



# NJHEPS

# September 2008

*From the Executive Director:*

These are tough times to be investing in sustainability. Financial markets have taken it on the chin lately (although sustainability-related investment strategies in general are not doing as poorly as the market benchmarks), and college and university endowments are worried about not just achieving positive returns, but preserving their capital. State and county governments are facing lower tax revenues, especially in New Jersey and surrounding states. Corporate partners of NJHEPS are also starting to tighten their belts as well.

Ironically however, this may actually be a great time to invest in sustainability projects on campus and elsewhere. Energy prices are still high, and cost-effective energy-efficiency projects have less competition for resources from other investment opportunities. Many sustainability projects can be implemented in the area of changing human behavior at little or low cost. This is especially true for activities that involve students, such as efforts to get students to unplug phone and computer recharging transformers, plasma TV's and other appliances that use significant energy, even when they are in the "off" mode, or to reduce food waste (and maybe keep students a little slimmer!) by eliminating food trays in cafeterias. Other student-led initiatives have led to some college presidents in New Jersey deciding to join the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment, or schools initiating cross-campus recycling programs, on-campus farmer's markets for locally grown food, or developing "greening the curriculum" initiatives.

There is also an opportunity to integrate these low-cost, quick results with local communities, including working with municipal or county environmental commissions on implementing clean energy programs like NJBPU's Clean Power Choice Program, or adapting interesting sustainability programs from other campuses across the country. One such effort is the program at Brown University to reach out to nearby poor residents in Providence by having students go out to local neighborhoods and deliver compact fluorescent light bulbs (donated by the local Wal-Mart) to these poor residents apartments or homes, and while they are there, give the residents some low cost/no cost energy-efficiency

suggestions as well.

New Jersey higher education institutions will have a fantastic opportunity to hear about the state-of-the-art of what many other colleges and universities are doing about sustainability at the up-coming Northeast Campus Sustainability Consortium (NECSC) annual conference, "The Sustainability Puzzle: Putting the Pieces Together", being held at Princeton University (and co-hosted by Princeton and NJHEPS) on 27-28 October. There will be presentations by more than 25 sustainability leaders from higher education institutions from Singapore, Canada, Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut, New York, Massachusetts, Ohio and several schools from New Jersey. We will have on the first day a panel of four NJ college presidents (the presidents of Bergen, Montclair State, Monmouth and Rowan) to discuss sustainability, moderated by Mark Burstein, Princeton's Executive Vice President for Administration. The second day will kick off with a Master Session on "Nuclear Power- Is It Part of the Climate Change Solution, or Part of the Problem", moderated by NJ BPU Board President Jeanne Fox. Panelists will include Ralph Izzo, Chairman, President and CEO of PSEG, Paul Gunter of the environmental group Beyond Nuclear, Professor Michael Oppenheimer, Director of the Program in Science, Technology and Environmental Policy (STEP) at Princeton University, and Dr. Harold Feiveson, Senior Research Policy Scientist at Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School. There will also be tours of the Princeton Plasma Physics lab and the Princeton Cogeneration Plant to hear about their work on implementing sustainability. Finally, attendees will be able to attend the Princeton Purchasing Department's annual internal vendor fair on 28 October, the theme of which is how Princeton's vendors address sustainability. Please register as soon as possible if you wish to attend, as space is VERY limited for the conference. More information about the conference and registration is available at: [www.princeton.edu/sustainability/news/necsc-2008/](http://www.princeton.edu/sustainability/news/necsc-2008/) and I look forward to seeing many of our friends and associates at this great event.

Finally, as I have mentioned in the past,

more organizations are rating the sustainability performance of colleges and universities across the nation. Unfortunately, when rating sustainability performance, not all colleges and universities can be "above average" like the children in Lake Wobegon. New Jersey has had mixed success with some of these rating systems, with some praising New Jersey schools highly, and others not being so kind. Just this week, the Sustainability Endowment Institute (SEI) in Cambridge MA announced their the results of their third annual "Sustainability Report Card" for the 300 schools with the largest endowments. Only one New Jersey school was rated a "B", and some other New Jersey schools with well-known sustainability actions and policies were rated "C" and "C-". SEI looks at 9 categories to rate schools: administration, climate change/energy, food/recycling, green building, student involvement, transportation, endowment transparency, investment priorities and shareholder engagement. Note that one-third of the rating categories are related to endowments activities in sustainability, which might have biased the results against New Jersey schools, who traditionally have been active in green design, clean/renewable energy, energy efficiency and student involvement, but have not used the power of their investments to affect sustainability changes in society, nor perhaps communicated their successes enough on the web and in annual sustainability reports (more information on the SEI Green Report Card is available at: [www.greenreportcard.org](http://www.greenreportcard.org)).

