



# March 2007

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## NJHEPS

### *From the Executive Director:*

The past month has been another exciting time for NJHEPS and sustainability in New Jersey and the country. The TV news and press are full of stories of major corporations recognizing the importance of environmental and sustainable issues being important to both society and their bottom line. In the April 2nd issue of Fortune magazine released this week (which is their first issue ever dedicated to green issues) 10 major companies are profiled for their environmental work that goes beyond regulatory compliance, including two with major operations in New Jersey, Continental Airlines and Goldman Sachs. Similarly, over 150+ American college and university presidents have now committed to the Presidents Climate Commitment (PCC), and will go beyond what is required by current regulations to plan on how to make their campuses climate-neutral over the coming years. We are proud that one of these national leaders is Dr. Donald Farish of Rowan University in Glassboro NJ, and we congratulate Dr. Farish and Rowan on stepping forward to make this commitment. Rowan has been a leader in New Jersey on sustainability issues, including being one of the first purchasers of renewable wind energy from the Atlantic City Wind Power project, installing a very energy-efficient and environmentally-friendly cogeneration system, and working with the borough of Glassboro to integrate city and university planning to make Glassboro a sustainable community. Certainly they understand the business case for sustainability, just as leading NJ businesses such as Continental and Goldman Sachs do. We certainly suggest that the other presidents of New Jersey higher education institutions join Dr. Farish in signing up their institutions for the PCC when their invitation letter arrives this month.

Of course NJHEPS has been busy this month in helping NJ colleges and universities understand and implement sustainability practices in their operations, curricula and communities. I had the opportunity to present my "Business Case for Sustainability in Higher Education" slide show to Dr. Bryon Grigsby, Provost and COO, and other senior administrators, at Centenary College in Hackettstown on 12 March. Centenary

has recently built a number of new buildings with green design features, and are building a new Performing Arts Center to LEED standards. Kudos to Barry Cohen, VP of facilities at Centenary, for shepherding these projects to successful completion.

We also held our NJHEPS Spring Design Workshop at Rowan University on March 16th, although it did not feel like spring as attendees slogged home in six inches of sleet- blame it on the increased frequency of unusual weather events brought on by climate change! We also sponsored a Climate Change Communications Workshop at NJIT on 19 March, where the UK-based and world-renowned climate communications expert, Ms. Solitaire Townsend gave an enthusiastic and excellent training class to an equally enthusiastic and diverse crowd of faculty, administrators, students, industry representatives, and state and local government officials. As an avid participant myself, I can say we learned a lot and enjoyed doing it as well. The feedback from attendees was excellent, and we look forward to bringing other sustainability experts to New Jersey in the future.

In addition, NJHEPS, with support from NJEdge (New Jersey Educational Network), also was a sponsor on 26 February of the "New Jersey Focus the Nation Summit- Global Warming Solutions for America" --- an interactive videoconference which joined 200 students, faculty and staff from eleven NJ institutions of higher education to discuss and develop proposed climate action activities for their respective campuses. We thank Dr. Donald Wheeler of Kean University for organizing this event, and we hope many of the ideas generated can help NJ college presidents implement the Presidents Climate Commitment and achieve carbon neutrality in the most cost-effective manner for their campuses over the coming years.

Finally, NJHEPS continues to highlight New Jersey's leadership position on clean energy, sustainability and climate change by participating in key events. On 13-15 March at the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association (NESEA) annual "Building-

Energy07- the Practice of Sustainability: Building for a Changing Climate" conference in Boston, I gave a presentation on NJHEPS and our clean energy & climate change activities as part of a session entitled "Degrees that Matter: Climate Change and the University". We also held a meeting in Boston on 15 March of the Northeast Campus Sustainability Consortium, which includes higher education institutions from Pennsylvania through Maine. We discussed the plans for the NECSC annual meeting to be held at the University of Southern Maine on 25-26 October, the need for a better way of accounting for sustainability and energy efficiency investments in higher educational financial statements and accounts, and a variety of other subjects. NJHEPS also participated in the annual EPA Region II Performance Track Conference in NYC on 21 March, and gave an update on NJHEPS clean energy sustainability activities. Several ideas arose as to how EPA could cosponsor a meeting in New Jersey with NJHEPS to educate our member schools as to how they could become participants in such EPA programs as Energy Star, Climate Leaders, and Performance Track, and EPA also has expressed an interest in cosponsoring with NJHEPS a GHG reduction contest for NJ schools. Your comments and suggestions on such interesting ideas would be welcomed.

