



NJHEPS

December 2009

From the Executive Director:

It is hard to believe that Thanksgiving has passed, our holidays are already here, and soon 2009 will pass into history. It has been an up and down year for sustainability in higher education, with some colleges and universities cutting back on sustainability-related spending due to the uncertainty over student enrollment, reduced funding of education from government sources, and the dismal performance of many school's endowments. Other schools, especially the community colleges, have had the opposite problem, wondering where they were going to put all the students that had registered and find professors to teach the courses.

On the other hand, we have had many schools continuing to move forward on implementing sustainability, with climate action plans being prepared, green buildings being built, a record-breaking large solar PV array being successfully installed and running well at Rutgers, new campus sustainability committees being launched, and sustainability issues starting to be integrated into curriculum at colleges and universities. New Jersey is now at 17 signatories of the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC), and other NJ schools such as Princeton and Rutgers have made significant GHG emission reduction commitments.

The ACUPCC signatories in New Jersey represent over 35% of the higher education institutions and 38% of the higher education students in the state, and nationally, the 660+ president signatories' institutions represent about 5.5m students, or about 35% of all college & university students in the country, and almost 20% of all higher education institutions. In New Jersey, 49% of state university & college students, 27% of community college students and 24% of private/propri-

etary school students attend colleges or universities that have signed onto the ACUPCC.

Other significant accomplishments in 2009 have included the move of NJHEPS to a new host campus, Ramapo College (we thank President Peter Mercer and his team for welcoming us so warmly to his campus!), and the selection by EPA of a team led by Kean University and NJHEPS to implement a GHG emissions and energy use reduction training program for all 400+ colleges and universities within EPA Region 2 over the next three years. This contract was based on the success of NJHEPS climate change management, clean energy and green design workshops held over the past few years, as recognized previously by EPA Region 2 when they awarded NJHEPS their "Environmental Quality" Award. None of our accomplishments could have been achieved of course without the dedicated teams of volunteers from colleges, universities, government agencies and industry that participate in our NJHEPS working groups in our key sustainability subject areas - Thanks again for all the time and effort donated by many people around the state that have made NJHEPS a success!

We also have kept up a busy schedule since our last newsletter, with a great NJHEPS Clean Energy Workshop held at Stevens Institute on 20 November, with attendees from many area colleges and universities, and even an attendee from the University of Pavia in Italy who gave us a short perspective on EU renewable energy and energy efficiency trends and priorities. We thank Norm Forester and Mark Byrd of Stevens Institute for doing a great job of hosting this event in their great Babbio Center building overlooking the Hudson River and New York Skyline, and giving tours of their new dispersed solar PV system

and other campus clean energy projects. We also held an equally informative Green Design Workshop at Ocean County College on 4 December, again with great support from our hosts Ken Olsen and OCC President Jon Larson, who gave a stirring welcome to the Workshop. We also appreciate the time of the Clean Energy and Green Design Working Groups in helping NJHEPS put these workshops together, and of course the many workshop speakers who gave of their time to prepare and make presentations. As usual, all presentations will be posted on our NJHEPS website so those unable to attend can get a flavor for the depth & breath of the information presented.

Dr. Jeff Toney, Dean of Natural, Applied and Health Sciences at Kean University, asked me to participate in a related panel on "Sustainability in Higher Education" at the Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences Annual Conference in Baltimore in late November. Other panelists included Dr. Mike Weinstein, Director of the new Sustainability Institute at Montclair State and Dr. Daniela Shebitz, Professor at Kean and the founder of Kean's new Sustainability Sciences major. We had over 80 people attend the panel session (mostly deans and provosts), and many of them asked questions about how they also could integrate sustainability into their college's curricula the way we are starting to do it in New Jersey. It is always nice to have New Jersey be recognized as a national leader, so please keep up the great work!

So have a great holiday season, and we look forward to continuing to work with all our friends and associates in New Jersey and beyond on sustainability in 2010.

Your Feedback on NJHEPS Needed

Folks, our NJHEPS 2010 Resolution is to better serve you! Please take some time to complete this valuable two part survey. Your responses will help shape our direction in this coming year.

We hope you choose to participate at the following link:
http://ramapo.qualtrics.com//SE?SID=SV_cv7AtQMHqwrCLTC&SVID=Prod

We appreciate your support and wish you a safe and happy holiday season and new year!

Ramapo College of New Jersey Joins AASHE Stars Program

Ramapo College of New Jersey has registered to participate in the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS). This makes them the first institution in New Jersey to join the program and a charter participant.

Supported by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), STARS is a tool to help guide colleges and universities toward sustainability. The program provides a voluntary, self-reporting framework for gauging relative progress toward more environmentally-friendly policies.

In September AASHE rolled out their early release of the STARS Program. Program Manager, Meghan Fay, came to visit Ramapo College and other New Jersey Signatories on September 25th at the NJHEPS Regional Climate Alliance.

