



# NJHEPS

# December 2007

*From the Executive Director:*

As 2007 comes to a close, we can safely say that much progress in higher education has been made on sustainability issues in the last year, both nationally and in New Jersey. Nationally, the just two-year-old Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) has now signed up over 500 members and supporters, including over 325 four-year colleges and universities, and over 100 community colleges (and NJHEPS is a member). AASHE has starting planning for their next national "AASHE 2008" conference, to be held for an expected 1,200+ attendees in the new LEED-certified Convention Center in Raleigh North Carolina, on 9-11 November 2008. NJHEPS' Executive Director is on the AASHE 2008 planning committee and is also on AASHE's advisory board.

In New Jersey, significant progress on addressing the most significant sustainability issue, climate change, has been made, including a Governor's Executive Order, the passage of, and signing into law of, the NJ Global Warming Response Act, and the preparation of new State energy and GHG reduction plans. NJHEPS has been busy as well, with our following up on our winning successful unanimous votes last June from both the NJ Presidents Council and the NJ Commission on Higher Education in support of New Jersey higher education presidents signing the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC). We have been actively helping New Jersey colleges and universities understand the Presidents Climate Commitment, and providing information and support through our NJHEPS seminars, workshops, emails and personal meetings and communications, as they proceed through their internal approval channels for signing on to the ACUPCC.

As a result, this past Monday, Dr. Jon Larson of Ocean County College became the 10th New Jersey president (and apparently the 450th president nationally) to sign on to the ACUPCC at an Ocean County Board of Trustees meeting, and he generously invited me to attend the signing ceremony and say a few words. Two weeks ago, I was also in attendance when President Peter

Mercer of Ramapo College signed the ACUPCC at the start of the "Green Meets Green" Conference held on Ramapo's campus, and President Mercer pledged in his blog last week that, with the groundbreaking of Ramapo's new Sustainability Education Center, the pending approval of Ramapo's Strategic Plan embodying sustainability as a fundamental principle, and the signing of the ACUPCC commitment, "...Ramapo continues to dedicate itself to teaching and research on the environment and to promoting a more sustainable campus". Now over 17% of all New Jersey higher education institutions have signed on to the ACUPCC, a high percentage than most states, and at least 10-15 more NJ presidents are seriously considering signing the ACUPCC in the next few months. This is another indicator of New Jersey's continued leadership in sustainability issues in higher education.

Another interesting recent sustainability advance in New Jersey was the announcement on 28 November by NJIT's Provost, Dr. Priscilla Nelson, of the formation of an NJIT planning team of faculty, administrators and students to implement a "Greening the Curriculum" program at NJIT, which aims to inventory all green courses and green content in the curricula at NJIT, and develop a recognition system so students can graduate with a "green" label on their diploma. This will give additional emphasis to the need for NJIT to prepare its diverse students for a rapidly-changing business world where sustainability issues (like climate change, water, green design, etc.) are increasingly growing in importance and seen as helping create shareholder value when managed well. Once the curriculum has been addressed, Provost Nelson wants to look at the ACUPCC, and how to combine NJIT's curricula, research and campus operations in focusing on addressing climate change and other sustainability issues. NJHEPS has promised to support Provost Nelson in her sustainability leadership efforts. Many other NJ schools are incorporating sustainability into their campus plans, curricula and operations as well, and only lack of space prevent me from mentioning them all- congratulations, and keep up the good work!

I also had the opportunity recently to present to a Community College Trustees & Presidents meeting, sponsored by the NJ Council of Community Colleges, on climate change and building construction/management issues for NJ community colleges, with a lot of positive interest and feedback from the community college executives and trustees in the audience.

Finally, we continue to add new NJHEPS corporate sponsors such as Con Ed Solutions, Rentacrate and other companies that believe in the NJHEPS mission, and to get renewals from New Jersey firms like the natural gas utility company New Jersey Resources, whose Chairman/CEO Larry Downes (also chair of the NJ Commission on Higher Education) commented in his renewal email that the people at NJ Resources "... fully support the activities of NJHEPS".

We will make it NJHEPS' New Years Resolution to build on this wide base of government, business and higher education support to continue our ambitious sustainability agenda for the higher education sector in New Jersey. To continue the momentum of all this great progress going on in NJ, we do have a lot of work to do in 2008. For example, Terra Meierdierck and I are looking forward to working with Dr. Shana Weber and the sustainability team at Princeton in having New Jersey host, at Princeton, the Northeast Campus Sustainability Consortium (NECSC) annual meeting in October 2008, and we are also working with a number of NJHEPS member institutions to have a higher education track at the Association of New Jersey Environmental Educators (ANJEE) annual meeting on 1 February 2008.

So as the year 2007 draws to a close, we thank you for your fantastic support of time, attention and finances for NJHEPS during 2007, hope you will continue that support in 2008, and wish you all a great holiday season and a happy new year!

## *New Jersey SWEP Scholarship Program*

The New Jersey Chapter of SWEP is planning to continue the scholarship program this year. The purpose of the scholarship program is to encourage women to pursue careers in the environmental industry; to mentor students with environmentally related majors; and provide students connections to SWEP's membership for future internships/careers in the environmental industry.

Both applicants must be female; a United States citizen or hold permanent resident status. The undergraduate student must be entering her junior year in the Fall of 2008 or have completed 60 credit hours as of August 2008. The graduate student must either start or continue graduate or law study in the Fall of 2008. A minimum GPA of 3.3 (scale of 4.0) or its equivalent and a declared major in a field related to the environment are also required. Applications must be received by May 16, 2008. The NJ SWEP Scholarship Committee plans to award the scholarships by June 30, 2008. Applications are available at [www.swep.com](http://www.swep.com). For questions or additional information contact Elizabeth Conroy at [Econroy@NJSDA.gov](mailto:Econroy@NJSDA.gov) or 609-777-1854 (please include "NJSWEP Scholarship" in the subject line of email to receive a reply).

