



# NJHEPS

# August 2009

*From the Executive Director:*

I hope you have been enjoying your summer, and it is hard to believe it is time for the fall 2009 academic semester to begin already. NJHEPS has been busy this summer, working to give you the information you need to make your campus more sustainable and efficient. We held two major workshops in July, both of which were well attended and well received. The first was another in the continuing series of NJHEPS Climate Change Management Workshops, entitled "Meeting the Presidents Climate Commitment", held at Ramapo College on 20 July. The President of Ramapo, Dr. Peter Mercer, led off with introductory remarks and a welcome, which included the announcement that NJHEPS would be moving this fall to Ramapo College's new Sustainability Center building. We thank Dr. Mercer for his support of and interest in NJHEPS and sustainability, and look forward to a long and fruitful partnership between NJHEPS and Ramapo College. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Dan Watts, recently retired head of the NJIT York Center for Environmental Engineering & Science, and the Center's administrative director, Helen Gramko, as well as Deane Evans, head of the NJIT Center for Architecture and Building Science Research (CABSR), and his assistant, Mary Delano, for overseeing NJHEPS during our six years at NJIT, and we do expect to continue to have a strong relationship with the CABSR and the NJIT School of Architecture, based upon their strong commitment to sustainability issues and practices.

The remainder of the Workshop was devoted to practical examples of how New Jersey campuses are meeting their American College & University President Climate Commitment (ACUPCC), including presentations by community colleges, private colleges, state colleges and universities, and experts in the field from facilities, faculty and student perspectives. New Jersey is now up to 18 signatories to the ACUPCC, with one more coming in the first week of September, plus the sole NY member of NJHEPS, Wagner College, is also an ACUPCC signatory. This means almost 40% of all NJHEPS

schools are signatories, with several other major New Jersey schools not signing the ACUPCC yet, but still making significant commitments to reducing their carbon footprint over the coming years. This deserves a "Well Done" for New Jersey higher education, for showing such great leadership!!!

The second NJHEPS workshop in July was the NJHEPS Summer Clean Energy Workshop, held at Rutgers on 29 July. We had our usual great presentations on a variety of clean energy topics, including a summary of the latest energy efficiency and renewable energy incentives and funding opportunities available from BPU, state and federal sources, a roundtable discussion on using performance contracting for clean energy and efficiency projects, an update on new pressure vessel regulations that may have a significant impact on campus operations and management costs, and a tour (in the middle of a thunderstorm!) of the new Rutgers solar PV array farm that has been operating since early spring. Thanks to Mike Kornitas and Tony Calcado of Rutgers for their work on hosting this workshop!

We also have a great line-up of NJHEPS Workshops coming in the fall, including an NJHEPS Regional Climate Change Summit being held at Ramapo College on 25 September, featuring a panel of college/university presidents speaking about why climate change management is important to their institutions and their mission. It also will have a presentation by the first New Jersey higher education institution to achieve "Carbon Neutrality", Georgian Court University. [Congratulations to Sister Rosemary Jefferies, President, and Andrew Christ, VP-Facilities, of Georgian Court for being first in New Jersey!] We also are planning a NJHEPS Fall Sustainability Education Workshop at Kean University on 13 November, building on the great interest in this subject shown at our Spring Sustainability Education Workshop held on 29 May at Rutgers. This meeting will be aimed at helping faculty members in New Jersey learn methods of adding sus-

tainability to their course content, as well as building communities of faculty members with common interests on sustainability issues. We also have planned a Clean Energy Workshop on November 20 at Stevens Institute of Technology, which will include information on their new "Green Engineering" major, and a tour of their new distributed solar PV array system and other on-campus energy efficiency improvements. Another Workshop to keep an eye out for is the NJHEPS Fall Green Design Workshop, to be held at Ocean County College on October 30. We are also in the planning stages for NJHEPS workshops in the coming months on the topics of "Greening IT on Campuses" (hopefully with the help of IBM and other IT firms) and on "Sustainable Agriculture and Food" in partnership with Sussex County Community College. We welcome your support and comments/suggestions for all of the above-mentioned workshops, and hope you can attend and actively participate in them. We also expect to announce this fall a new funding source for a series of NJHEPS-organized pollution prevention workshops around the region on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and energy use in higher education starting in early 2010, so watch this space for more information when we officially can announce this exciting news.

