

April 2009

From the Executive Director:

April is always a busy month in higher education, what with Earth Week and Earth Day events, the nearing of the end of the spring semester, and several New Jersey colleges holding or completing energy and recycling competitions on their campuses. This year has been particularly busy, with the launch on 31 March of the "America's Greenest Campus" competition, a nation-wide effort to get students (and staff and faculty) to practice personal responsibility for reducing their energy use and increasing their energy efficiency, while perhaps helping their college or university win a prize for highest number of participants (\$5,000) and the largest reduction in personal greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (\$5,000) by the school's students, staff, faculty and even alumni (i.e., anyone with an email address with ".edu" at the end can get credits for their school). There is also a prize for the best Energy Smart Ad (\$10,000). All prizes must be spent on sustainability programs at the winning institution. Only personal GHG reductions count, not institutional actions like new/rebuilt energy efficient buildings or new solar PV arrays.

The contest web site (www.americasgreenestcampus.com) offers access to "Personal Energy Advisor" software for individuals to look at their energy reduction and energy efficiency options, and allow them to choose their favorite actions to reduce their GHG emissions while keeping their freedom to choose their lifestyles, and track the results from now through October. Students can compare their GHG emission reductions to their peers', give each other a little competitive push, and show each other that reducing one's carbon footprint is really "cool".

Speaking of cool, the kickoff music video (which can be viewed on the website home page) for the contest stars the Obama Girl and hip-hop star Russell Simmons, with Russell getting to date the Obama Girl because he recycles, saves energy and drives a Prius, which her previous boyfriend did not do- the Obama Girl's chorus is "you

better save your energy if you want to be friends with me". The video had several 100,000 hits within the first days after its launch on YouTube! If your campus has not yet signed on to this unique GHG reduction program, give it a try. Even if you don't win, you might get a lot of people to change their personal energy habits without giving up their personal lifestyles. In the first 3 weeks of the program, over 450 colleges and 5,000 students have signed up, and they have already saved over 4.5 million pounds of GHG emissions and one million gallons of water.

Another great program that New Jersey higher education institutions should be aware of is the Sustainable Energy Fund (SEF) 2009 Sustainable Energy Conference. The Conference is designed to bring students, sustainability coordinators, professors, entrepreneurs, and policy makers together for a valuable educational experience to help them make informed decisions in today's and tomorrow's green energy economy. SEF (a not-for-profit organization based in Pennsylvania) invites teams from New Jersey higher education institutions to attend the 2009 Conference, to be held July 27th - August 1st at Lafayette College in Easton, PA. To those institutions that intend to implement renewable energy studies into on-going college curricula, SEF offers attendance grants, worth at least \$1700 per attendee, to up to three attendees from your school. The Sustainable Energy Conference is a unique educational event grown out of the successful Solar Scholars™ Program, SEF's first-in-the-nation solar education initiative founded in 2005. There are now 35 colleges and universities that are designing and installing their own 3-kilowatt solar system on campus, or offering renewable energy studies to their students through creative curriculum integration. To-date, 19 colleges have received from SEF a total of \$285,000 to fund new solar photovoltaic installations on their campuses. SEF has now added a "Wind Energy" track to the Conference to match the "Solar Energy" track held in previous

years. More information about the Conference and registration is available on SEF's website www.theseef.org, or contact SEF's Bill Dougherty at (610) 264-4440 ext. 17, or at WDougherty@theseef.org. I urge you to consider how your school can coordinate a team of Sustainable Scholars to attend the 2009 Sustainable Energy Conference, especially since this is the first year for which New Jersey institutions are eligible (before it was only for colleges from Pennsylvania). PLEASE DO THIS PROMPTLY, as the number of Conference attendee slots are limited. After attending the conference, colleges are invited to compete for a limited number of solar or wind energy project grants offered by SEF.

