



NJHEPS

August 2008

From the Executive Director:

As we begin another semester of educating the future citizens of America it strikes me how important it is “to get it right” about the importance of sustainability in their lives, and our lives. Here in New Jersey, I am amazed at the increase in awareness and action on sustainability issues compared to when I joined NJHEPS nearly 3 years ago. We now have 14 New Jersey schools that have signed the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC), and we have several schools still in the process of considering signing the ACUPCC, or that have made other major climate and/or sustainability commitments. Many campuses are building green buildings, adopting sustainable purchasing practices, buying renewable energy, installing solar systems, having students visit developing nations (or inner cities here) to help with housing and development needs, and improving their recycling rates.

However, the bad news of all that success to date is that it does not encompass all 47 NJHEPS member schools, nor even all parts of the schools that are sustainability leaders, and there are still a lot of college and university students attending and/or worse, graduating from, NJ higher education institutions whose major source of information about climate change and other sustainability issues is Jon Stewart and the Daily Show, not their professors and schools. It can be depressing at times to visit a NJ campus and see 100 people at an NJHEPS sustainability seminar, but only 4 or 5 (or 9,995) students? How do we reach them, and educate them how they can have richer, more productive lives with clean careers in a more effective and efficient society, by embracing sustainability? It won't happen by creating a sustainability course or major, or

committee, but rather by integrating sustainability into all we do in our campus operations, curricula and communities. We have a lot of work to do folks, and on some issues, time is running short, real short.

There are sustainability campaigns around the country modeled on the concept of “just do one thing” today. I think we in New Jersey can, and must, not sit on our laurels of the progress to date, or expect the new State policies and laws enacted on sustainability issues like energy and climate change to do it for us. We must “do one thing” every day and **every** hour to educate our students, fellow workers and citizens about sustainability, both through traditional campus-wide and class methods, but also through direct interaction. Speak to students and get them involved, even if you are an administrator, sustainability coordinator or a facilities manager, and not a professor.

In one of our recent NJHEPS Climate Change Communication seminars, Solitaire Townsend mentioned that we sometimes think that if we only throw more facts at people they will inevitably come to our side, which she said was “...Wrong, Wrong, Wrong”. Sometimes we have to reach out through the heart and soul on sustainability issues, not just the encyclopedia of information we can fit in a book, or webpage, or brain cell. To do that, we need to listen as well as teach, and learn which sustainability concerns our students worry about the most, and then use that information to help tailor our message to that student or group of students. A lot of students are getting some knowledge about sustainability issues in K-12 education these days, and we must build on that base, and help them see why it is relevant to their lives, their families, their careers and

their communities, and how their college undergraduate and graduate educations can help better prepare them for a sustainable future. If we as institutions are not doing that, then we must encourage students to push our institutions harder and harder to make sure no young adult is left behind when it comes to understanding sustainability.

When I was a young man growing up in New York City (centuries ago!), there was a preacher named Reverend Ike, who ran a very successful religious ministry in a former movie theater in Washington Heights. Reverend Ike was so successful he even appeared in his own show on television. I still remember his core message- “If you want your prayer's answered, get up off of your knees and go do something about it.” So if we care about sustainability, we must stop praying for change to occur, and get up and do something to make it happen! Of course, that is not always easy, but it must be done.

Therefore my goal for myself and NJHEPS the coming year is to work each day personally and within NJHEPS to educate someone, somewhere, on why sustainability practices, policies and action are critical to society's, and their personal, future. We can do that in the classroom, in the office, in the cafeteria, in the parking lot, in a car (or better yet, in a train), or in how we vote or support local, state or national candidates. If we all do that, I will have a lot more sustainability successes in New Jersey to report upon Labor Day next year!!!

Have a great Labor Day Weekend, and a fantastic start to your fall semester.

2008 Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection is pleased to announce the application process for the 2008 Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards. This awards program was established by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to recognize outstanding environmental performance, programs and projects in the state. The awards recognize individuals, businesses, and communities who have made significant contributions to environmental protection in New Jersey.

