



NJHEPS

August 2007

From the Executive Director:

I hope you are enjoying your summer, and looking forward to an exciting academic year ahead. We have been a bit busier this summer than we had planned at NJHEPS because of all the exciting programs, activities and events we have been involved in or are planning for the coming year.

For example, NJHEPS helped facilitate and plan the “Emerging Leaders, Emerging Solutions: Taking Action on Climate Change and Global Warming” conference sponsored by the Environmental Leadership Program (ELP), a well-known national environmental organization, and hosted by NJIT, on 10-12 July in Newark. Some of the comments from the over 200 attendees included: “A very diverse gathering of people who could provide insights and news on developments of an issue whose time has come,” and “A great conference with super panelists and speakers who really spoke from their hearts, while relying on science- it went beyond to include social justice impacts (of climate change)”. Such remarks remind us that sustainability is not just about science, but about people.

The ELP had chosen NJIT and New Jersey to be the location of this event because of New Jersey’s reputation as a leader in the field of climate change action and solutions, and New Jersey was ably represented by speakers such as Newark Mayor Cory Booker and the President of the NJ Board of Public Utilities, Jeanne Fox. The recent legislative action to pass the NJ Global Warming Response Act (signed into law by the Governor on 6 July), which requires the same amount of major GHG reductions by 2020 and 2050 as Governor Corzine’s earlier Executive Order, also was spoken about extensively at the conference as being the type of action that is needed to be taken by governments, business and society across the country.

Another sign of New Jersey’s continuing leadership on climate action was the NJHEPS-sponsored resolution passed unanimously by the NJ Commission on Higher Education on 22 June in Trenton, that strongly recommends that NJ higher education presidents consider seriously signing the American College & University Presidents Commitment (ACUPCC) to make their campus climate neutral. Many thanks to Dr. Ed Yaw, President of County College of Morris and Chair of the NJ Presidents Council, and Larry Downes, Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education (and chairman and CEO of New Jersey Resources), for making this resolution happen.

We are now up to six New Jersey schools that have signed on to the ACUPCC commitment, and many more are in various stages of approval and discussion. The NJ signatories now include: Rowan, Rider, TCNJ, William Paterson, Richard Stockton and County College of Morris. If you are considering signing and need help, please let me know and NJHEPS will do its best to assist your institution in deciding whether to sign, as over 330 other American college and university presidents have already done. What is fascinating is how many schools have already done their climate neutrality plan, and established goals as to when to become climate neutral. Recently, University of Florida announced that they will be climate neutral by either 2020 (in an aggressive strategy) or 2030 (in a more moderate strategy) both at “no net cost to the university”. NJHEPS will be announcing the next date of the NJHEPS Climate Committee soon, so that we can continue our technical assistance to our member schools on this issue.

We have also been busy representing NJHEPS at other key events, including being a co-presenter of a

presentation on “Practical Considerations in Moving a Campus Toward Climate Neutrality” at the Campus Safety, Health & Environmental Management Association (CSHEMA) national conference in Boston on 25 July, attending the FDU Sustainable Business Incubator meeting on 18 July, and giving a presentation on “Metrics for Measuring Sustainability Performance- Latest Developments in the Financial and Higher Education Sectors” at the Hagan/IBEC/CIBER Summer Symposium on the Environment, International Business and Education Issues, held at Iona College on 21 July. I was surprised at the CSHEMA meeting by how many EH&S people on college campuses across the country were not involved in looking at sustainability & climate change issues, so it seems we have some work to do- make sure you involve your campus EH&S people in your sustainability committees!

Finally, I want to make you aware of some great new reports done by the Union of Concerned Scientists entitled “Confronting Climate Change in the U.S. Northeast: Science, Impacts, and Solutions” and a series of companion documents for each of 10 northeast states, including New Jersey, which were just released in July. These reports were completed as part of the UCS-sponsored Northeast Climate Impact Assessment, in collaboration with a team of noted independent scientific experts. The New Jersey report and the full Northeast States report, are both available in PDF format at www.climatechoices.org. They make interesting, and in some cases, such as the potential impacts on New Jersey’s climate, frightening, beach reading!