I would also point out that there are several interesting meetings and events coming up this Spring, many of which you can read about in this newsletter. Of course, you can always check the NJHEPS website for details of upcoming events as well. We always welcome news about sustainability events, activities and progress on your campus or elsewhere, and feel free to send such information along to NJHEPS so we can re-distribute them to our network and/or place them on our website.

Have a sustainable Spring!

### *Princeton's Energy plant earns award for reducing pollution, improving efficiency*

Princeton University's energy plant has 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 -- an efficient, clean and reliable approach to generating power and thermal energy from a single fuel source. CHP is not a specific technology but an application of technologies to meet an energy user's needs.

In 1996, Princeton installed a natural gas-fired CHP system to support the University's electricity, heating and cooling, and research needs. The University's energy plant produces all of the steam and chilled water and approximately half of the electric power used by the campus. The plant runs 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year and includes a state-of-the-art real-time economic dispatch system to optimize energy costs for all steam, chilled water and power supplied to the campus. The University's CHP system requires approximately 21 percent less fuel than typical onsite thermal generation and purchased electricity, reducing carbon dioxide emissions by an estimated 27,936 tons per year, according to the EPA.

"Our energy plant uses a very advanced real-time dispatch system to determine the most cost-effective means of supplying utilities to the campus at all times," said Ted Borer, energy plant manager. "It is a highly-customized system developed by Princeton facilities engineering <<http://facilities.princeton.edu/engineering/>> and Ictec, an outside company.

"The price of power and energy demands on campus change every few minutes," he explained. "Using this system we are able to make the most cost-effective decisions about whether to make or buy power, burn natural gas or diesel fuel, operate steam-driven chillers or electric-driven chillers, and charge or discharge our thermal storage system. I am not aware of any plant of any size that runs as sophisticated a real-time analysis to make these decisions. So even while doing our best to reduce cost, we are still able to operate the cogeneration system in an exemplary manner that significantly reduces emissions compared to the more common practice of simply operating boilers to make steam and purchasing power from the utility."

### *Rowan University Becomes First NJ Institution to Sign National Initiative*

Colleges and universities across the country are heeding the call to do their part to reduce global warming emissions on their campuses. Rowan University President Dr. Donald Farish has committed the university to the movement by recently signing a pledge to work toward becoming climate neutral.

"We cannot depend on manufacturers alone to reduce global warming emissions," said Farish. "Colleges and universities, in many cases, are like small cities. We have a responsibility to address the issue of global warming both in our curriculum as well as in our practices. We must lead by example."

Farish is one of over 150+ presidents, and the first in New Jersey, to sign the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment. By signing the pledge, the University has committed to develop a comprehensive plan to achieve climate neutrality as soon as possible. Climate neutrality is achieved when an organization reduces its carbon emissions as low as possible and then institutes initiatives that offset the remaining emissions, such as purchasing renewable energy. The University will begin the process by conducting a comprehensive inventory of all greenhouse gas emissions and developing an institutional action plan within the next two years that will ensure the University adopts new policies and procedures that will reduce carbon emissions and save energy.

Rowan already has taken a number of steps toward its long-term commitment. University officials recently signed a contract to purchase 25 percent of the institution's electricity from wind energy sources. Rowan's Energy Review Panel has been implementing energy saving practices and procedures for the past three years. The University is in the midst of organizing a sustainability council that will work with the broader University community to achieve the goals specified in the climate commitment. And, Rowan has made great strides in reducing waste through its recycling program—the University placed third in a national collegiate waste-minimization competition last year.

Rowan's pledge places the university in the forefront of Gov. Jon Corzine's efforts to reduce carbon emissions statewide. The governor's Executive Order 54 has committed the state to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent by 2020 and 89 percent by 2050, and it is expected to make those reductions mandatory for state agencies and state higher education institutions.

For more information on the Presidents Climate Commitment, visit [www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org](http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org).

## Events

### *Join The New Jersey Climate March*

April 13-16, Rutgers to Trenton

From Governor Corzine's Executive Order, to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's most recent report, to Al Gore's Academy Awards -- the news coverage of and momentum for global warming solutions is growing. To capitalize on this momentum, scores of groups are supporting the New Jersey Climate March, a series of rallies and outreach across the state to raise awareness and build support for the Global Warming Response Act -- ground-breaking legislation that will make New Jersey the second state in the nation to pass a comprehensive solution to global warming.

