



NJHEPS

January 2010

A Note from the President:

Against a snowy backdrop, the New Year has brought in many changes for both the state and for NJHEPS. The current wintry weather conditions plaguing the region (and the nation) – caused by an El Nino event in the tropical Pacific Ocean - demonstrate perfectly the difference between short-term weather and long-term climate... a great ‘teachable moment’ if ever there was one. Meanwhile, the political climate is also a little chilly towards higher education, with in-year budget cuts for New Jersey’s state institutions likely to further hamper efforts towards making our campuses more sustainable.

Just as El Nino events are short-term, lasting only a few months, new opportunities for sustainability continue to present themselves even in these trying times. William Paterson University will soon begin construction of a 3.5 MW solar array, and Ramapo College – the current home of NJHEPS – is exploring funding opportunities for a major solar project. NJHEPS moved into its new office

at the Sharp Sustainability Education Center at Ramapo in January when the building opened. Terra and John have been enjoying the sustainable features of this facility including daylighting, PV power and geothermal heating.

NJHEPS has a major change in leadership – as hinted at by the authorship of this page. February 15, 2010, marks John Cusack’s last day as Executive Director of NJHEPS. At our recent Executive Committee meeting, John was thanked for his four years of service to the organization. The President of NJHEPS, Emma Rainforth, will take over some of the duties of the Executive Director position, with support from Terra and the Executive Committee, until such time as we find a new ED. In the meantime, the work of NJHEPS will continue unabated, with our Spring Energy, Education and Green Design workshops all coming up soon (see page 3) – we hope to see you at these events! We are also beginning work on the new EPA grant with Kean, so watch this space for announcements of a new series of

workshops, which will begin in the Fall. There will also be a Steering Committee meeting towards the end of May and we hope that each member institution will be able to participate.

Next month NJHEPS will be sponsoring Globalcon in Philadelphia. If you are interested in attending, please let us know and we will send you a complementary pass.

Sustainably yours,
Dr. Emma C. Rainforth
President, NJHEPS;
Ramapo College of New Jersey



NJPIRG Banner Garner Support for Energy Initiative at Rutgers University

As part of its Global Warming Solutions campaign, New Jersey Peer Interest Research Group interns set up a table in Brower Commons on the College Avenue campus Tuesday to educate the student body on a new solar panel on Livingston campus. When the University installed the solar farm on the Livingston campus in July, it took a step toward saving energy and money while working to stop global warming, and NJPIRG members requested that students sign a banner thanking the University to create awareness of the project. “The main purpose for this semester is to bring lots of media and awareness by publicizing global warming and that we need to take it seriously and do something about it,” NJPIRG intern Sara Banu said. “There are solutions for global warming, and [we try] to put solutions out there.”

The solar panel project, an installation of 1.4-megawatt system on seven acres of property, helps the University provide clean energy to the campus and reduce its carbon footprint, said Joseph Witkowski, director of utilities operations. The panels generate 11 percent of the electrical needs for Livingston campus and are a model for the use of alternative energy resources. Construction of the panels, which began in August 2008 and cost \$10 million, finished last June, Witkowski said. The University received a \$4.9 million core rebate from the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, and University funds provided the remaining \$5.1 million.

The University has saved \$200,000 through use of the solar panels, and this figure will keep increasing, said Banu, a School of Arts and Sciences first-year student.

This article can be located at: <http://www.dailytargum.com/university/activists-enlighten-u-on-solar-panels-1.2153008>

Brookdale Community College Offers: Is Wind Energy Right for You?

Ronald Alex Long, Esq.

Homes, businesses, municipalities, schools, churches and farms have the potential to harvest renewable wind power to lower energy costs. In three hours, hear an overview of the issues surrounding the use of wind energy. Discover what is required to set up vertical or horizontal wind turbines and assess cost and environmental benefits. Review what is involved in a site assessment and evaluate the products of the wind energy industry. Hear about installation, power development, maintenance, safety, insurance, zoning, costs and liability issues. Find out about tax credits and government grants for the purchase of wind turbines, and learn about the national grid and the potential for selling surplus electricity.

