



NJHEPS

December 2008

From the Executive Director:

As the holiday season approaches rapidly (and the snow accumulates equally rapidly outside my window), I am reminded that one of the basic premises of sustainability is that we have a sustainability responsibility of not just protecting our planet, but protecting our fellow humans on this planet. As educators, I believe this is a key part of our mission in higher education and at NJHEPS, but it is also a mission that extends beyond higher education to our families, our businesses, our governments and our society. NJHEPS and other people who work on sustainability issues usually understand that not everyone always agrees with us, but it is critical that we work even harder in 2009 to bring more people to a clearer understanding of sustainability and society.

Part of that effort is for each of us to understand ourselves the full wide range of what sustainability encompasses, and the complexity of our goal of making society more sustainable. Many of us come from a technical background, and believe if we just give people more facts, they will understand. But sometimes we all suffer from ‘information overload’, and the new information that arises every day on issues like global warming, energy, environmental justice, etc. just washes over us like a winter snow squall, but doesn’t affect us. Sustainability needs to be, and is, emotional, social and economic as well as environmental.

Solutions to sustainability problems are not always neat and clean, and some people may be economically, socially or emotionally hurt in the short-term. We must learn to look at

the human side and be able to mitigate these collateral impacts by helping the people left behind as society in general moves forward. Just the inter-relationships between the current financial crisis, the US automotive industry, volatile energy prices, and the ability to finance alternative energy projects are examples of this complex phenomena we call sustainability. Similarly, we may not be able to cut greenhouse gas emissions fast enough to prevent significantly climate change from occurring, so we must be ready to mitigate these impacts, whether they affect people in Alaska, Bangladesh, Nebraska or Newark, while we reduce GHG emissions as fast as possible.

One of the solutions for dealing with the complexities of sustainability is to not try to do it all alone, but to act in partnership with other diverse groups and organizations. A good example are the many public-private partnerships arising in New Jersey and elsewhere around the country and world. For example, the NJ utility PSE&G is partnering with the NJ Bureau of Public Utilities to extend incentives for energy efficiency to key parts of the New Jersey economy. This partnership helps people economically by reducing their future energy costs, while not increasing their taxes and also reducing their GHG emissions. More information about this program is described elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Another example is that NJHEPS (itself a partnership between public and private schools and industry) has been working for several years with the New Jersey Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council (US-

GBC-NJ). We co-sponsor each other’s events and workshops, share our email lists and newsletters to publicize our events, and provide speakers about green building and sustainability for our respective audiences. NJHEPS’ welcomes the new Executive Director of the USGBC-NJ, Ms. Florence Block, and look forward to working with her and USGBC-NJ in promoting sustainability and green building practices and policies in New Jersey and beyond, and especially in the higher education design and construction world.

To end the year on a good note, I would like to point out an important news item that sticks out in my mind as a highlight of 2008. The Princeton Review did a survey of over 10,500 prospective students and their parents, and 24% of the students, and 18% of the students said that a school’s environmental reputation ‘strongly’, or ‘very much’, impacted their higher education application choices. Therefore, we are starting to see prospective students, and parents, interested in what progress we have made towards sustainability, even before they come to our schools. Now our goal at NJHEPS and our member schools for 2009 is to make sure that 100% of our graduating students strongly believe that sustainability is going to be a major factor in where they want to work and live, and for sustainability to be a key part of their lives.

Happy New year and enjoy the holidays!

Environmental Studies Professor Receives Fulbright Award

Robert W. Taylor, professor of Earth and Environmental Studies has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to work at the De La Salle University in Manila, Philippines from January to July, 2009. He will research the topic "Sustainability, Urban Redevelopment and Environment: The City of Manila, Philippines."

"I will be interviewing various stakeholder groups to assess their current sustainability practices," explains Taylor. "The research will generate a report to the Mayor's Office of the city of Manila, and the information gathered from the project will constitute the grist for a number of articles and international presentations. I hope to show from the research how sustainability constitutes both good business practices and good civic policy, and leads to healthy communities."

