



NJHEPS

January 2008

From the Executive Director:

As 2008 unfolds before us, I think we can see that it might be a great year for sustainability in New Jersey, the country and the planet. For example, despite the turmoil in the stock market, major banks and other financial institutions continue to jump on board the sustainability bandwagon. On 24 January, in an article in the *Financial Times*, the NYC-based CEO of Credit Suisse's investment bank, Paul Calello, said "The drive toward environmental sustainability will be an economic growth engine akin to the technological revolution of the 20th century," and that "Sound sustainability policies will spur creation of jobs and business opportunities while at the same time helping to reduce carbon emissions and other burdens on the environment. The elements that built our thriving economic system - innovation, technology, financial transparency, and market principles - will facilitate this eco-friendly transition."

Higher education has to respond to this changing social and economic business world by education our students on the need for incorporating sustainability (economic, social and environmental) principles into all their decision-making processes, and show leadership by implementing these sustainability principles ourselves in our curriculum, research programs, campus operations and communities. If we don't, we will not be preparing our students properly for the society they will be part of for the rest of their life after leaving our institutions. Sustainability principles are a key part of our educational mission!

Of course, the issue on many people's minds in higher education is how do we pay for changing our institutions to be more sustainable. The good news is that there are many sources of funding available for that transition. For colleges and universities that have signed up for the American College & University Presidents Climate Change Commitment, there is funding available from

the Clinton Climate Initiative designated for energy efficiency projects on campuses, which will save energy, cut energy costs, cut carbon emissions and thus make more money available for educational budgets. The recently Energy Bill passed in Washington also has significant grants and subsidies for alternative energy installation/use, energy efficiency and green buildings in higher education, and you should read that bill carefully to see what may be available to your institution.

In New Jersey, the NJBPU's Clean Energy Program is starting a group of new initiatives in April 2008 to help commercial, industrial and educational organizations to save energy, including a new "Pay For Performance" program for projects with a minimum of 20% reduction in total energy use in buildings, and a "Municipal/Local Government Audit" program that will allow any NJ public entity (including state and community colleges/universities) to receive 75% of the cost of energy audits, with an additional 25% of the costs reimbursed upon installation of energy-saving upgrades recommended by the energy audit, as long as you use NJ Treasury pre-selected contractors. For more information on these programs, I suggest you contact Greg Coleman, Commercial/Industrial Market Manager at NJBPU's Clean Energy Program. There are also some solar energy subsidies still available now in 2008 before the NJ solar program is converted to a solar renewable energy certificate (SREC) program that pays for production from solar systems instead of subsidizing installation. Apply promptly, as the State expects to exhaust its funding for the NJ solar subsidy program early in the year, perhaps as soon as the end of the first quarter- get that application in now!

We also must not forget the social side of sustainability as we look at environmental and energy issues, and politics is part of that social fabric. Thus, many New Jersey

schools (and over 1,550 schools across the country) are partaking in "Focus the Nation" activities on 30-31 January to encourage the political process in this important election year to include global warming solutions in the political debate and discussion. This is a great way to get our students, faculty, administrators and the local communities around our schools, to participate in grass-roots action on sustainability issues. Many NJ colleges and universities such as Rowan and Ramapo now have, or are starting, campus sustainability committees, and institutions such as NJIT are working on how to "green" their curriculum so that students will be both aware of, and understand the importance of sustainability in their course work and research. NJHEPS is committed to continuing this trend towards sustainability in NJ higher education, and will have workshops, seminars and events to help our member schools share best practices, learn what works and doesn't work, and how to communicate these issues to students, faculty and administrators. For example, save the date of 7 March for a repeat performance at Princeton University of Solitaire Townsend's Master Class in Climate Change Communication, which was so popular and well received last March at NJIT. NJHEPS also continues to learn about sustainability best practices across the country and the world, and share them with you at our workshops, through our participation in national and regional sustainability groups and higher education organizations such as AASHE, NECSC, NACUBO and ICCD.

So have a sustainable 2008, and please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or need assistance in implementing sustainability principles at your institution.

Princeton Cogeneration Plant Tests Sustainable Biodiesel Fuel

As part of campus-wide sustainability and carbon dioxide reduction efforts, Princeton's facilities department earlier this fall successfully operated its campus energy plant boilers and gas turbine cogeneration system using soy-based biodiesel. According to Ted Borer, energy plant manager, the test was the first of its kind in New Jersey for stationary boilers and marked the first time in the world that biodiesel has been used to fuel GE's LM1600 gas turbine, which originally was developed as the engine for the Stealth Fighter and the Navy FA-18. The turbine is used to generate steam for heating and 15 megawatts of electric power for the campus. The test was conducted in various stages over two weeks in late September and early October. Results are being evaluated to see if biodiesel is a viable alternative to the ultra-low sulfur diesel that currently is used when natural gas supplies are unavailable, Borer said.

