



NJHEPS

November 2008

From the Executive Director:

After much joint hard work by the Office of Sustainability at Princeton University and NJHEPS, we successfully pulled off hosting the Northeast Campus Sustainability Consortium (NECSC) 5th Annual Conference, “the Sustainability Puzzle- Putting the Pieces Together”, on 27-28 October on the Princeton campus. Special thanks go out to Shana Weber and Elise Demeo of Princeton, and of course, the assistance of NJHEPS’s own great staffer, Terra Meierdierck.

NECSC is a loose confederation of campus sustainability coordinators from Maine to Maryland, and its previous annual meetings have been held in Maine, Connecticut, New Hampshire and Massachusetts- this year was New Jersey’s turn, and next year it will be at the University of Vermont. NJHEPS, along with Princeton, represent New Jersey higher education institutions on the NECSC Steering Committee.

We had over 130 conference attendees, and the keynote speakers, panelists and breakout session presenters, along with the attendees themselves, made it a great event. One attendee, an executive from a New Jersey university, summed it up in an email I received today, when he said “I thought it was planned and managed perfectly... Add to that the knowledgeable speakers and panelists; the informative presentations; and the great interaction among the attendees, I can’t think of anything that could have made it any better.” New Jersey has set a high goal for Vermont to beat!

The conference started with a keynote address from Lisa Jackson, presently NJDEP Commissioner, but about to become the Governor’s Chief of Staff on 1 December. She said that she intends to apply sustainability principles across all state activities as chief of staff, but that we must remember that economic and social sustainability are as important to New Jersey as environmental sustainability, and she mentioned some of the plans to create green jobs in New Jersey to both protect the environment and fight the recession. Monday morning also saw a summary of climate change regulations by Norm Willard of USEPA and Joe Sullivan of NJBPU, and Joe also highlighted some of the goals of the new NJ Energy Master Plan (EMP) just issued on 23 October. Of particular interest to NJ colleges and universities are the EMP goals to have 1,500 MW of new cogeneration capacity by 2020, and to raise the Renewable Portfolio Standard for NJ from 22.5% to 30% by 2030 [The full EMP is at www.nj.gov/emp]. We also

arranged tours for NECSC attendees of the Princeton cogeneration plant, the organic gardens on campus, and the sustainability programs at Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory.

Next on the agenda was a Presidents Panel, where three prominent NJ higher education presidents (President Susan Cole of Montclair State, President Don Farish of Rowan, and President Jerry Ryan of Bergen Community) discussed sustainability at their varied campuses and why it was an integral part of their educational mission, even during difficult financial times. Princeton’s EVP of Administration, Mark Burstein, served as moderator, and asked pertinent and targeted questions that highlighted the difficulties of making a campus more sustainable (and the difficulties of being a college president). The presidents answered the questions with style, grace, and a sense of humor occasionally, and showed why their schools are among the leaders in implementing sustainability not just in New Jersey higher education, but around the region and across the country. I heard attendees commenting on how they wish their campuses had such great leadership.

Over the two days of the conference, we had 20 breakout sessions with 36 speakers talking about subjects such as sustainable campus food, the STARS campus sustainability rating system, changing people’s behavior, using the campus as a sustainability lab, incorporating sustainability into campus and community relations, peer-to-peer sustainability outreach programs, use of LEED ratings, sustainability and campus expansion, campus recycling, alternative energy, and how lean, systems and holistic approaches can help a campus move towards sustainability. Speakers came from Harvard, Kenyon, the Universities of Toronto, Vermont, and Connecticut, Cape Cod Community College, Cornell, Columbia, NYU, Vassar, Keane State, McGill, National University of Singapore, Green Mountain College, and from New Jersey schools such as Princeton, Rutgers, FDU, TCNJ, Rowan, and the Willow School. The conference papers and presentations will be posted soon at (www.princeton.edu/sustainability), with a link to that site to be located on NJHEPS’s website (www.njheps.org).

The highlight of the second day was a panel on “Nuclear Energy, Part of the Sustainability Puzzle Solution, or Part of the Problem?” The panel was moderated by Jeanne Fox, President of the NJ Bureau of

Public Utilities (BPU), and led off with a presentation of the status of nuclear energy by Dr. Michael Oppenheimer of Princeton, followed by comments and thoughts from the other panelists, including Ralph Izzo, Chairman and CEO of Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG), Paul Gunter of the anti-nuclear group Beyond Nuclear, and Dr. Harold Feiveson of Princeton’s Woodrow Wilson School. A spirited discussion ensued, with I think a surprising consensus arising that there were still a number of financial, regulatory, timing and technical uncertainties that prevented nuclear energy from being a short-term solution to the greenhouse gas/climate change problem, but maybe it had a role in the longer-term solution, once energy efficiency and renewable energy options were implemented. Carbon sequestration was discussed as a technology with problems similar to nuclear in regards to costs & benefits.