In addition to conducting research, Taylor will team-teach a graduate course at De La Salle entitled "Applied Research in Environmental Science: Urban Sustainability Metrics." He will be working with faculty and students from the University's College of Science, with whom he had previously formed a relationship while teaching a graduate course there as part of the College's environmental science Masters Degree Program. He will also be leading sustainability workshops and exploring the viability of different models for injecting sustainability practices into public and private decision-making.

Taylor is one of approximately 1,100 U.S. faculty and professionals who will travel abroad through the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program during the 2008-2009 academic year. This is his second Fulbright Award having previously researched urban design and urban planning projects in Nigeria in 1982. As a result of his work there, he edited and contributed articles to the book, *Urban Development in Nigeria*, published by Avebury.

A long-time member of the faculty at Montclair State, Taylor is an advisor to doctoral students in environmental management, and is the director of the Center for Environmental Management and Analysis (CEMA). He is a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri (BA), Saint Louis University (PhD), and has done post-doctoral work at Columbia University.

PSE&G to Implement Energy Efficiency Programs to Help Customers

BPU approves \$46 million initiative that supports Governor Corzine's Energy Master Plan and economic recovery goals
Carbon abatement program is first authorized under New Jersey's new RGGI legislation

An innovative program developed by Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSE&G) to help its customers curb energy consumption and reduce carbon dioxide emissions was approved by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU). The action paves the way for PSE&G to begin offering energy saving measures directly to families, businesses and hospitals in the state.

The \$46 million project will help address climate change and assist New Jersey in achieving its aggressive carbon reduction goals. The program specifically targets residential and small commercial customers in underserved urban markets, hospitals, and large commercial warehouses in port areas with high energy demand growth.

"Saving energy is by far the cheapest and quickest way to reduce emissions that cause climate change," said Ralph LaRossa, president and COO of PSE&G. "This program is a great first step in what we hope will be plans to offer relief to hard-pressed customers and, at the same time, create jobs in New Jersey during these hard times. We look forward to participating in larger efficiency projects such as the Governor's Economic Stimulus initiative that calls for a statewide utility investment of \$500 million to leverage energy efficiency to generate jobs within the state."

The board's decision will allow recovery of investment through an energy-based charge. The average residential electric customer will pay about 16 cents per year and the average residential heating customer will pay 47 cents per year in the first year of the program.

Overall, the program approved by the BPU will serve 29,000 residential and 700 business customers over a four-year program beginning in 2009 and will save over 700,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide, and 900 metric tons of nitrous oxide. Over the lifetime of the energy savings measures, the program saves 458 gigawatthours of electricity and 7.6 million dekatherms of natural gas. This is approximately the equivalent of removing 180,000 passenger vehicles from the road for a year or providing electricity to 130,000 homes.

Please the following link for the full story: www.pseg.com/media_center/pressreleases/articles/2008/2008-11-21.jsp

Events

North Jersey Green Drinks

Tuesday, December 30th: 7 to 10pm

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. It's an International Concept - Check out www.greendrings.org

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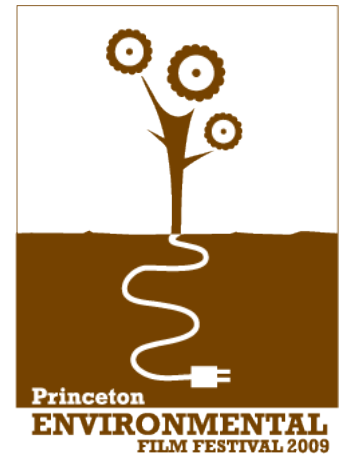
Princeton Environmental Film Festival 2009

Saturday, January 2 - 11, 2009, 11am
 Princeton Public Library, 65 Witherspoon Street, Princeton, NJ
 1st Floor Community Room of the library

The festival goal is to use film as a medium to encourage discussion about the environment, raise awareness about environmental issues and concerns, and stimulate community action to develop more environmentally sustainable choices and create more livable communities.

