



NJHEPS

February 2009

From the Executive Director:

On the 30th of January at NJIT's Student Center in Newark, NJHEPS ran its Winter Green Energy & Design Workshop, which was attended by nearly 100 people. The presentations were great, the food and company fantastic, and the presenters stayed on time and did a great job of educating us on a wide variety of topics ranging from energy efficiency incentives in New Jersey, to solar energy utilities, to what is new with LEED Standards, to how to do performance contracting. If you missed it, you can view the Powerpoint presentations on the NJHEPS website, buy the food at Woodrow's Deli in Newark (but you have to pay for it yourself, although the Kohler company sponsored our breakfast at NJIT), and meet a lot of the same great people at our next NJHEPS workshop, as we got many enthusiastic reviews.

As a result of the attendance of several of their key staff at that NJHEPS workshop, we received our first commitment from a non-New Jersey higher education institution to join NJHEPS, Wagner College of Staten Island, and we might have a few more higher education institutions, both within and outside, the state signing up soon. Welcome to Wagner College, and the great people there who are interested in sustainability!

One common topic these days is how young people, and especially our students in our member schools, are becoming more and more interested in sustainability issues. You might have seen the recent article in the Chronicle of Higher Education about student activists who graduate and get hired to work as sustainability coordinators on their campuses. As more and more schools are setting up sustainability programs and committees, I think you will

see more and more of that phenomena, as a critical factor in the success of a campus sustainability program is understanding a school's culture, and who better to know that than a recent graduate. More schools are greening their curriculums, creating new major or degrees in sustainability, but also, integrating sustainability into existing courses and programs. Recently, a call even went out from the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education asking schools to voluntarily report about sustainability actions and activities on their campuses, partly in response to a request from a New Jersey state assembly member who wanted to know what New Jersey higher education institutions are doing about sustainability issues. NJHEPS has pledge to help collect that data, and we welcome all new Jersey institutions responding to that request to send me a copy so we can update our rapidly-changing sustainability database.

Higher education institutions are also gearing up for the potential influx of Federal financial stimulus money, some of which could be used to fund "shovel-ready" energy efficiency projects. Even though some of the original higher education-directed funding got cut from the final bill, there are still a number of categories for which higher education may qualify for funding, and there is also a significant research component in the Federal stimulus legislation as well. If you are a facilities or energy manager at a New Jersey institution, you better have that list ready to go in your top drawer, and make sure your government affairs staff fight for higher education's fair share of the money aimed at making buildings more energy-efficient or powered by renewable energy.

Speaking of renewable energy, you may have seen that PSEG has proposed a major initiative to install 120 megawatts of solar power on municipal buildings, schools and affordable housing complexes, and sometimes just on utility poles. Coming on top of their innovative efforts to fund solar energy projects with loans paid back by renewable energy certificates and the PSEG energy efficiency project funding program, I think this shows PSEG's leadership in the utility industry in sustainability areas, and we are glad to have them as an NJHEPS corporate sponsor.

As many of you know, I often give to college executives, faculty and students a Powerpoint presentation on the business case for sustainability in higher education, but that same presentation applies to business as well. That business case is not the business model of Enron, Bear Stearns and TYCO, but rather the business model of encouraging responsible investing, corporate governance and social responsibility as a way to create competitive advantage for your organization, whether it is a business or a college or university. Colleges and universities can't solve the many sustainability issues facing us without partnering with industry, government and the average citizen on these issues. We may not always agree on how to solve these problems, but we need to find the common ground on how we can go forward towards economic, environmentally-sound and socially-acceptable solutions. If we don't instill that partnership ethic in our students and institutions, we have failed as educators. Something to think about in this short month of February!

The Final Stimulus Bill

As the dust began to settle and details slowly emerged about the composition of the compromise economic stimulus bill crafted by Congress (the bill text is now available, [here](#) and [here](#)), the picture for higher education was generally positive — with students and colleges poised to receive somewhere between \$50 billion and \$75 billion, based on our rough estimate. But exactly how it looked very much depended on where you sat.

Administrators at public colleges and officials in state higher education agencies were probably relieved that the compromise legislation would deliver a total of \$53.6 billion in new aid to states over the next two years. That figure is lower than the \$79 billion that was in the House of Representatives' original bill, and money that state officials were hoping to get specifically to renovate education facilities will have to come out of that total because lawmakers eliminated a separate pot of money for that purpose. But the compromise figure is far higher than the \$39 billion that was in the Senate version of the legislation, and \$53.6 billion — \$39.6 billion of which is designed to fill gaps left by state budget cuts, and \$8.8 billion of which is set to go to governors to use for education and other purposes — should go a significant way toward softening the impact of the economic downturn on state colleges and universities.