In order to download an awards application or to learn more about the awards program including past winners and project descriptions, please visit the awards website at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/eeawards/>.

Winners of the 2008 Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards will be invited to an awards ceremony and press event hosted by the Governor in the fall. Tentative plans call for a ceremony and reception to be held in Princeton at Drumthwacket, the official residence of the Governor of New Jersey.

The deadline for application submittal is September 19, 2008. Please contact Dean Anderson of the NJDEP at (609) 777-1949 or Dean.Anderson@dep.state.nj.us if you have any questions about this awards program.

National Wildlife Federation Fellowships

NWF Fellowships allow students to pursue their vision of an ecologically sustainable future through tangible projects to confront global warming on campus and in the community. Fellows gain practical experience in the conservation field and first-hand knowledge of the challenges and opportunities inherent in successful conservation efforts. Special emphasis will be placed on selecting Fellows from colleges and universities with recommendations from a team of faculty, staff, or other students either already working on or interested in working on campus wide climate action. Students are encouraged to submit fellowships proposals on a variety of sustainability practices that work to reduce their school's carbon footprint.

Core projects: Priority will be given to projects that focus on one or more of the following efforts.

- Implementing energy efficiency and conservation initiatives on existing or new buildings.
- Conducting a greenhouse gas inventory and developing a climate action plan
- Hosting a climate gathering involving representatives from three or more campuses

Other Projects: Limited number of fellowships available

- Designing and/or implementing greener transportation options.
- Installing or purchasing clean energy.
- Initiating sustainable food systems.
- Increasing and protecting wildlife habitat and green space on grounds and roof tops.
- Designing supportive processes such as fiscal incentives, planning documents, professional development, community outreach, new policies, etc. on global warming awareness.

Writing and Research: Limited to graduate students

- Researching and writing articles for e-newsletter
- Writing best practices resources focused on campus climate leadership

Undergraduate or graduate students from any college or university in the United States may apply. Applications are invited from students in all disciplines and are not limited to environmental studies majors. Current and former employees of National Wildlife Federation and former NWF Campus Ecology Fellows are ineligible to apply. Former NWF interns are eligible to apply following one year from their final work date. The name on the application must be limited to one individual and the Fellowship reporting, training, or other requirements cannot be transferred to or shared with another student. Additional involvement should be noted in the proposal. Applications from students who have been nominated by a formal group or committee working on climate and other sustainability projects on campus will receive special consideration. A nomination process is especially encouraged where more than one student may be interested in applying for NWF's Campus Ecology Fellowship.

Undergraduate fellows may receive up to \$2000 to help offset project. Graduate fellows may receive up to \$5000. Grant funds are intended to serve as seed money, not to cover the full cost of the project 2009 NWF Campus Ecology Fellowships 2 or gathering. www.nwf.org/campusecology/fellowships/

Events

Newark's Green Future Summit

September 11th and 12th, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Student Center

To organize Newark's Green Future Summit in collaboration with the Mayor's office and other city leaders to identify best practices and mobilize the resources to make Newark a national showcase for clean and efficient energy use, green economic development and job creation, and equitable environmental opportunity. We hope that this effort will ultimately engage and touch the lives of all Newark's 300,000 residents, especially those in its most economically and environmentally distressed communities.

The Clinton Global Initiative has provided an incredible opportunity for us to come together to focus our collective resources on helping build a green, prosperous Newark that will be a leader in the clean energy economy. The city is at a critical moment where it needs to use those assets strategically to build a more equitable, sustainable and economically stable future. The Mayor of Newark, Cory Booker, has inspired many to help him work towards his vision for Newark - and healthy, efficient, equitable communities are a central piece of this vision. The Summit will be designed to help the Mayor and his community partners realize this vision. www.apolloalliance.org/stateandlocal_clintoninit.php

Upcoming USGBC - NJ Events

EGB-NJ PRESENTS: LEED Silver House Tour

September 6, 2008, 11am: Atlantic Highlands, NJ



Come join the EGB-NJ as we tour of one of the first LEED Silver Homes to be built in NJ. The home is almost complete with it's different construction phases. See for yourself that a normal looking house can be an energy efficient house that achieves LEED Silver certification. Meet the Green Team, the Owners, Designer and Builder.