Sat, Feb 20, 9 am-noon; The number for registration is 732 224-2315.

Fee and Code: \$29, XBUSG 114 W

William Paterson University to Build 3.5 MW Solar Array

This month William Paterson University is starting to build their new 3.5-megawatt solar array. William Paterson has been a leader in the field of higher education in greenhouse gas reductions and sustainability. They have signed on to the Presidents' Climate Commitment and reduced their energy consumption by almost 1/3 below 1990 levels.

WPU was one of the first institutions to sign on to the NJHEPS Climate Commitment and has continued their path to a sustainable future. Their new solar project will produce 20% of the institution's energy consumption. (The Chronicle of Higher Education, 2010) The system will be a ground mounted system that will provide shaded parking and will be in use by this summer. William Paterson financed this project through a power-purchase agreement with Nautilus Solar Energy.

Ramapo College Will Offer Sustainable Housing, Fall '10

"Eco-dorms" – or green residence facilities – have started to appear across campus landscapes around the country. They range from small (e.g. 36-occupant) LEED-certified buildings with student programming, including seminars and organic gardens, where the focus truly is on 'living green' and infusing sustainability into the student lifestyle; to large (125-360 student) LEED buildings designed to save operating costs over traditional residences, but with the residents essentially oblivious to notions of sustainability. There are also campuses where 'green lifestyles' are being promoted in small 'green themed houses', with programming support, but without a green building.

Ramapo College's Sustainable Living Facilities (SLFs), which will open in Fall 2010, follow the 'green lifestyle in an existing building' model, for two major reasons: there are no plans to build additional residence halls (at least in the near future), and most existing residences are new and not nearing the time for major renovation when the building could be greened." (RamapoGreen, 2009)

Students who choose to participate in the Sustainable Living Facilities will be required to take a four credit seminar focused on sustainability issues and participate in service learning projects. The students will have an opportunity to volunteer with NJHEPS or work on campus in a student managed organic garden.

Other requirements include: use of green cleaning supplies, buying/consuming local and organic products, using public transportation and conserving energy. For more information about the Ramapo SLFs and Ramapo Green, please visit: <http://www.ramapo.edu/ramapogreen/index.html>

NJHEPS Upcoming Steering Committee Meeting

The last week of May, NJHEPS will be hosting a Steering Committee Meeting at Princeton University. (Location: TBA) If you are currently a member of the Steering Committee, please look for an invitation to be sent out later this week. We will also be working on updating our committee list to ensure that all of our institutions are represented.

We hope to see you there!

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

- *Dr. Casey Crabill, President of Raritan Valley Community College
Welcome and Opening Remarks
 - * Green Roof Design,
Michael Medea, Garden Associates
 - * UMDNJ's New Energy Master Plan,
Paul Meierdierck, UMDNJ
 - * Public Space Recycling Partnerships for Greener Living,
Aaron Klein, Greener Corners
- * Smart Energy Decisions: Practicing sustainability and making money doing it,
Larry Skennion, Energy Connect
- * 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>

Save the Date: Spring Green Design Workshop

April 28th, 2010 ~ 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
The University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Piscataway Campus

Happenings

Building Energy 2010

The Northeast Sustainable Energy Association Presents:
BuildingEnergy10, March 9-11, 2010

Meet the Professionals in Sustainability and Whole Systems Thinking

Generating truly new ideas in the world of sustainability requires whole systems thinking, a cross-disciplinary approach, and rigorous standards for content and case studies. Find all this and more at NESEA's BuildingEnergy Conference March 9-11, 2010, at the Seaport World Trade Center in Boston, MA. BuildingEnergy is the only conference where architects, designers, planners, builders, policymakers, manufacturers, and installers work together to determine what's possible. This year's theme: Reduce, Retrofit, and Renew. Conference sessions range from emerging trends in renewable energy to deep energy retrofits of commercial and residential buildings. The Trade Show features 160 exhibitors with the next generation of sustainable technologies and products. Hear about the things you can do today to reach the goal of zero net energy - where you produce as much energy as you use.

Register on line now:

<http://www.nesea.org/buildingenergy/>

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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NJHEPS STAFF

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