Universities and academics most interested in research were elated, as the final package allots roughly \$16 billion to several federal agencies for research grants and facilities over two years, most of which will eventually flow to academic institutions. That includes \$10 billion for the National Institutes of Health (\$8.5 billion for research grants and \$1.5 billion to renovate university facilities), \$3 billion for the National Science Foundation, and \$2 billion for science and research programs at the Energy Department. As of just a few days ago, the NSF had looked to get virtually nothing, as it was excluded from a proposal, made by three moderate Republicans, that formed the core of the compromise legislation.

About \$30 billion in new funds would flow to students and their families in 2009 and 2010, about \$17 billion in the form of increased Pell Grants and \$13 billion in expanded higher education tax credits that would, for the first time, be available to some students from lower-income families that do not pay taxes. (Some assistance for students — an increase in borrowing limits for federal student loans and funds for Perkins Loans — was dropped from the compromise legislation, though, to the dismay of advocates for private and for-profit colleges.)

If there was bad news in the final stimulus bill, it was probably for officials at private nonprofit institutions. Their students will surely benefit from the increased Pell Grants and tax credits, but they had hoped that Congress would increase the limits on unsubsidized loans (as the House had planned to do), and they lost at the last minute nearly \$60 million in new capital contributions to the Perkins Loan Program. They were also hardest hit by the Congressional negotiators' decision to eliminate the separate pot of money (\$6 billion in the House bill, \$3.5 billion in the Senate) for higher education facilities, which was envisioned to be distributed by the higher education agency in each state.

The compromise stimulus bill wiped out those funds and up to \$16 billion for school districts — reportedly in the face of opposition from Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, one of three Republicans whose votes the White House and Senate Democrats desperately needed in order to pass the legislation, which most GOP members oppose as too heavily tilted toward non-stimulative spending rather than tax cuts. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and House Democrats fought throughout the day Wednesday (even after a reported “agreement” on the measure was announced at mid-day) to restore funds for school modernization to the legislation. At 10 p.m. that evening, according to Congressional aides, the legislation was altered to incorporate funding for facilities into the state stabilization fund — but in a way that would primarily benefit public rather than private institutions.

Under the change, according to Democratic Congressional aides, \$39.5 billion of the \$53.6 billion available through the stabilization fund would be distributed to state leaders to “backfill” cuts that have been made to the 2008 or 2009 budgets for elementary, secondary or postsecondary education. In restoring cuts to public college budgets, states are supposed to use the money for financial aid and operating costs, but under the last-minute change, they can also use the funds for facilities — but only at public institutions. Another \$8.8 billion of the \$53.6 billion stabilization fund under the compromise legislation would go directly to governors to use for what they determine to be “critical services,” which can include education. Like the backfill money, those funds could also conceivably be used to modernize (rather than build new) facilities, and a state's governor could, if he or she chose, direct money from that pot to private colleges and universities for facilities or other purposes, the Democratic Congressional aides said. The rest of the \$5 billion would be distributed to states by Education Secretary Arne Duncan through two funds designed to reward innovation and strong performance on a variety of measures; most if not all of this money would flow to K-12 education.

Events

NJAPPA 3rd Annual Spring Conference

I am inviting you to join me on March 25 – 27, 2009 for our Third Annual NJAPPA Spring Conference. We will be meeting at the Seaview Marriott in Galloway Township, a lovely venue. As always we present numerous opportunities for sponsorships for our annual conference. We have strived to improve on our program each year and to that end we require your support to deliver quality educational programs. This year our feature program will be presented by Doug Lipp former Director of Training at Disney Headquarters. If you have visited any Disney property, like me you probably wonder how they keep the properties and personnel consistently working and productive, in a seamless fashion. Everyone looks sharp, behaves positively, and gets the job done every day. Doug will be on hand to provide us with insight into the methodologies Disney uses to develop their personnel. We believe that our business partners will also benefit from the techniques and strategies to develop their staff and colleagues in his areas of expertise, and indeed help to transform your business operations into higher functioning and more productive organizations.

On Friday morning, individuals from Rowan and Rutgers Universities will be on hand to provide the group with information regarding the process of invigorating and developing their campuses into places where town meets gown! Both of these campuses have ongoing programs which unite the mission of their institutions with the needs of the communities surrounding them, engaging positive community and campus collaborations to serve a common mission.

We hope you will take advantage of this exciting program, and be willing to seize the opportunity, network with peers and facilities professionals, to sponsor some of our activities, and then join us for a round of golf on one of Seaview's spectacular golf courses.