## *Recyclemania: 2008 Registration Now Open!*

We've revamped the registration process making it more user friendly. Schools can start the registration process and return to finish it later. Visit the registration page: [recyclemaniacs.org/register08.asp](http://recyclemaniacs.org/register08.asp)

This year's competition will run ten weeks from January 27th through April 5th.

We've made a number of updates for RecycleMania 2008. We've revised some of the rules and reporting standards to reflect feedback from the 2007 competition. To see a list of all the changes visit the Rules section of the page. We've also made updates to this year's Registration form to make it more user-friendly.

We'll have exciting changes and updates to announce about promotional materials over the coming weeks, so be sure to check in with the website periodically. [recyclemaniacs.org/overview.htm](http://recyclemaniacs.org/overview.htm)

## *NOFA - NJ: 18th Annual Winter Conference*

Greener Fields, Greener Pastures: Growing for Good Health

January 26, 2008, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm: Hickman Hall, Rutgers University, New Brunswick

With support from: Rutgers Cooperative Research & Extension & Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation

This is it! New Jersey's premier gathering for the organic and sustainable food, farming, and gardening community. With an impressive mix of presentations, this conference is designed for all levels of expertise and covers a wide range of topics. Whether you are a new or experienced farmer/gardener, land conservationist, food lover, market manager, chef, educator, or interested consumer, there is certain to be something for you. If the health of New Jersey's landscape, food supply, and farm viability are important to you, do not miss this conference!

For the full conference program, visit [www.nofanj.org](http://www.nofanj.org)

## Events

### *North Jersey Greendrinks*

Thursday, December 27th: 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.  
South Park Bar & Grill, 30 South Park Street, Montclair



[www.northjerseygreendrinks.com](http://www.northjerseygreendrinks.com)

Every month, environmentally conscious people, from a variety of different backgrounds, meet up for a drink and to network with other like-minded people in a casual and informal setting. It's a great chance to relax, meet new people, develop new ideas, find employment, make friends, catch up with old business contacts, develop new business contacts, and talk about environmental issues.

Cost: Free !!!

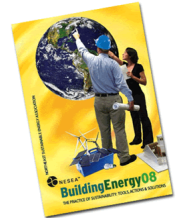
To get onto the email circulation list or for more info. email Jim at: [green@northjerseygreendrinks.com](mailto:green@northjerseygreendrinks.com).

### *BuildingEnergy08*

March 11 - 13, 2008

Seaport Trade Center, Boston, MA

The Practice of Sustainability: Tools, Actions & Solutions. BuildingEnergy08 is where you belong!



We want you to discover why BuildingEnergy08 promises to be your best opportunity to gather and share ideas with the renewable energy and green building professionals who are shaping the Practice of Sustainability. We believe that your practice is part of that picture. We've invited thought and practice leaders to inspire, challenge, enlighten, and inform you. We expect you to engage them, and each other, in our common pursuit of sustainability's best practices.

For more information please visit the NESEA web site: [www.buildingenergy.nesea.org/](http://www.buildingenergy.nesea.org/)

### *NECSC 08 Conference*

October 27 - 28, 2008

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ

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.

The 2008 NECSC Conference will be held at NJ's Princeton University. Please hold the date for this special event. <http://www.yale.edu/sustainability/necsc.htm>

# 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.

NJHEPS GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT OF:

NJHEPS Corporate Sponsors; Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation; New Jersey Board of Public Utilities; New Jersey Clean Energy Program; ATT Foundation; and NJHEPS 40+ Member Institutions

#### NJHEPS STAFF

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#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Daniel Watts, Immediate Past President  
Clint Andrews, Vice-President and Treasurer  
Peter Jansson, Vice-President  
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## *NJHEPS Fall Energy Workshop*

Save the Date: NJHEPS Spring Energy Workshop

Wednesday, April 9th, 2008: 9 am - 2pm  
Richard Stockton College of New Jersey

Please hold the date for NJHEPS Spring Energy Workshop, to be held on April 9th, 2008. This energy workshop will focus on the advanced energy technologies implemented at Richard Stockton College of New Jersey. In addition we will also visit their LEED addition to their Science Building.

You may register now at the following link:  
[www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?bevaID=148583](http://www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?bevaID=148583)

## *Go Green @ GCC*

Gloucester County College is having an event "Go Green @GCC" on January 31st as part of the "Focus the Nation" event.. They would like to welcome businesses, or NGO's to set up a table displaying what they are doing to help us become for environmentally sustainable.

Susan Glenn, Ph.D.: Science Coordinator, Gloucester County College  
1400 Tanyard Rd., Sewell NJ 08080, (856)415-2164, [sglenn@gccnj.edu](mailto:sglenn@gccnj.edu)

## *5th Annual P3 Awards: A National Student Design Competition for Sustainability*

Deadline: December 20, 2007

Focusing on People, Prosperity and The Planet

The 2007-2008 P3 grants are being awarded incrementally - 36 of 58 phase 1 awards, and 4 of 6 Phase II awards have been made. View information about the awarded projects and the research teams. A combined total of \$1,080,000 will be awarded to both Phase I and Phase II recipients. Check the EPA P3 site for weekly updates for these awards.

<http://es.epa.gov/ncer/p3/>