Why should we be concerned? Well the Princeton Review recently polled 10,300 college applicants and 63% said that a college's commitment to the environment could affect their decision in choosing a college to attend. Maybe there is a lesson to be learned that we have to work harder on our making our endowment activities sustainable, and make sure these various rating organizations have accurate and up-to-date information on our sustainability performance, or risk students making us their second choice.

## *Largest Solar Energy Project in New Jersey Broke Ground at Rutgers*

Rutgers University broke ground Tuesday, Sept. 23, on a 7-acre solar-energy facility to be erected in the northeast corner of the Livingston Campus. Rutgers officials said the solar-panel array, which will border Berrue Circle and Suttons Lane, will be the largest of its type on any U.S. college campus. "It's a long haul. When you finally get to see the shovel in the ground, it makes it all worthwhile," said Tony Calcado, vice president of university facilities, who said it took about four years for the project to come together. "This is one of the most exciting projects I've done here. It touches on everybody," said Calcado, who has been with the university for 15 years.

The \$10 million solar-farm project is expected to be operating by spring 2009. It will generate, 1.4 megawatts of power, save Rutgers more than \$200,000 during the first year of operation and more than \$300,000 annually 15 years down the line. The effort is expected to take care of about 10 percent of the electrical needs on the Livingston campus and eliminate 1,200 tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually. About half of the project will be funded by Rutgers and the remainder by the state Board of Public Utilities' Clean Energy Program. The Rutgers Board of Governors approved the project last June.

Rutgers President Richard L. McCormick was among people connected with the effort who donned hard hats and picked up shovels to take part in the ceremony. Also among them was Joseph Fiordaliso, a commissioner on the state's Board of Public Utilities. "I think it demonstrates a commitment by Rutgers and the state in general to reduce the carbon footprint," said Fiordaliso. He said the savings will be the equivalent of the cost of powering 145 single-family homes on a yearly basis.

"At a time when budgets are constrained, it's very important to make a shift to clean energy," said McCormick.

## *PSEG Added to Dow Jones Sustainability Index*

The Dow Jones Sustainability Indexes (DJSI) named Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG) (NYSE-PEG) to the Dow Jones Sustainability North America Index (DJSI North America). PSEG was one of 125 companies named to DJSI North America, and one of only 10 US electric companies to be included in the index.

Launched in 1999, the Dow Jones Sustainability Indexes track the financial performance of the leading sustainability-driven companies worldwide. The DJSI North America comprises the leading 20% of North American companies in terms of sustainability performance. The DJSI measures the quality of a company's strategy and management and its performance in dealing with opportunities and risks deriving from economic, environmental and social developments and selects leading companies for investment purposes.

"Our membership in this prestigious index is noteworthy" said Ralph Izzo, chairman, president and CEO of PSEG. "I have to congratulate all the employees of PSEG for the hard work that resulted in our inclusion in this group. PSEG is committed to sustainability and the key ingredients that drive long-term financial growth: operational excellence, disciplined investment, and environmental leadership, as well as the health and safety of our employees, customers, and the communities in which we operate. Our inclusion in DJSI North America also reflects our ability to respond to the key challenge facing our company, New Jersey, and the nation: climate change."

The results of the DJSI are watched by market participants and are used by asset managers in 16 countries to manage a variety of sustainability-driven portfolios, such as mutual funds.