Princeton’s Purchasing Department opened the doors to their annual vendor fair to NECSC participants on Tuesday, since the theme of this year’s vendor fair was sustainable products and services. This highlighted that a lot of effective sustainable products for campuses are here and now, and not “out there” in the future. I also give kudos to Princeton Dining Services, who fed the participants with great organic and locally-grown food, not as a special event for us, but because that is what they feed the students and staff. I never ate that well when I was in college! Of course the settings for meals and sessions were beautiful- I felt like I was at dinner with Harry Potter at Hogwarts at times.

We welcome comments/suggestions from attendees for use in planning next year’s event at UVM, and if you were unable to attend, please take a look at the presentations and papers when they are posted, or ask us about what we heard on sustainability best practices. Some of the thoughts expressed by attendees are being considered by NJHEPS, including a possible training workshop on “how to become a campus sustainability director in 30 days or less”. We look forward to applying all we learned here in New Jersey, and continuing to highlight our New Jersey sustainability successes to the outside world as well. We hope you had a happy Halloween!

6th Annual P3 Awards: A National Student Design Competition for Sustainability

Focusing on People, Prosperity and the Planet
Open Date: 09/22/2008 - Close Date: 12/23/2008

Summary: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as part of the P3 Award Program, is seeking applications proposing to research, develop, and design solutions to real world challenges involving the overall sustainability of human society. The P3 competition highlights the use of scientific principles in creating innovative projects focused on sustainability. The P3 Awards program was developed to foster progress toward sustainability by achieving the mutual goals of economic prosperity, protection of the planet, and improved quality of life for its people - people, prosperity, and the planet - the three pillars of sustainability. The EPA offers the P3 competition in order to respond to the technical needs of the world while moving towards the goal of sustainability. Please see the P3 website (<http://www.epa.gov/P3>) for more details about this program.

NJ to Develop a 345 megawatt Offshore Wind Power Project

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) announced on October 3 that it has selected Garden State Offshore Energy (GSOE) a joint venture of PSEG Renewable Generation and Deepwater Wind to develop a 345.6-megawatt wind project off the coast of New Jersey. The BPU awarded a \$4 million grant to GSOE, of which \$400,000 will be paid upfront to conduct studies and to prepare the permit applications for the \$1 billion facility. It will consist of 96 wind turbines located 16-20 miles off the shore of Atlantic City and will barely be visible from the shore. According to the BPU, construction could begin in 2010 at the earliest, while PSEG hopes to start generating power in 2012, achieving full commercial operation in 2013.

A report prepared for the BPU in September by Global Insight examined the potential costs and benefits of a wind facility located off the shore of New Jersey and concluded that the facility would provide more than 1% of the state's electricity needs. A facility located far from shore, as the GSOE project will be, is expected to have minimal impacts on tourism, property values, and fisheries, with the greatest fisheries impacts occurring during construction. The study also found that an offshore wind facility could improve the state's image. Encouraged by the new project and the study, New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine announced his plan to triple the state's goal for offshore wind power, aiming for 3,000 megawatts of offshore wind power by 2020.

Please Visit: www.gardenstatewind.com

The World's First Wave Farm Goes Live in Portugal

The world's first commercial wave energy facility has begun operations in Portugal, after Babcock & Brown, Energias de Portugal, Efacec, and Pelamis Wave Power inaugurated the facility in late September. Located about 3 miles off the coast, the facility consists of three Pelamis Wave Energy Convertors, which each consist of four large semi-submerged cylinders connected to each other by hinged joints and moored to the ocean floor. As waves pass, the hinges bend, driving hydraulic rams that pump high-pressure oil through hydraulic motors to generate power. Each Pelamis device can generate 750 kilowatts of power, so the current facility can produce 2.25 megawatts. Future plans call for the addition of another 25 devices, bringing the total capacity of the facility to 21 megawatts.