Sincerely, Dianne Gravatt, President NJAPPA, dgravatt@facilities.rutgers.edu

USGBC - NJ's LEED for NC & MR

March 12, 2009 - 8am : UMDNJ Stratford Campus

This will be the last LEED-NC and MR Technical Review Workshop offered in NJ! Sponsorship opportunities still available. Gain the knowledge needed to maximize building performance, achieve LEED certification and take the LEED Professional Accreditation Exam. Please join us as we host the LEED NC technical review workshop in South Jersey . Continuing Education Credits provided. For this event, other USGBC- NJ events and registration information please visit : www.usgbcnj.org

BuildingEnergy 09

Now in its 34th year, NESEA is proud to present BuildingEnergy09, bringing together the professionals and decision-makers who shape the practice of sustainability. Nearly 200 of the country's best presenters will define the leading edge of smart building, energy efficiency and renewable energy. Successful retrofit and new construction projects demand the best tools and solutions. The whole systems approach to sustainability that BE09 embraces will give you a competitive edge in a growing market. Recommended for architects, engineers, builders, building systems designers and owners, facility managers, developers, investors, real estate professionals, municipal & building code officials, sustainability coordinators, policy makers, planners and students.

Register now : www.buildingenergy.nesea.org

Globalcon 2009

April 1-2, 2009 : Atlantic City Convention Center, Atlantic City, NJ

The 2009 agenda includes:

- * The cutting-edge Globalcon conference, featuring presentations by leading industry experts
- * A line-up of AEE-sponsored pre-conference seminars
- * The extensive Globalcon expo, where you can explore the latest technologies and services the energy marketplace has to offer. Free technology and applications workshops will also be presented in the 2008 exhibit hall.

Register by March 20, 2009, and receive the Early Registration rate of \$595 (regular rate is \$895) AND a special ONLINE registration incentive when you register for the full conference.

<http://www.aeecenter.org/forms/form.html?id=575> *NJHEPS is a sponsor of this event - this is a special rate

Happenings

NJHEPS Food Waste Forum

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; NJ Natural Resources; New Jersey Board of Public Utilities; New Jersey Clean Energy Program; PSEG Foundation, ATT Foundation; and NJHEPS 40+ Member Institutions

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Renowned management expert Peter Drucker once recommended, "The best way to predict the future is to create it." This insight epitomizes the sustainability leadership challenge faced by colleges and universities. It involves embracing a long-term vision and a willingness to encourage a collaborative problem-solving process. NJHEPS can help colleges empower sustainability best practices through sustainability policies and commitments by school leadership in areas such as renewable energy, green design, sustainable curricula, food/supplies purchasing, and food and waste recycling.

You may have noticed in the College Sustainability Report Card (www.greenreportcard.org) prepared annually by the Sustainable Endowment Institute, that schools receiving "A" grades in the Food & Recycling category more than doubled between 2007 and 2009. Thus, NJHEPS would like to invite you to a discussion meeting on food waste recycling, presented by Organ Diversion LLC & United Trucking, Inc., which might lead to your school improving your Sustainability Report Card rating on food and recycling issues, and potentially save money.

Organic Diversion, in collaboration with United Trucking, have developed a comprehensive, yet easy food waste recycling program designed to:

- Reduce Your Carbon Footprint
- Reduce Your Waste Disposal Costs
- Reduce Your Green House Gases (and Your Impact on Global Warming)
- Increase Your Profitability
- Increase Your Environmental Image
- Increase Your Recycling Rates

Seventy five % of higher education's waste is comprised of recyclable and compostable materials. Implementing an efficient and cost effective organics recycling program will allow colleges to significantly improve sustainable business practices related to food waste. NJHEPS hopes to form an informal, or formal, consortium of our members to provide sufficient higher education food waste volume to allow Organic Diversion and United Waste to test and implement an organics recycling plan for the NJHEPS consortium's members, with the two firms providing waste analysis, training, transportation, disposal, supplies and monitoring.

discussion session about this proposed New Jersey Higher Education Food Waste Recycling Consortium on 27 February 2009 at 10am to 2pm at a location on the Princeton University campus. We welcome you and/or your campus food waste manager/expert to attend. Please RSVP John Cusack at jcusack@njheps.org, or at 973-642-4881 by 20 February, if you wish to attend or be represented.

Save the Date: Thursday, April 17, 2009



**Creating a Cleaner
Greener Campus**

A How-to Seminar

Hosted by Deirdre Imus

The Deirdre Imus Environmental Center for Pediatric Oncology®

For New Jersey Universities, Colleges and Hospitals

including executives, administrators, students, facilities coordinators and environmental services managers

Event co-sponsors:

**NJ Higher Education Partnership for Sustainability
The U.S. Green Building Council-NJ Chapter**