Networking Luncheon & Golf Outing

October 10, 2008, 8:00am Shotgun: Suneagles Golf Course, Fort Monmouth , NJ

Sponsorship and 4some opportunities still available. Not only is there a golf outing for the golfers, but non-golfers are encouraged to join us for this opportune networking luncheon. Golf starts at 8am. Luncheon begins at 1pm. Practice your swing!

For complete details please visit: www.usgbcnj.org

New Jersey Clean Energy Conference 2008

Join us at the fourth annual New Jersey Clean Energy Conference Leadership Awards to learn about cleantech investment opportunities, financial incentives available through New Jersey's Clean Energy Program, and more.

The 2008 Clean Energy Conference and Leadership Awards is October 17 at the Hyatt Regency Jersey City. Come join 700+ clean energy market participants and exhibitors as you learn, network, and discuss the energy issues and opportunities impacting New Jersey businesses, residents, and municipalities.

Features this year include:

- * Venture capital experts and cleantech financiers
- * New Jersey's solar transition to market-based incentives
- * Financial incentives for business
- * Steps taken by successful green businesses
- * 2008 Clean Energy Leadership Awards
- * Networking events and roundtable discussions



For more information about conference sponsorships and exhibitor packages, please contact 1-866-NJSMART or info@njcleanenergy.com. For more information about the conference, visit www.NJCleanEnergy.com/conference New Jersey's Clean Energy Program is a statewide program administered by the NJ Board of Public Utilities.

Happenings

Green Buildings Open House Tour

Saturday, October 4, from 10 am to 4 pm

2008 marks the seventh year of the NESEA Green Buildings Open House, which is part of the American Solar Energy Society's National Solar Tour. In the Northeast, we have expanded this national event to include a wide range of commercial and institutional buildings, as well as buildings that use a variety of forms of renewable energy and green building technologies and materials.

The NESEA Green Buildings Open House offers a unique opportunity for members of the public to see renewable energy and other green building technologies at work; for homeowners and building managers to showcase their buildings; and for green builders, architects, and businesses to connect with the public. On the day of the event, homeowners and building managers will be on site to describe their green building features and answer questions. Members of the public can learn basic principles of green building, such as designing for solar heating ("passive solar"), energy-efficient building techniques such as superinsulation and air sealing, safe indoor air quality, and resource-efficient and healthy building materials.

To sign up, or for more information please visit the Green Buildings Open House page at www.nesea.org

The Sustainability Puzzle: Putting the Pieces Together

2008 NECSC Conference - October 27-28, 2008

Please join us for the 5th Annual Northeast Campus Sustainability Consortium Conference being held October 27-28, 2008 at Princeton University. The theme this year, "The Sustainability Puzzle: Putting the Pieces Together", will look at the many interconnected and inter-disciplinary sustainability issues faced by our campuses today. Areas to be explored are: Academics, Operations, Governance and Community. Emphasis will be placed on how to engage the often disconnected members of the campus community to pursue policies and practices that result in both a smaller environmental footprint and greater awareness as a community. *cate* that we live on a finite planet and that matter and energy are not created or destroyed? Why, indeed, should students be interested in science, since every scientific discipline—chemistry, physical science, even biology—teach things which are contradicted each day by the way the world is run, as if there were no physical or chemical or biological limits at all?

The Northeast Campus Sustainability Consortium (NECSC) was established in October 2004 to advance education and action for sustainable development on university campuses in the northeast and maritime region. Organized around the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, the NECSC members have committed to an annual meeting that advances campus sustainability by providing close networking opportunities, professional development, and access to the areas vibrant and growing college and university sustainability practitioner community. The NECSC represents more than forty institutions of higher education from the northeast United States and Eastern Canadian Provinces.

Information concerning registration and accommodations will be coming soon. Please contact us at sustain@princeton.edu with any questions. Please visit the website for further information: www.princeton.edu/sustainability/news/necsc-2008/

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

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