Tidal energy technologies are also advancing, and in late September, ScottishPower Renewables announced its plans to develop the world's largest tidal stream projects. The company is evaluating three separate coastal sites in Scotland and Ireland, each of which could be outfitted with 5-20 tidal turbines. Each turbine has a capacity of 1 megawatt, so the three sites have a potential to offer a combined capacity of 60 megawatts. The projects will employ the LÅ nstrÅ, m tidal turbine, an underwater open turbine developed by Hammerfest StrÅ, m AS. The developments should give people plenty to talk about at the International Conference on Ocean Energy (ICOE) 2008, which starts today in France.

www.inhabitat.com/2008/10/22/portugal-wavepower-plant-goes-live/

Events

Building Energy 2009



March 10 - 12, 2009 :Boston, MA

Real Solutions. Real Experts: Last year, Governor Patrick appointed a Task Force on Net Zero Energy Buildings to offer recommendations on how to create buildings that create as much energy as they consume. At BE09, the Governor's Task Force will present results at the Opening Plenary, March 11. NESEA is on track to set new exhibitor records at our 34th annual conference next spring. All past exhibitors and many new to the Building Energy Conference have expressed interest in coming to Boston in March. Contact Jenny Spencer to take advantage of the exhibitor's Early Bird Special, or to increase your involvement through sponsorship. (413) 774-6051 x25 or jspencer@nesea.org.

Go Green and Save Green Event

November 13, 2008, 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Eisenhower Corporate Campus

290 West Mount Pleasant Ave. (Entrance on Beaufort Ave.)

Livingston, NJ 07039

2:00 - 5:00pm

The focus of Go Green and Save Green is to provide small businesses with easy and accessible low-cost and no-cost solutions to reduce operating costs, increase revenue and stay competitive. Sustainability is an excellent means for combating the economic downturn while doing the right thing. This event will address the needs of small business owners. All others are welcome but we will be focusing on companies with under 200 employees.

At this event, attendees will learn:

- * What sustainability means and why it matters to your business
- * Actions you can take to immediately save money and 'go green'
- * Opportunities you can leverage to increase revenue in this green economy
- * The impact of eco-friendly changes such as the improvement of indoor air quality
- * Green purchasing ideas that can improve your bottom line in immeasurable ways

The confirmed vendors are:

- * Milton Terry
- * Graphic Imagery
- * USGBC-NJ
- * East Hanover Home Depot Store 901
- * 1800PrintMe.com
- * New Jersey Environmental Lobby
- * Shaklee Independent Distributor
- * Realm Designs

Admission

Early registration FREE (before November 1st)

\$40 after November 1st

Keynote Speakers:

Albe Zakes, VP, Media Relations, Terracycle

Terracycle is one of the only companies in the country that makes products almost entirely from waste. Terracycle's success story is a tale of eco-capitalism. The company's first product was an organic fertilizer made from worm poop and packaged directly in reused soda bottles.

Bill Russell

Co-Author of The Sustainable Enterprise Fieldbook and former head of PricewaterhouseCoopers' Sustainability program.



Happenings

Campus Greenhouse Gas Inventories Using the Campus Carbon Calculator

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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The completion of a campus greenhouse gas inventory provides an essential foundation for institutional planning related to climate change. To facilitate this task, Clean Air-Cool Planet offers its free Campus Carbon Calculator, a tool designed to standardize and streamline the completion of campus-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories.

The Calculator is based on workbooks by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) for national inventories, and made compatible with the emissions accounting standards set forth in the GHG Protocol (upon which international, national and regional carbon registry and reduction programs are based.)

Currently in use at hundreds of schools across North America, the Calculator helps users ensure that their methods of data collection and emissions calculation are in accordance with commonly-accepted best practices. It facilitates analysis and presentation of campus GHG emissions from on-campus stationary sources (heating, cooking, cooling), purchased electricity and steam, transportation, solid waste, agriculture, and refrigerants.

By collecting and entering “activity data”—kilowatt hours of electricity used, gallons of fuel burned, tons of solid waste, for example—users can identify baseline emissions of six greenhouse gases (including CO₂, CH₄ and NO₂), track trends in emissions over time, and normalize emissions based on specific characteristics (per capita, square foot or operating dollar, for example.)

The Calculator, which is customizable, also offers a Project Module that allows for the estimation of GHG reductions based on specific initiatives; and an Advanced Module to aid users in projecting future energy demand and costs based on business-as-usual or other scenarios. Free training and trouble-shooting is available. The tool is designed to be accessible to students and “novices,” not just engineering or facilities experts.

Food Waste Recycling Initiative Meetings

Thursday, December 4, 2008: 10 a.m.
Room 118, Cook Office Building (Rutgers University)
55 Dudley Road, New Brunswick

Agenda:

Presentation by Renewable BioSystems—Advanced Technologies for Oil Extraction
Updates on Participant Activities
Discussion of Future Food Waste Recycling Forums
FOR-NJ discussion

PLEASE RSVP

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<http://swrrg.rutgers.edu> & <http://enviropurchasing.rutgers.edu>