The biodiesel used for the test was produced by companies in New Jersey and Pennsylvania from a byproduct of making animal food from soybeans. Studies of municipal bus fleets show that carbon dioxide emissions may be reduced by approximately 78 percent by using biodiesel rather than standard petroleum diesel. Earlier this year, Princeton's energy plant received a 2007 Energy Star CHP Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy for its efforts to reduce pollution and improve energy efficiency. CHP stands for combined heat and power, also known as cogeneration. Princeton installed its natural gas-fired cogeneration system in 1996 to support electricity, heating and cooling, and research needs on campus. "Using biodiesel may present a very nice opportunity to achieve emission reductions in a cost-effective manner," Borer said. "We're very encouraged by the early results of the test." Borer added that the focus on finding more environmentally friendly ways to power the campus supports efforts by University researchers to tackle issues related to greenhouse gas emissions and global warming. "This validates a lot of the work done by our researchers in areas such as the Princeton Environmental Institute and the Carbon Mitigation Initiative," he said. "We're testing on a large scale to do what their research has shown to be possible."

The B99.9 biodiesel used for these tests was produced as a byproduct of making chicken food from soybeans. It is a domestically-produced, renewable fuel. Preliminary test results in the energy plant suggest that this fuel produces the same or lower emissions compared to the ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel that would otherwise be used. Studies of biodiesel use in municipal bus fleets indicate that lifecycle CO₂ emissions may be reduced by approximately 78% relative to petroleum diesel. Princeton University gratefully acknowledges assistance with this test program provided by: Air Recon, Coen Company, Environmental Resources Management, Fuel:Bio, General Electric, Keystone BioFuels, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, Prospect Transportation, and Segal Engineering. www.princeton.edu/pr/pwb/07/1022/fuel/

States Sue to Regulate Greenhouse Gas Emissions

New Jersey and 15 other states filed suit against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) last week for denying its proposal to enact strict statewide limits on greenhouse gas emissions from cars, trucks and SUVs. Just two weeks earlier, the agency denied a request from California for a waiver from US law which mandates that pollution control is the domain of federal regulators. The lawsuit was filed in the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco, and the plaintiffs are predicting a quick decision in their favor. Besides California, the plaintiffs include Massachusetts, Arizona, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington. www.emagazine.com/view/?4039

Events

Masterclass in Climate Change

Friday, March 7, 2008 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Liberation Hall, Carl A. Fields Center, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ

IF YOU'RE NOT AL GORE, confidently communicating climate change can be a challenge. How can you reach communities, staff, customers and even your friends and family? What signals, stories and publicity will most effectively reach a wide range of audiences? Who do audiences listen to? What makes people take action?

Solitaire Townsend, Chief Executive of Futerra, the UK's leading specialists on the development and delivery of climate change communications will lead a masterclass, here at Princeton University, as the second in an American series on this increasingly crucial issue. Participating in this senior climate change communication event led by Solitaire will:

- * introduce a range of effective communications techniques
- * help you choose the best messages, channels and tone of voice to target your audience
- * help you establish the facts and debunk the common myths of climate change
- * show you what works and what doesn't by looking at examples of climate change communications from around the world
- * give you an insight into the golden rules of climate change communications

Please register via Acteva: www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?bevaid=151484

BuildingEnergy08

The Practice of Sustainability: Tools, Actions & Solutions. March 11 - 13, 2008
Seaport Trade Center, Boston, MA

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.

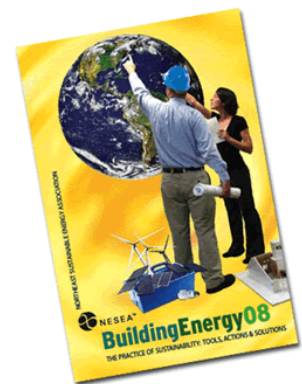
For more information please visit the NESEA web site: www.buildingenergy.nesea.org/

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.

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

NJHEPS Spring Energy Workshop

Wednesday, April 9th, 2008: 10 am - 3pm
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 the main academic complex. The addition consists of classrooms, faculty offices and an atrium. Additional speakers are:

- * Tracy Hall - Sullivan County Community College
- * Jennifer Schroder - Clean Air - Cool Planet

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

Be a Regional Coordinator for the Real Food Challenge!

The Real Food Challenge is a new national campaign (co-founded by The Food Project and our partners) that unites and empowers students and their allies to create a food system that truly nourishes people, communities, and the earth. The central goal is to re-direct at least 20% of all the food purchased by colleges and universities (currently 4 billion dollars) toward real food within 10 years. This is our flagship goal—but not the only one. Overall, we want to foster an entire campus culture that supports real food. That means we also want to see more college farms and more academic programs that deal with food.

We are seeking motivated individuals to become coordinators for the Southwest, Northwest, Midwest, and Southeast regions. It is a part-time, paid position. You can read more about the Real Food Challenge at: www.realfoodchallenge.org and find a full job description at www.realfoodchallenge.org/blog.

Please contact Marissa Grossman at 617-442-1322 (x19) or mgrossman@thefoodproject.org with any questions. or to express your interest in applying.



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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