



# NJHEPS

# June 2009

*From the Executive Director:*

We must always remember that the goal of NJHEPS and all higher education institutions is not to only make our buildings and campuses sustainable, but also to make sure all of the students that pass through our doors understand sustainability principles and are looking to integrate them into their lives, their communities and society. Therefore I was very proud of the NJHEPS Sustainable Education working group, led by Dr. Tom Bryant and Dr. Don Wheeler, who put together an excellent Sustainability Education Workshop entitled, "Green Curricula, Green Jobs and Green Justice", at the Bloustein School at Rutgers on 29 May.

After introductory remarks and a welcome from Dean James Hughes of the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers, Ms. Chelsea Albucher, Chief Sustainability Officer of the City of Newark, gave a keynote overview on sustainability related to justice and equality issues in Newark- presenting on behalf of Mayor Corey Booker, who had to cancel at the last moment.

We then had two panels on integrating sustainability into the curriculum (with a special emphasis on training for green jobs), and the second on integrating climate issues into the curriculum. The concept of all jobs being "green" jobs was heartily discussed! John Vadnais of Essex County College described the exciting Essex County College initiative to integrate sustainability issues into community college curriculum, Jonathan Cloud and Matt Polsky presented the path-breaking initiatives of the Sustainable Enterprise Institute in the Business School at Fairleigh Dickinson University, while relating the ups and downs of trying to get green/sustainability courses developed, approved and of enough interest to students to attract a critical mass of enrollment. Keith Sheppard and Chris Christodoulatos of Stevens Institute of Technology opened our eyes to what a group of committed students and faculty can do to develop a green engineering minor degree program and encourage

environmental entrepreneurship among faculty and students.

In the second panel, Ted Borer of Princeton demonstrated how Princeton uses its power plant as a living lab and a model of energy efficiency and conservation that can teach the students, faculty, and administrators how energy and emissions can be significantly cut through good planning and execution. John Imperatore of Rowan University showed how a cross-university sustainability committee with broad membership can bring together facilities professionals, engineering faculty, administrators and students to get on target toward achieving climate neutrality at Rowan. Dr. Emma Rainforth of Ramapo College (and the next President of the NJHEPS Executive Committee as of 1 July!) described how a comprehensive approach to sustainability in a college organized into broad interdisciplinary schools (rather than academic departments) could have a major impact on an entire higher education institution's approach to integrating sustainability into their curriculum and mission. Nicholas Smith-Sebasto of Montclair State presented the importance of closing the cycle on recycling food waste on campuses and the how organic food wastes can be recycled back into good soil through Montclair State's home-built aerobic composter system.

Our lunchtime speaker, Jonathan Edwards of Smart Power.org, spoke about Smart Power's efforts to win over students to practice energy efficiency for the rest of their lives by making it cool to "Save Your Energy". He invited New Jersey college students to join a nationwide competition to reduce energy and emissions through their personal actions. Some of us still can't get the Smart Power music video's "Save Your Energy" catchy tune out of our heads!

After the Sustainability Education Workshop ended, we held our annual NJHEPS Steering Committee meeting. We started off by having representatives

of over 30 NJHEPS higher education institutions report on their campus's sustainability activities (amazing progress since NJHEPS was founded 10 years ago!), and we then voted in the nominated slate of NJHEPS officers for the 2010 fiscal year. We would in particular like to thank Charles Lamb of the County College of Morris, who proposed a resolution to the Steering Committee (passed unanimously by the Committee by acclamation) that asks NJHEPS to work over the coming years with the county colleges and the Commission on Higher Education to integrate sustainability into the common curriculum developed for county colleges as part of the NJ Transfer Agreement that allows a seamless transition from county colleges to four-year institutions in the state. We had such a good time, we are planning another Sustainable Education Workshop for the Fall, and we appreciate all of your comments, thoughts and suggestions for that event.