Finally, don't forget that NJHEPS will be sponsoring the NJHEPS Sustainable Education Workshop and NJHEPS Annual Meeting on 29 May at the Bloustein School at Rutgers University in New Brunswick. This year's theme is "Green Jobs, Green Curricula and Green Justice", and we have invited Newark Mayor Cory Booker to be our keynote speaker. After the Workshop, we will hold our NJHEPS Annual Meeting, and the NJHEPS member institution representatives will vote to fill the open positions on the NJHEPS Executive Committee for the coming year. More details about these 29 May events can be found in this Newsletter and the NJHEPS website. We also are awaiting the finalization of a date in mid-June for our next NJHEPS Clean Energy Workshop, and our fall workshop will be held on the campus of Stevens Institute in Hoboken, and featuring a tour of their new solar PV arrays on campus and their other energy-saving (and GHG reducing) programs.

I hope you are having a wonderful and sustainable spring, and I look forward to seeing you soon at your campus, business or NJHEPS workshop or meeting!

Ports Study Shows How Biodiesel Reduces Pollution

The 4,600 container ships plying the oceans today are the backbone of globalization, the commercial strategy that has dominated the world's economy for the last 30 years. Twin environmental and energy crises are now challenging globalization. Bunkerfuel, the dregs of oil refining now powering most ships at sea, is subject to new international laws adopted in October 2008 that could greatly restrict its use and raise fuel costs. The second crisis stems from the increasing awareness of the environmental consequences of energy use, both from bunkerfuel emissions from container ships and diesel air pollution from the thousands of land-based vehicles used daily to transport goods to and from ports.

Just one step above asphalt, bunkerfuel is a viscous, jet black semi-solid that must be heated to make it liquid enough to be piped from storage tanks and injected into an engine. Due to its poor quality and limited applications, bunkerfuel generally sells for half to two-thirds the price of the crude oil from which it was refined. Current fuel quality standards set by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) allow the use of bunkerfuel that contains 45,000 parts per million (ppm) of sulfur, a key fuel contaminant and air pollutant. This is thousands of times more polluting than diesel allowed in onroad trucks in the United States (U.S.), which can contain no more than 15 ppm of sulfur.

An October 2007 study calculated that air pollution emitted by ships burning bunkerfuel takes a horrific health toll on coastal populations, causing about 64,000 annual premature deaths, mostly from cardiopulmonary diseases or lung cancer. Other pollution problems exist as well. For example, if the international shipping industry were a country, it would rank just below Japan as the fifth largest emitter of carbon dioxide, the leading greenhouse gas causing global warming.

For more information and to view the full study, visit: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/energy-futures.com/2009PortStudy.pdf>

2009 ACUPCC Climate Leadership Summit

August 13th and 14th, 2009
Palmer House Hilton, Chicago, IL

The fight against global warming will shape the 21st century. Colleges and universities must exercise leadership in their communities and throughout society by modeling ways to eliminate global warming emissions, and by providing the knowledge and the educated graduates to achieve climate neutrality. Leaders at campuses that address the climate challenge will better serve their students and meet their social mandate to help create a thriving, ethical and civil society.

The 2009 Climate Leadership Summit will feature inspiring speakers, provide action-oriented information to combat climate issues and unite forward-thinking leaders committed to transitioning from good intentions to strategic transformative action.

If you are a college or university president or chancellor or other senior-level designate, bring your climate action planning team to the Summit to learn how you can:

- * Access funding and financing to support climate and sustainability efforts
- * Support your institution in the creation of an effective climate action plan that includes operations, education, research, and community engagement
- * Successfully lead your campus community in this transformational change process
- * Scale up climate action by leveraging the strengths of the ACUPCC signatory network

With over 4,000 institutions of higher education shaping the minds of over 17 million students, the Commitment has the potential to create an impact that goes far beyond the campus. These institutions play a critical role in preparing the nation's future leaders to move away from a carbon economy and toward a green economy. The Presidents' Climate Commitment is an opportunity to develop the framework necessary to achieve climate neutrality.

For more information please visit: www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/summit/index.html

Events

Green Building and Sustainable Design in New Jersey

May 13, 2009, Parsippany, NJ

Register Today For This Exciting Event: <http://www.lorman.com/shop/index.php?item=202524&>

Highlights we think will interest you include:

Green building isn't as costly as you think – find out how to save money while minimizing your risk.

Yes, you can build green and save money. Unfortunately, many professionals lack the know-how to make sure their budgets don't suffer. Even for those who do, green technology and legal issues are changing so fast that it may seem impossible to keep up. That's where we can help!