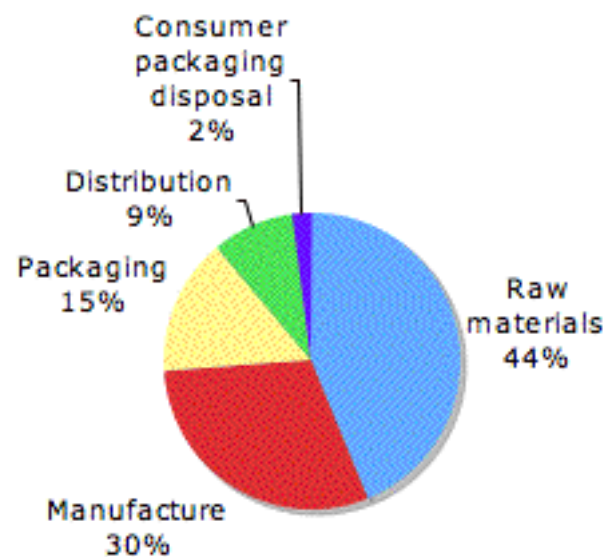
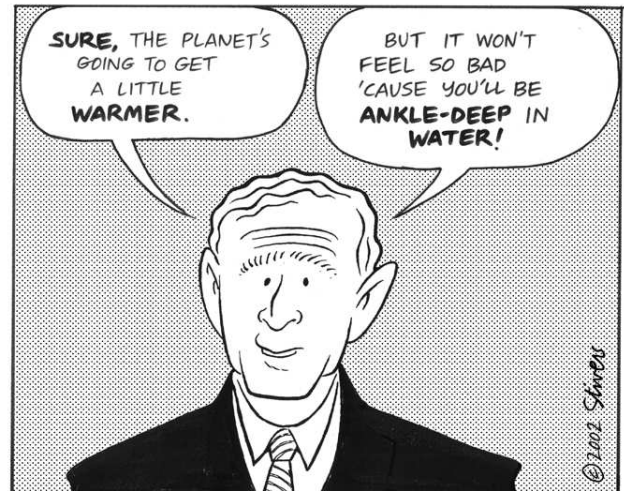
The 11th Hour

Leonardo DiCaprio's *The 11th Hour* is a feature length documentary concerning the environmental crises caused by human actions and their impact on the planet. The film documents the cumulative impact of these actions upon the planet's life systems and calls for restorative action through a reshaping of human activity.

With the help of over fifty of the world's most prominent thinkers and activists, including reformer Mikhail Gorbachev, physicist Stephen Hawking, and Nobel Prize winner Wangari Maathai, the film documents the grave problems facing the planet's life systems. Global warming, deforestation, mass species extinction, and depletion of the oceans' habitats are all addressed, and their causes rooted in human activity. The combination of these crises call into question the very future not of the planet, but of humanity.

However, the most powerful element of *The 11th Hour* is not a portrait of a planet in crisis, but the offering of hope and solutions. Scientists and environmental advocates such as David Orr and Gloria Flora paint a portrait for a radically new and exciting future in which humanity seeks not to dominate the earth's life systems, but to mimic them and co-exist. *The 11th Hour* calls for a future now within our grasp that is both sustainable and healthier.

The 11th Hour is in theaters August 17th:
www.11thhouraction.com/



Carbon Labeling Hits the Shelves in the UK

Walkers, UK's Frito brand, has been working with a government-funded organization called The Carbon Trust to calculate the carbon emissions caused by one bag of chips. It is the first company to begin carbon-labeling as part of a pilot scheme to label products with their environmental impact. It isn't clear just how long or costly this process has been, but Walkers (and its parent company PepsiCo) must have learned some interesting things along the way. When the company announced the new label earlier this month, it announced at the same time that it would now be sourcing all of its potatoes from the UK in the hope of reducing these emissions.