Finally, I would like to thank Dr. Reggie Luke, who is stepping down as President of the NJHEPS Executive Committee to be the position of Immediate Past-President (so we don't lose his wisdom and expertise!), for all his time and excellent service on behalf of NJHEPS over the past three years. You made being NJHEPS Executive Director a lot easier, and I will appreciate that forever! I also offer our congratulations and thanks to the newly-elected members of the NJHEPS Executive Committee, including Dr. Emma Rainforth (Ramapo) as President, Mike Kornitas (Rutgers) as Treasurer, Mr. Deane Evans (NJIT) as Vice President, Dr. Patrick Hossay (Richard Stockton) as Vice President, Dr. Kristie Reilly (Kean) as Vice President, and Dr. Shana Weber (Princeton) as Vice President. Welcome aboard the NJHEPS Executive Committee, and I look forward to an exciting year of working with you all!

## *Middlesex County College offering 'green' courses for builders, homeowners*

The county college is helping area residents "go green."

Two noncredit courses will be offered in June at the Edison-based college, open to anyone paying tuition and fees, not just enrolled students. One course will serve as preparation for accreditation in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). The other class will cover energy auditing and weatherization and is geared more toward the average citizen or homeowner.

"We want to prepare the work force for those jobs," said college President Joann La Perla-Morales during a news conference this week introducing the new Green Building Training Program.

La Perla-Morales cited a report by the U.S. Conference of Mayors estimating that 10 percent of job growth over the next 30 years could be "green" or related to energy conservation.

The courses will be taught by Mark Yurschak, who has worked in the building industry for 30 years.

"In order to achieve a dramatic reduction in greenhouse emissions, we need a dramatic infusion of "green-collar" workers and professionals at nearly all educational levels," said Lynn Lederer, director of the college's Professional and Community Programs. "We're going to continue to monitor the skill sets demanded by our industries and tailor our programs to align with those skill sets in order to help train and retrain the work force for jobs in the green sector.

"There are a lot of out-of-work tradespeople — pipefitters, welders, electricians and plumbers — who can be trained to do implementations and insulations of energy-efficient materials and energy audits," Lederer said.

Jeff Tittel, director of the New Jersey Sierra Club, spoke at the news conference and highlighted the need for widespread education on global warming. He noted that people can "fight global warming as a vocation.

"We expect in New Jersey over the next 10 years 150,000 jobs in the clean energy sector alone," Tittel said. "So, we need to make sure we're training that generation of people to do those jobs. Those jobs could include doing LEED standards for buildings, retrofitting houses, building new green buildings. It's the biggest growth in our economy coming forward.

"Green equals green — jobs, economy, education — it's all connected."

### College's efforts

Don Drost, executive director of facilities management at the college, noted that the new West Hall to be built on campus will be constructed in compliance with the LEED certification rating system. Drost said that between 1990 and 2000, the college was able to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 17 percent and that it continues to move forward with energy-efficient policies. He said the college has a four-day work week during summers when entire campus buildings are shut down.

Freeholder H. James Polos lauded the college's green initiatives. He said the county is currently developing a business plan to attract green jobs and that the Green Building program will help create a base of skilled workers for those jobs.

Those interested in the green building course offerings may contact the college at 732-906-2556 or visit its Web site at [www.middlesexcc.edu](http://www.middlesexcc.edu).

Article from My Central Jersey

## *Newark biodiesel company will open operation in Connecticut*

A New Jersey biodiesel company said it is opening a distribution operation here this month. Innovation Fuels of Newark produces and distributes the fuel that is created with vegetable oil. A company executive said it will base its Connecticut operation at the New Haven Terminal which is strategically located for distribution in New England. Paul Niznik said the company can deliver its biodiesel product by barge from its production plant in Newark and ship it on the Providence and Worcester rail line, as well as by truck on interstates 91 and 95. Niznik said the company will move about 1 million gallons a month and bring five jobs to the port. Source - The Star Ledger

## *Events*

### *NJHEPS 2009 Summer Energy Workshop*

July 29th, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm  
Rutgers University - New Brunswick, Douglas Campus Center  
100 George Street New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Featuring Rutgers New Solar Array!