Attend this seminar and discover how green buildings can help you make more money because they're more attractive to buyers. Get the latest techniques that top professionals are using to slash their costs and prevent time-consuming legal headaches. Building green doesn't have to mean sleepless nights, heated arguments with your design team and countless trips to your attorney's office. Find out how by signing up today!

Benefits for You

- Get on board now before your competitors do ... keep pace with the growing market demand for green buildings
- Learn from a case study highlighting sustainable design so you don't have to learn the hard way
- Explore the LEED® rating system – know what you're getting yourself into
- Must-have strategies for minimizing the emerging legal risks of building green – save yourself a lot of unnecessary anxiety
- Smart strategies for applying green development practices and safeguarding your bottom line

Who Should Attend:

This seminar is designed for presidents, vice presidents, architects, engineers, contractors, project managers, developers, bankers, planners, real estate professionals, designers and attorneys.

Faculty:

Harry E. McLellan III, Esq., McLellan & Bialkowski, LLC

Mark Biedron, LEED® AP, The Willow School

Sustainable Growth Technologies, LLC

Darren Molnar-Port, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs - Division of Codes and Standards

Joseph Porrovecchio, LEED® AP, Ramapo College of New Jersey

NJTC Clean Energy Summit

May 1 - 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM

Princeton Plasma Physics Lab, Princeton

The NJTC Clean Energy Summit on May 1 will bring together leaders in the emerging industries of energy conservation, climate control and renewable energy sources from the entire mid-Atlantic region.

Join us for panels on:

Growing a Clean Tech Enterprise - How to Make the Most of the Market Opportunities and Overcome the Challenges
With a Little Help from your Friends - Government Incentives to Help Grow a Green Economy
Investor Panel

Keynote and Featured Speakers include:

Ralph Izzo, President & CEO, PSEG

Jeanne M. Fox, President, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

Assemblyman Upendra Chivukula, Chair, Telecommunications and Utilities Committee & Member, Commerce and Economic Development Committee, State of NJ

and much more!

For additional information, directions and to register, click <http://www.njtc.org/events/green09/home.html>

Happenings

NJHEPS 2009 Sustainability Education Summit & Steering Committee

GREEN CURRICULA, GREEN JOBS, GREEN JUSTICE PROGRAM

Keynote Speaker: MAYOR CORY BOOKER (Invited)
Green Curriculum and Jobs: From Technology to Policy
Climate Change Curriculum and Action
Steering Committee and Election
Campus Best Practices

Friday, May 29th, 2009, 8:30 am to 3:00 pm

Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy Rutgers University

Who should attend?

- Sustainability Coordinators
- Steering Committee Members
- Faculty, Administrators, Students, Staff
- Presidents Climate Commitment Signatories

Register now: <http://www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?bevaidd=182495>

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SWRRG Selected for the USEPA Environmental Quality Award

The Solid Waste Resource Renewal Group (SWRRG) at Rutgers NJAES was selected and received the 2009 U.S. EPA Region 2 Environmental Quality Award. The USEPA describes this award as “the highest recognition presented to the public by our office. Award recipients come from all sectors of our community, including nonprofit, environmental and community groups, individual citizens, environmental education and business organizations and members of the news media.” SWRRG was honored along with the other award recipients at a ceremony on April 24, 2009 at USEPA offices in New York City. For more information, contact Cook College graduate Chris Sebastian at 212-637-3597 or sebastian.chris@epa.gov.

USGBC-NJ 3rd Annual Building a Greener NJ Gala

May 21, 2009, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Wyndham Worldwide Headquarters, 22 Sylvan Drive, Parsippany, New Jersey

Wyndham Worldwide Headquarters is a LEED® Registered Project Sponsorship and Ad Journal Opportunities
For information please contact Jamie Montgomery at 856-810-7390 or jmontgomery@turnkeyproductions.net

Want to share progress towards sustainability on your campus? Please send news items to Terra Meierdierck (tmeierdierck@njheps.org) for inclusion in our newsletter.

NJHEPS GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT OF:

NJHEPS Corporate Sponsors; NJ Natural Resources; New Jersey Board of Public Utilities; New Jersey Clean Energy Program; PSEG Foundation, ATT Foundation; and NJHEPS 40+ Member Institutions

NJHEPS STAFF

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