AASHE designed the STARS to:

1. Provide a guide for advancing sustainability in all sectors of higher education.
2. Enable meaningful comparisons over time and across institutions by establishing a common standard of measurement for sustainability in higher education.
3. Create incentives for continual improvement toward sustainability.
4. Facilitate information sharing about higher education sustainability practices and performance.
5. Build a stronger, more diverse campus sustainability community.” (AASHE, 2009)

For more information about the STARS program, or to join, please visit: <http://www.aashe.org/stars/index.php>

Mahwah to Seek “Sustainable New Jersey” Certification

Recently Mahwah Township signed on to the Sustainable New Jersey program. During the Fall of 2009, the township completed their initial registration for the program. Sustainable New Jersey is a program in which municipalities within the state can choose to participate in. The program provides incentives and tools for going green. After a municipality signs on, they must complete a list of action items to receive certification. “The actions address issues such as global warming, pollution, biodiversity, buying locally, community outreach, green building, and sustainable agriculture.

Achieving the certification does not mean a municipality is “sustainable”. Rather, it connotes that the municipality has taken the first significant step on a long journey towards sustainability” (Sustainable New Jersey, 2009).

Last month at the League of Municipalities Conference in Atlantic City the first 34 municipalities to complete the process were awarded certification status.

“Mahwah will be looking to submit for certification in fall of 2010,” stated Chance Parker, primary contact for Sustainable Mahwah. Chance is working to grant Mahwah certification status. “What we need right now is help and support for us to establish the program so that we can move forward”, Chance added.

Sustainable Mahwah is looking for support and knowledge right now from within the higher education community and the community at large. Anyone who has experience in the are of sustainability or the environment, whom is interested in engaging within this program, please reach out to Chance Parker: chancep@greeneconomics.com .

Events

Spring Clean Energy Workshop

March 31st, 2010 ~ 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
Raritan Valley Community College Conference Center
118 Lamington Road, Branchburg, NJ 08876

Presentations include:

Green Roof Design,

Michael Medea, Garden Associates

UMDNJ's New Energy Master Plan,

Paul Meierdierck, UMDNJ

The Raritan Valley Community Cogen Plant, Campus Sustainability Initiative,
and Plant tour from Brian O'Rourke, Executive Director of Facilities

Plus more to come!!!

<http://www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?binid=1&bevaID=195171>

Spring Curriculum Summit

April 9th, 2010 ~ 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
Kean University
1000 Morris Avenue, Union, NJ 07083

Summit Vision:

Engage University, College, Higher Education educators who are passionate about sustainability, in areas of expertise and cross-disciplines, via social concern areas.

Summit Objectives:

- * Re-engage faculty to be collaborative, in a cross-institutional and cross-disciplinary effort, using Communities of Practice (CoP) to exemplify sustainability in their curriculum and policies – “walk the talk”.
- * Serve our future generation's ability to contribute to furthering sustainable development by creating a sense of:
 - o connectedness between school faculty to share ideas,
 - o integration of disciplines using systems-thinking and
 - o innovation to build sustainability curricula.

<http://www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?binid=1&bevaID=195179>

USGBC-NJ Presents Green Building Basics & Exam Prep: Jan 19th

Part 1: Green Building Basics & LEED® Workshop (prerequisite for LEED Green Associate Credential)
Thinking of becoming a LEED Green Associate? For those new to green building, this workshop offers an introduction to USGBC, green building principles and the fundamentals of the LEED Rating System. This is the first step in building your knowledge of USGBC, LEED and green building best practices and is a recommended prerequisite for any 200- or 300-level LEED education program and LEED Green Associate Exam. For details and registration process visit the following link:

http://images.magnetmail.net/images/clients/USGreenBlg/attach/01_19_10EdisonNJBasicsWorkshopFlyer.pdf

Happenings

Understanding Sustainability Course

Ramapo College of New Jersey repeats UNDERSTANDING SUSTAINABILITY

Post Graduate four (4) credit hours; Course Number EDTC 651-99

At the Meadowlands Environment Center, William D McDowell Observatory,

LEED Platinum Classroom Build

Two DeKorte Park Plaza, Lyndhurst NJ 07071

Wednesday evening sessions, 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Instructor - Joseph Porrovecchio, LEED ® AP, CRM

Contact Joyce Wilson (201) 684 7721 for information,

NOTICE: Registration Closes January 22, 2010

UNDERSTANDING SUSTAINABILITY is a course of study that connects past and present civilizations with 'the way we make and use things' today. Awareness of each individual's impact on the environment and the planet and; skills to communicate principles of sustainability are enabled. An objective for educators is the incorporation of these principles into curricula with practical courseware and delivery modules that can be pilot tested and replicated. Non-educational Professionals will prepare best management practices presentation materials that can be used to inform and educate peers.

Also learn about NJ Economic Stimulus, ESCO and Pay 4 Performance energy efficiency incentives.

Globalcon 2009

March 24-25, 2010, Pennsylvania Convention Center

Decision makers from business, industry and government must now seek integrated energy solutions — solutions which assure both a secure and affordable power supply, and effective management of both energy and overall operational costs. Globalcon 2010, presented by the Association of Energy Engineers, is designed specifically to facilitate those who need to get up to speed on the latest developments in the energy field, explore promising new technologies, compare energy supply options, and learn about innovative and cost-conscious project implementation strategies.

The conference covers a variety of topics, and gives you the opportunity to hear first-hand from some of the major players in the energy field. The Globalcon Expo will emphasize four critical areas of leading edge technology and related services:

- * HVAC and Smart Building Systems
- * Renewable & Alternative Energy / Onsite Generation
- * Lighting Efficiency
- * Plant and Facilities Management

Contact NJHEPS for your complementary Exhibit Ticket

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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