Learn how the new regulations coming to the state of New Jersey regarding pressure vessels will affect your facility.  
Curious of what is going on at Rutgers - our State University? Find out and get a tour of the new solar array.  
Network with other NJ facilities staff  
Plus more to come!

Register now via Acteva: <http://www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?bevaaid=185325>

### *Green Residential Building @ High Performance Design Workshop*

July 14 & 15, 2009  
The Willow School, 1150 Pottersville Road  
Gladstone, NJ 07934

The first day will focus on residential green building and remodeling practices, highlighted by break-out sessions on green residential building and a review of the NJ Green Home Remodeling Guidelines. The second day will center around the commercial/institutional building side of sustainable design. This is presented through a partnership of USGBC-NJ, AIA-NJ Committee on the Environment and Rutgers Center for Green Buildings. For complete details and to register please visit the following link: <http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?eventid=732495>

### *2009 ACUPCC Climate Leadership Summit*

August 13th and 13th, 2009  
Palmer House Hilton, Chicago, IL

The fight against global warming will shape the 21st century. Colleges and universities must exercise leadership in their communities and throughout society by modeling ways to eliminate global warming emissions, and by providing the knowledge and the educated graduates to achieve climate neutrality. Leaders at campuses that address the climate challenge will better serve their students and meet their social mandate to help create a thriving, ethical and civil society.

The 2009 Climate Leadership Summit will feature inspiring speakers, provide action-oriented information to combat climate issues and unite forward-thinking leaders committed to transitioning from good intentions to strategic transformative action.

If you are a college or university president or chancellor or other senior-level designate, bring your climate action planning team to the Summit to learn how you can:

- \* Access funding and financing to support climate and sustainability efforts
- \* Support your institution in the creation of an effective climate action plan that includes operations, education, research, and community engagement
- \* Successfully lead your campus community in this transformational change process
- \* Scale up climate action by leveraging the strengths of the ACUPCC signatory network

With over 4,000 institutions of higher education shaping the minds of over 17 million students, the Commitment has the potential to create an impact that goes far beyond the campus. These institutions play a critical role in preparing the nation's future leaders to move away from a carbon economy and toward a green economy. The Presidents' Climate Commitment is an opportunity to develop the framework necessary to achieve climate neutrality.

For more information please visit: [www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/summit/index.html](http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/summit/index.html)

# Happenings

## *Meeting the President's Climate Commitment*

July 20th, 2009, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm  
The Trustees Pavilion, Ramapo College of NJ

- \* Did your university sign The President's Climate Commitment?
- \* Are you curious what other colleges and universities are doing to reach the commitment?
  - \* How did they calculate their emissions?
  - \* Did they develop a plan yet?
- \* Are you interested in signing, but your president has not signed the commitment yet?

Find out the answers to your questions about the Presidents Climate Commitment and network with other signatories. This will be the first workshop NJHEPS is offering to aid our signatories.

Register now via Acteva: <http://www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?bevaaid=185336>

## *NJHEPS Regional Climate Change Alliance*

September 25th, 2009, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm  
The Trustees Pavilion, Ramapo College of NJ

Has your university signed the President's Climate Commitment or designed their own target for Greenhouse Gas reduction? Find out how other institutions are addressing climate change in their university. Meet staff members from other universities and enjoy presentations addressing climate change through: curriculum, design, energy and farm to table.

Who should attend?

- Sustainability Coordinators
- Steering Committee Members
- Faculty, Administrators, Students, Staff
- Presidents Climate Commitment Signatories

Register now via Acteva: <http://www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?bevaaid=185337>

## *Save the Date for Future NJHEPS Events: Fall Green Design Workshop*

October 23rd, 2009, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm  
Kean University, Union, NJ (tentative)

Presentations include Kean's newly constructed NJ Center for Science, Technology and Mathematics Education aiming for LEED gold

## *Fall Energy Workshop*

November 20th, 2009, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm  
Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, NJ

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  
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SUPPORT OF:

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### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Daniel Watts, Immediate Past President  
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