Please sign up to participate! March for all four days, or for one, two or three. Make every effort to be in Trenton on April 16th! To sign up and to learn more go to [www.njclimatemarch.org](http://www.njclimatemarch.org). Meals and housing provided for registered marchers.

Friday, April 13:

9:30 am—marchers gather outside Rutgers Student Center on College Ave., New Brunswick

12 noon—Rally at Brower Commons across from Student Center, featuring Assemblywoman Linda Stender and other speakers

1 pm on—March through New Brunswick, gather signatures on petitions, evening activities

Saturday, April 14:

10 am—leave for train station to ride to Princeton Junction; march from there to and around Princeton University, petitioning

1 pm—Princeton Climate Change Rally at Scudder Plaza

4 pm—Petitioning and evening activities

Sunday, April 15:

9:30—leave on bus to Lawrenceville, rally there

11:00—begin march to Ewing (The College of New Jersey)

4:00—Rally at TCNJ on Loser Lawn (likely), 2000 Pennington Rd., followed by petitioning

Monday, April 16:

9:30—leave TCNJ for march to Trenton State House

12 noon—Trenton Rally and Press Conference on State House steps, 125 W. State St. Speakers include Carlos Miguel Rymmer, NJ Climate March, Jeff Tittel, Sierra Club, State Senator Barbara Buono, Rev. Fletcher Harper, Green Faith, Suzanne Leta Liou, Environment New Jersey, Ted Glick, Climate Crisis Coalition.

Afternoon: lobbying for Global Warming Solutions Act.



### ***It's Time to Step It Up on Climate!***

For more information: [www.njclimatemarch.org](http://www.njclimatemarch.org) or call 551-556-0189, 973-483-6713, 973-338-5398 or Dr. Don Wheeler @ 201-445-9272

### *Middlesex County College's Earth Day Celebration*



This year's Earth Day festivities will be an opportunity for the Middlesex County College community to learn more about the impact of Global Warming and what we as a college can do to mitigate the effects of greenhouse gas emissions both personally and locally.

On Thursday, April 19th, at 2 pm in the L'Hommedieu Hall Amphitheater (LH 205), noted Rutgers Geology Professor, Dr. Kenneth Miller will discuss the impact of global warming on New Jersey.

On Friday, April 20th, from 10 am to 12 noon in the MCC College Center, John Cusack, Executive Director of the NJ Higher Education Partnership in Sustainability, and Tina Weislaus of the Al Gore Institute will be addressing ways we can make our campus and our world more sustainable.

# Happenings

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:

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## USGBC-NJ's Inaugural Gala

March 29, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm, Robert B. Meyner Reception Center, Holmdel, New Jersey

Honoring: \* Jack Armstrong, Building & Construction Markets NAFTA Region. \* Hon. Kenneth Pringle, Mayor, Borough of Belmar. \* Gary Jay Saulson, Director of Corporate Real Estate, The PNC Financial Services Group. \* Hon. Bob Smith, Senator, District 17

For more information : contact 973.376.8595 or ndavidman@turnkeyproductions.net

## NJHEPS Spring Energy Workshop

May 4th from 9am - 2pm, Wilson Hall, Monmouth University

9 to 9:30: Welcome from John Cusack

9:30 to 10: Energy Policy in New Jersey, Joe Sullivan

10 to 10:30: Concepts of Seasonal Storage, Lynn Stiles

10:30 to 11: Cogeneration Panel:

\* Paul Meierdierck – 5 year outlook of energy prices

\* Joe Witkowski – Cogen's Influencing Economics

\* John Imperatore – Making Rowan's Cogen Plant Economically Feasible

11 to 11:30: The College of NJ's Demand Response and Load Shedding Plan: David Ellis, Enerwise and Lori Winyard, TCNJ

11:30 to 12: Doing Well By Doing Good, The IceTec Model

12 to 12:20: North American Power Partners Demand Response Program, Lori Wiegand - Jackson

12:20 to 1: Lunch & Networking

1 to 2: Monmouth's Solar Project and Tour

Registration: <http://www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?bevaid=129632>

## Save the Date: Green Design Guideline Working Groups



Earlier this month at our Spring Green Design Workshop Bill Bobenhausen presented a final glance of what our design guidelines will look like. On June 15th at NJIT's Student Center we will be hosting the first of several Working Groups dedicated to helping our institutions and partners implement use of the guidelines.