In the UK the standard size for a bag of chips is 34.5 grams (1.2 oz). Amazingly, the calculations made by The Carbon Trust suggest that this one bag of chips is responsible for over twice its weight in emissions — 75 grams per bag. www.walkerscarbonfootprint.co.uk/

Events

NJ Clean Energy Conference & Leadership Awards

September 27th & 28th, Hyatt Regency, New Brunswick, NJ



This conference provides an excellent forum for state business leaders to learn more about the economics of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies and how to hedge against rising energy costs, to leverage the financial and environmental benefits of clean energy.

With the continued growth of Clean Energy markets in New Jersey, and the increased focus on climate change, the 2007 New Jersey Clean Energy Conference and Leadership Awards has been expanded to 2 days. New workshops and programs are being added to further engage attendees, exhibitors, and sponsors and build awareness of the business opportunities inherent in Clean Energy. A special Municipal track and evening networking session will be the focus of day 1. Day 2 will have new workshops and sessions and the luncheon presentation of the Clean Energy Leadership Awards. The 2007 Clean Energy Conference promises to be more inspiring for sponsors and attendees.

The conference focuses on timely issues that affect not only your business but our future as well. Special workshops include...

- New Jersey's Energy Master Plan
- Energy Project Financing
- Combined Heat and Power
- Renewable Energy Certificate Markets
- Green Building Design
- Clean Energy Strategies to Reduce your Carbon Footprint
- Energy Programs for Municipalities

For more information and to register please visit: www.njcleanenergy.com/conference/

World Energy Engineering Congress 2007

August 15-17, Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, GA

The WEEC is very pleased to celebrate its 30th year as the most important energy event of national scope for end users and energy professional in all areas of the energy field. It is the one truly comprehensive forum where you can fully assess the "big picture" — and see exactly how the economic and market forces, new technologies, regulatory developments and industry trends all merge to shape your critical decisions on your organization's energy and economic future.

The WEEC features a large, multi-track conference agenda, a full line-up of seminars on a variety of current topics and a comprehensive exposition of the market's most promising new technologies. Please Visit: www.aeecenter.org/weec



Happenings

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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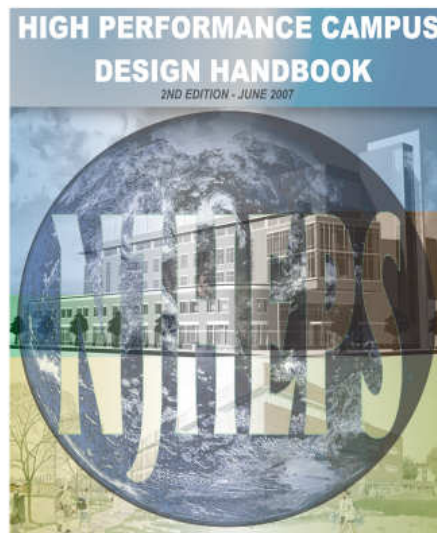
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Green Design Guidelines Now Available!

NJHEPS newly renewed Green Design Guidelines are now available to order. To receive your copy please send a \$30.00 check to the address below, along with your business card and we will send you a copy right away. The new format is electronic, in an easily searchable PDF.

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Copies are complementary for NJHEPS member institutions and corporate sponsors. Please just send an email and we will respond with your copy: tmeierdierck@njheps.org



Volume II: Sustainable Design Guidelines

Prepared for:
New Jersey Higher Education Partnership for Sustainability

Prepared by:
Sustainable Design Collaborative LLC



Save the Date:

The Fall NJHEPS Steering Committee meeting, "Sustainable Solutions for New Jersey and Beyond", and the next meeting of the NJHEPS Sustainable Education Workshop will be held at Frist Hall at Princeton on 2 November.

Please save this date in your calendars!