



# NJHEPS

# September 2007

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*From the Executive Director:*

Hard to believe that it is September already- where did the summer go? Well NJHEPS spent it planning a lot of exciting sustainability events for higher education this fall, as we continue to combine understanding and implementing both the theoretical and practical sides of sustainability. We will have our traditional Fall NJHEPS Green Design and Clean Energy Workshops, but also a new NJHEPS Climate Change Workshop on 17 October for those schools struggling to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions in a time of continued expansion and updating of physical plant. We also plan to have a NJHEPS Sustainable Education Workshop and our annual NJHEPS Steering Committee meeting on 2 November. Needless to say, we will continue our usual sustainability information exchanges through our traditional means such as the NJHEPS Newsletter, our regular informational emails to our list-serve participants, our NJHEPS website (which is in the process of being upgraded, including the addition of a "members-only" area), our presentations to college presidents/administrators on the business case for sustainability, and our sustainability reports that we issue on a regular basis. For example, we have been very encouraged by the great interest in our recently revised "High Performance Campus Design Handbook- Volume II: Sustainable Design Guidelines", which were issued in June and are flying off our shelves in both CD and paper copy format. The New Jersey Green Building community, including architects, planners and engineers, facilities managers and campus planners, construction managers and operations managers, in both the higher education and commercial fields, have been particularly interested in these new and improved guidelines. NJHEPS owes a special thanks to Bill Bobenhausen and his NJHEPS Green Design Committee compatriots in getting this new edition off of the ground. We look forward to regular updates from NJHEPS in the future.

We are also involved in final planning for an educational seminar jointly sponsored by NJHEPS and US EPA Region II on the many voluntary programs that EPA offers higher education. For example, Energy Star is not just a label on a computer, air conditioner or washing machine; they have many services and products aimed at helping measure, track and monitor their

energy use. Energy Star's "Portfolio manager" software can benchmark and track energy performance of buildings versus peer buildings on other campuses, and their "Cash Flow Opportunity Calculator" can help evaluate various energy-upgrade financing options. They have Energy Star "Showcase Dorm Rooms" on their website that can show the environmental benefits of being environmentally efficient, and they have online "Energy Star Purchasing Tools" to help facilities, information technology and purchasing managers cut their campus energy use. Energy Star also has extensive communications and outreach materials to help higher education and the communities they operate in to see the financial and environmental benefits of energy efficiency. Any higher education institution can become an Energy Star Partner, but only 6 of the nearly 60 degree-granting schools in New Jersey have done so. Come to this seminar and see how USEPA can help us become more sustainable in our campus, operations, curricula and community. As a show of leadership, NJHEPS is submitting this week our own paperwork to become an Energy Star Partner, and I hope we can get the percentage of Energy Star partners in NJ higher education up from 10% to near 50% by this time next year. So come to this NJHEPS/EPA seminar, and join us as members in EPA's Energy Star, Performance Track, Climate Leaders, Water Sense and other EPA voluntary programs, whichever ones may make sense for your campus or organization.

Other partnership activities of NJHEPS in the coming months include serving as a co-sponsor of, and speaker at, the Trenton-BOOST Community Building Forum in Trenton on 29 September, and helping support the marketing of the BPU Clean Energy Conference on 27-28 September and the BioEnergy in New Jersey Forum on 23 October (both in New Brunswick). Partnership is a key part of NJHEPS method of operations, and we hope to continue and/or expand our cooperative efforts with NJBPU, NJDEP, the Green Building Council, the NJ Sustainable State Institute, the NJ Corporation for Advanced Technologies, the FDU Institute for Sustainable Enterprise, Trenton-BOOST, the NJ Department of Treasury, USEPA, AASHE, the Northeast Campus Sustainability Consortium, our NJHEPS

corporate sponsors, local municipalities, the Institute for Community College Development (ICCD), Environment New Jersey, and our many other sustainability partners, including several student-led organizations.

For example, in August at Cornell University, NJHEPS organized a workshop on creating consortiums at ICCD's "Sustainability for Community Colleges: Curriculum, Culture, Conservation" Conference. Besides my telling the story of how NJHEPS was founded to encourage sustainability policies and practices, our own Dr. Diane Trainor, professor and head of the Chemistry & Environmental Science Department at Middlesex County College, told the story of how NJHEPS worked with Middlesex and several other NJ schools to win NSF funding for the development of four Sustainability Webquest Seminars, which are being used now in NJ to teach sustainability concepts related to key issues such as water use and preservation of the Highlands, real estate development in the Meadowlands, sustainable community development in Trenton, and the need for increased renewable energy use in New Jersey. We also had excellent presentations from Michelle McKay and Peter Bardaglio of Second Nature on the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment consortium, and from Rabi Kieber of US EPA Region II on the creation of the NYC Green Building Partnership and other EPA partnership programs. Thanks to all the panelists for making this workshop a success, and we have already heard from ICCD that several community college presidents that were in attendance are looking to form sustainability consortiums in their regions!

So Terra and I look forward to another great year of working with New Jersey's higher education institutions on bringing sustainability into the forefront of the priority lists of boards, presidents, administrators, faculty, students, government officials, business leaders and our local communities- and we can't do it without your help!

## *Trying to Connect the Dinner Plate to Climate Change*

Ever since “An Inconvenient Truth,” Al Gore has been the darling of environmentalists, but that movie hardly endeared him to the animal rights folks. According to them, the most inconvenient truth of all is that raising animals for meat contributes more to global warming than all the sport utility vehicles combined.

The biggest animal rights groups do not always overlap in their missions, but now they have coalesced around a message that eating meat is worse for the environment than driving. They and smaller groups have started advertising campaigns that try to equate vegetarianism with curbing greenhouse gases.