Speaking of green IT, we have to apologize to all our NJHEPS supporters out there for the problems we have been having with our NJHEPS email system, and our NJHEPS web site, over the past few weeks- we are having problems both receiving emails and updating our website, and Terra is working furiously with our IT providers to try to get the problems resolved quickly. In the meantime, we suggest you use our alternate email addresses (johnlcusack@att.net and terra.meierdierck@gmail.com) if you wish to contact Terra or myself, as our njheps.org email addresses are only working sporadically.

## *Sussex County Community College Becomes First Community College in State to Receive LEED Certification*

Sussex County Community College (SCCC) recently received the highly coveted Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System certification from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) for the newly constructed Health Sciences and Performing Arts Center on the Newton campus. SCCC is the first community college in New Jersey and the first building in Sussex County to obtain the honor of LEED certification.

The LEED Green Building Rating System provides a set of standards for environmentally sustainable construction. Launched in 1998, LEED supports—and provides certification for—buildings that have healthier work and living environments, which contribute to higher productivity and improved employee health and comfort. The benefits to the overall community range from improved air and water quality to reduced solid waste. LEED certified buildings typically use resources more efficiently when compared to conventional buildings which are simply built to code.

Charles Canny, Executive Director of Facilities at SCCC, was instrumental in managing the process of the College receiving LEED certification. During construction of SCCC's Health Sciences and Performing Arts Center, recycled products were used in the millwork and all carpets and paints had low VOCs (volatile organic compounds). These components also made for exceptional air quality during construction. The building also was noted for its very efficient HVAC systems and the management of storm water via roof drains. The roof drains allow storm water to go into a recharge system which puts the water back into the ground. Also, 75% of construction waste for the new building was recycled and the College was recognized for innovation in design and minimal disturbance of the site during construction. "Working toward LEED certification is about saving money and environmental resources because we use materials and a design that save energy," said Canny.

In the fall, a formal dedication of the LEED certification will be held and a plaque will be installed on the Health Sciences and Performing Arts Center building.

Dr. Constance Mierendorf, President of SCCC, has also signed a pledge along with more than 800 colleges and universities across the country, to promise to provide an energy-efficient workplace. "SCCC is deeply committed to sustainability efforts," stated Mierendorf, "from recycling to solar panels to an energy efficient class schedule we are taking steps large and small to help make our campus and our world, a healthier place to live. We are so proud to be the first community college in the state and first in the region to receive the LEED distinction."

## *Georgian Court Green Purchase Sends Powerful Message*

Georgian Court University again is turning to green power for all of its electricity. The university recently purchased more than 5.6 million kilowatt-hours of biomass and wind energy—the equivalent of avoiding greenhouse gas emissions from 745 passenger vehicles for a whole year. or two years in a row, we've offset 100 percent of our electricity usage," says Andrew P. Christ, PE, assistant vice president for operations at GCU. "It shows that we're making a true commitment. We're in this for the long run." The university is working with Eneractive Solutions, an Asbury Park, NJ, firm that provides virtual energy management services to GCU. They assisted the university in procuring renewable energy certificates from 3Degrees Inc., a San Francisco-based group that helps organizations fund clean energy and carbon reduction projects.

GCU's purchase of Green-e Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) reflects 5 million kWh of biomass energy—created with organic waste—and 665,280 kWh of wind energy from national wind farms. The purchase mirrors the university's historic mission to be environmentally conscious, says Mr. Christ. "From the very beginning, GCU has been about sustainability," he says. "The campus was repurposed from what was once the country estate of a wealthy homeowner to become Georgian Court University as we know it. There's nothing more sustainable than the reuse of a building or a facility."

Georgian Court, which is a member of the Environmental Protection Agency's Green Power Leadership Club, is the first college or university in New Jersey to offset 100 percent of its electricity with renewable energy. According to EPA calculations, GCU's credits this year avoid an estimated 4,069 tons of carbon dioxide emissions. That's like eliminating the pollution from:

About 461,816 gallons of gasoline or 9,462 barrels of oil; or  
The use of 169,525 propane tanks used in backyard barbecues; or  
Burning 21.2 railroad cars filled with coal; or  
A year's worth of electricity for 564 American homes.