The Princeton Environmental Film Festival, now in its third year, is sponsored by the Princeton Public Library. It runs from January 2-11, 2009. It is held at the Princeton Public Library, 65 Witherspoon Street, and admission is free.

For more information about the festival and the complete schedule go to: www.princetonlibrary.org/peff/



Getting Out and Going Green - Why It Matters, What It Mean

You are invited to be a part of the Alliance for New Jersey Environmental Education's 24th Annual Environmental Education Conference on Thursday, January 29, through Saturday, January 31, 2009. The conference title and theme is "Getting Out and Going Green - Why It Matters, What It Means" to be held at Princeton University in partnership with the Princeton Environmental Institute.

With increasing national and statewide attention being given by education and environmental experts to the benefits of passive play outdoors in nature and the merits of green school practices and instruction, it was only "natural" for ANJEE to assemble expertise, demonstrations, instruction and resources that focus on these valuable topics. We are delighted to offer a wide variety of workshops and sessions and thank our fine speakers and presenters for dedicating their time and expertise to this statewide celebration and exploration of environmental education.

The conference is an invaluable professional development opportunity for classroom teachers, interpreters, education administrators, non-profit staff, pre-service teachers, and other people interested in environmental education. This year, we are also offering a unique opportunity for families to participate in a program designed especially for them! Friday and Saturday workshop sessions will feature tracks focusing on elementary and secondary education content and instructional resources, green school practices and models, natural history content and instruction, community-based projects, higher education and adult learning initiatives, and more. Friday evening will feature ANJEE's annual environmental education awards program and banquet, as well as showcasing a wonderful program designed to inspire and enlighten us all.

Register at: www.anjee.net

Happenings

NJHEPS Winter Energy and Design Workshop

Please Save the Date Now

Where: New Jersey Institute of Technology
Campus Center, Ballroom B

When: January 30th, 2009

Time: 8:30 am to 2:30 pm

Who should attend: Facilities Directors, Architects, Engineers,
Students and Faculty Members interested in Sustainability!

Speakers Include:

Bill Bobenhausen - Sustainable Design Collaborative
Ellen Quinn - UTC

Mike Fischette - Concord Engineering Group

Mike Kornitas - Rutgers University
The New Jersey Chapter of the USGBC
The New Jersey Clean Energy Program

Pepco
PSE@G

Please Register Now:

<http://www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?bevaaid=171814>

NJHEPS FY09 Mini Grants

The New Jersey Higher Education Partnership for Sustainability (NJHEPS) has received funding from the NJ BPU Clean Energy Program to fund a number of clean energy-related mini-grants in the range of \$2,000 to \$5,000 to support New Jersey higher education campus and multi-campus clean energy projects. This critical strategy provides small grants of seed money to help initiate and implement innovative energy projects that provide real cuts in greenhouse gas emissions and/or result in the implementation of renewable energy projects on New Jersey campuses. The actual number of grants and the amount given will differ depending on NJHEPS staff decisions on each proposal. The kinds of proposals sought could range from performing building energy audits, to organizing bio-diesel trials, to setting up a contest between campus dorms to see who can be the most energy efficient and reduce GHG emissions. We welcome creative approaches, and teaming partnerships between campuses and institutions. Do to the small nature of these grants, we also expect that proposals will itemize matching and/or follow up funding (or other allocation of resources) from the submitting institutions to ensure that projects are fully implemented, and do not become another "report stuck on a shelf". The ability to calculate energy saved and/or greenhouse gas emissions reduced will be a key metric in the mini-grant selection process.

Please send all submissions by January 15th, 2009 addressed to: John L. Cusack Executive Director NJHEPS c/o NJIT—YCEES 138 Warren Street, Newark NJ 07102 Please submit the proposal in electronic form (Word or PDF documents please) to the following address: jcusack@njheps.org With a copy to: TMeierdierck@njheps.org If you have any questions, please free to contact John Cusack or Terra Meierdierck. Good Luck!

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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