Some backlash against this position is inevitable, the groups acknowledge, but they do have scientific ammunition. In late November, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization issued a report stating that the livestock business generates more greenhouse gas emissions than all forms of transportation combined.

A selection of a piece by Claudia H. Deutsch, NY Times

## *World's Largest Windfarm to be Built in Texas!*



Shell WindEnergy Inc. and Luminant announced last week that they plan to build a 3,000-megawatt wind power plant in the Texas Panhandle. That's more than four times the size of the largest wind farm currently in operation. The proposed wind facility would be located in Briscoe County to take advantage of excellent wind resources and a relatively low cost of transmitting the wind power to wholesale markets. The two companies will also explore using compressed air energy storage, which uses electric fans to force air into underground caverns, compressing it, and usually involves employing the compressed air as an oxygen source for a gas turbine. The companies did not announce a timeline for either project. Luminant was formerly called TXU Power and is a subsidiary of TXU Corporation.

<http://www.txucorp.com/media/newsrel/detail.aspx?prid=1087>

## *5th Annual P3 Awards*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, as part of the P3 Award Program, is seeking applications proposing to research, develop, and design solutions to real world challenges involving sustainability. The P3 competition highlights people, prosperity, and the planet - the three pillars of sustainability. The P3 Awards program is a partnership between the public and private sectors 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. The EPA offers the P3 competition in order to respond to the technical needs of the developed and developing world while moving towards the goal of sustainability. Please see the P3 website <http://www.epa.gov/ncer/P3>



## Events

### *BOOST @ NJHEPS Community Building Forum*

September 15 and September 29, 2007; 11am - 4pm  
Broad Street Bank Building, 143 East State Street in Downtown Trenton



BOOST is offering individuals, organizations, businesses, institutions, and agencies to showcase products, services, projects/programs, and initiatives by purchasing vending space and should draw 100 or more attendees.

Some of the presenters are world renowned artist Mel Leipzig (Role of the Arts and Artists in Revitalizing Older Cities); Angelica Redpath-Peres (How Everyday Citizens and 'Green-up' their Homes and Offices); John Cusack of NJHEPS (Higher Education and Sustainable Communities: Leadership through Example); Terri Jover of New Jersey Future (How Citizens use NJF's Smart Growth Score Card to Rate Municipal Redevelopment at the Local Level); and Robert Blakeman for P.S. and S. Keyspan (Current Best Practices: Green Building and Sustainability).

Only vendor in each field/domain will be accepted and can join Chase Bank, Butterfly Essentials, and Green Design Now, as vendors on both dates.

For more details on the free workshops & Vendor registration:  
[www.njheps.org/events/BOOST%20CBF%20Events\\_Text\\_BlackandWhite.doc](http://www.njheps.org/events/BOOST%20CBF%20Events_Text_BlackandWhite.doc)  
Call: (609) 503-7446 and discuss your interests in participating today.

### *Green Building and Sustainable Design in New Jersey*

September 18, 2007, 8:30am-4:30pm  
Parsippany Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, 707 U.S. Highway 46 East, Parsippany



This one-day seminar is designed for presidents, vice presidents, architects, engineers, contractors, project managers, developers, bankers, planners, real estate professionals, designers and attorneys. USGBC-NJ is a proud sponsor of this event. CECs provided. For complete details:

[www.magnetmail.net/images/clients/USGreenBlg/attach/Sept182007greenbuildingsusdesign.pdf](http://www.magnetmail.net/images/clients/USGreenBlg/attach/Sept182007greenbuildingsusdesign.pdf)

### *NJ Clean Energy Conference @ Leadership Awards*

September 27th & 28th, Hyatt Regency, New Brunswick, NJ



This conference provides an excellent forum for state business leaders to learn more about the economics of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies and how to hedge against rising energy costs, to leverage the financial and environmental benefits of clean energy.

With the continued growth of Clean Energy markets in New Jersey, and the increased focus on climate change, the 2007 New Jersey Clean Energy Conference and Leadership Awards has been expanded to 2 days. New workshops and programs are being added to further engage attendees, exhibitors, and sponsors and build awareness of the business opportunities inherent in Clean Energy. [www.njcleanenergy.com/conference/](http://www.njcleanenergy.com/conference/)

# Happenings

## *NJHEPS Fall Climate Change Meeting*

October 17th, 9am to 3pm  
GITC, Room 3720, New Jersey Institute of Technology

Climate change has been described as the most important societal issue of the 21st century, and a major threat to New Jersey's economy and environment.

This is the second meeting of the NJHEPS Climate Change Working Group. Please join us along with invited speakers from the NJBPU, NJDEP, and The NJ Office of Energy Savings. Topics will include Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Offsets and Campus Greenhouse Gas Planning.

Registration:  
<http://www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?bevaid=142703>

### *Save the Date:*

The Fall NJHEPS Steering Committee meeting, "Sustainable Solutions for New Jersey and Beyond", and the next meeting of the NJHEPS Sustainable Education Workshop will be held at Frist Hall at Princeton on 2 November.

Please save this date in your calendars!

### *Green Design Guidelines Now Available!*

NJHEPS newly renewed Green Design Guidelines are now available to order. To receive your copy please send a \$30.00 check to the address below, along with your business card and we will send you a copy right away. The new format is electronic, in an easily searchable PDF.

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Copies are complementary for NJHEPS member institutions and corporate sponsors. Please just send an email and we will respond with your copy: [tmeierdierck@njheps.org](mailto:tmeierdierck@njheps.org)

Want to share progress towards sustainability on your campus? Please send news items to Terra Meierdierck ([tmeierdierck@njheps.org](mailto:tmeierdierck@njheps.org)) for inclusion in our newsletter.

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