The purchase of RECs is only one way Georgian Court works to protect the environment. President Rosemary E. Jeffries, RSM, Ph.D., is a signatory of the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, and is leading GCU's many efforts to become carbon-neutral.

# Events

## *NJHEPS Regional Climate Change Alliance*

September 25th, 2009, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm  
The Trustees Pavilion, Ramapo College of NJ

Has your university signed the Presidents Climate Commitment or designed their own target for Greenhouse Gas reduction? Find out how other institutions are addressing climate change in their university? Meet staff members from other universities and enjoy presentations addressing climate change through: curriculum, design, energy and farm to table.

The workshop will kick off with a Presidents Panel lead by Dr. Peter Mercer, Ramapo College of New Jersey.

Who should attend?  
Sustainability Coordinators  
Steering Committee Members  
Faculty, Administrators, Students, Staff  
Presidents Climate Commitment Signatories

9:00 am to 9:30 am ~ Registration, Networking Breakfast and Welcome from NJHEPS Climate Change Committee and Executive Director

9:30 am to 10:30 am ~ Presidents Panel, Moderated by Dr. Peter Mercer, Ramapo College of New Jersey

10:30 am to 11:00 am ~ The AASHE Stars Program, Meghan Fay, Program Manager of the AASHE Stars Program

11:00 am to 11:15 am ~ Coffee/Tea Break

11:15 am to 12:00 pm ~ New Jerseys First Climate Neutral Campus - Georgian Court University, Andrew Christ, Assistant Vice President for Operations

Why they chose to sign The Commitment, operational challenges, using students to calculate your footprint, lessons learned and how they decided to purchase offsets.

12:00 pm to 1:00 pm ~ Lunch

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm ~ Round Table Thread One  
Curriculum  
Facilities  
Campus Culture

1:45 pm to 2:30 pm ~ Round Table Thread Two  
Curriculum  
Facilities  
Campus Culture

2:30 pm to 3:30 pm ~ Refreshments, Open Networking and Student Organization Fair

3:30 pm to 4:00 pm ~ Closing Remarks from the NJHEPS Climate Change Management Committee and Adjournment

Register now via Acteva: <http://www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?bevoid=185337>

# Happenings

## *The NJ Chapter of the USGBC presents Sixth Annual Golf Outing*

October 1, 2009  
Crystal Springs Golf Course, Hardyston, New Jersey

8:00am - 9:00am Breakfast  
9:00am Double Shotgun Start on Crystal Sprints Golf Course  
2:00pm - 6:00pm Networking Lunch

Join us for our 6th annual golf outing and networking reception at an Audubon certified course. Many sponsorship opportunities available with improved benefits, sign up early to maximize marketing exposure. Ad Journal opportunity new this year. Million\$ Shootout! 2- Hole-In-One car! Silent Auction and more!

For further information please visit: <http://www.usgbcnj.org/page2.php?id=30>

## *Save the Date for Future NJHEPS Events:*

### *Fall Green Design Workshop*

October 30th, 2009, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm  
Ocean County College, Toms River, NJ (tentative)  
Presentations include Ocean County College's newly renovated high performance Arts Building

### *Sustainability in the Curriculum*

November 13th, 2009, 8:30 am – 4:00 pm  
Downs Hall, Kean University  
Union, NJ

8:30am – 8:45am Welcome, Roundtable Activity Descriptions and Suggestions  
John L. Cusack, NJHEPS Executive Director  
Jeffrey H. Toney, Dean, College of Natural, Applied and Health Sciences, Kean University

9:00am – 10:15am	Roundtable discipline-based discussions
10:15am – 10:30am	Break
10:45am – 12:00pm	Roundtable methodology-based discussions
12:15pm – 1:15pm	Lunch & Lunch Speaker
1:30pm – 2:45pm	Roundtable methodology-based discussions
3:00pm – 4:00pm	Aerobic in-vessel food and organics composting demonstration

### *Fall Energy Workshop*

November 20th, 2009, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm  
Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, NJ

Want to share progress towards sustainability on your campus? Please send news items to Terra Meierdierck (terra.meierdierck@gmail.com) for inclusion in our newsletter.

NJHEPS GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT OF:

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