## *Request for Student Volunteers for the 2008 Clean Energy Conference & Leadership Awards*

The 2008 Clean Energy Conference, October 17, 2008 (Jersey City Hyatt) is just a few weeks away. Our theme this year is Investing in a Clean Tech Economy and we have a great line up of Speakers and Workshops that your students may be interested in. Each year we invite students from NJ Universities with active clean energy programs to volunteer and help out at registration or as room monitors as a way to allow them to participate and take advantage of the workshops and Agenda. Due to limited seating it does not include registration for the Awards Luncheon but the students are welcome to serve themselves from the buffet and they can take advantage of all networking opportunities and workshops.

Please contact the Conference Registrar, Dalynn Knigge at the number below asap and no later than Monday, September 29th to confirm any student volunteers from your university programs. 732-932-9271 x.622

## Events

### *USGBC - NJ Networking Luncheon @ Golf Outing*



October 10, 2008, 8:00am Shotgun: Suneagles Golf Course, Fort Monmouth, NJ

Sponsorship and 4some opportunities still available. Not only is there a golf outing for the golfers, but non-golfers are encouraged to join us for this opportune networking luncheon. Golf starts at 8am. Luncheon begins at 1pm. Practice your swing!

For complete details please visit: [www.usgbcnj.org](http://www.usgbcnj.org)

### *New Jersey Clean Energy Conference 2008*

Join us at the fourth annual New Jersey Clean Energy Conference Leadership Awards to learn about cleantech investment opportunities, financial incentives available through New Jersey's Clean Energy Program, and more.

The 2008 Clean Energy Conference and Leadership Awards is October 17 at the Hyatt Regency Jersey City. Come join 700+ clean energy market participants and exhibitors as you learn, network, and discuss the energy issues and opportunities impacting New Jersey businesses, residents, and municipalities.

Features this year include:

- \* Venture capital experts and cleantech financiers
- \* New Jersey's solar transition to market-based incentives
- \* Financial incentives for business
- \* Steps taken by successful green businesses
- \* 2008 Clean Energy Leadership Awards
- \* Networking events and roundtable discussions



For more information about conference sponsorships and exhibitor packages, please contact 1-866-NJSMART or [info@njcleanenergy.com](mailto:info@njcleanenergy.com). For more information about the conference, visit [www.NJCleanEnergy.com/conference](http://www.NJCleanEnergy.com/conference) New Jersey's Clean Energy Program is a statewide program administered by the NJ Board of Public Utilities.

### *The Sustainability Puzzle: Putting the Pieces Together*

2008 NECSC Conference - October 27-28, 2008

Please join us for the 5th Annual Northeast Campus Sustainability Consortium Conference being held October 27-28, 2008 at Princeton University. The theme this year, "The Sustainability Puzzle: Putting the Pieces Together", will look at the many interconnected and inter-disciplinary sustainability issues faced by our campuses today. Areas to be explored are: Academics, Operations, Governance and Community. Emphasis will be placed on how to engage the often disconnected members of the campus community to pursue policies and practices that result in both a smaller environmental footprint and greater awareness as a community. *cate* that we live on a finite planet and that matter and energy are not created or destroyed? Why, indeed, should students be interested in science, since every scientific discipline—chemistry, physical science, even biology—teach things which are contradicted each day by the way the world is run, as if there were no physical or chemical or biological limits at all?

The Northeast Campus Sustainability Consortium (NECSC) was established in October 2004 to advance education and action for sustainable development on university campuses in the northeast and maritime region. Organized around the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, the NECSC members have committed to an annual meeting that advances campus sustainability by providing close networking opportunities, professional development, and access to the areas vibrant and growing college and university sustainability practitioner community. The NECSC represents more than forty institutions of higher education from the northeast United States and Eastern Canadian Provinces.

Please contact us at [sustain@princeton.edu](mailto:sustain@princeton.edu) with any questions. Please visit the website for further information: [www.princeton.edu/sustainability/news/necsc-2008/](http://www.princeton.edu/sustainability/news/necsc-2008/)

# Happenings

## *Green Buildings Open House Tour*

Saturday, October 4, from 10 am to 4 pm

2008 marks the seventh year of the NESEA Green Buildings Open House, which is part of the American Solar Energy Society's National Solar Tour. In the Northeast, we have expanded this national event to include a wide range of commercial and institutional buildings, as well as buildings that use a variety of forms of renewable energy and green building technologies and materials.

The NESEA Green Buildings Open House offers a unique opportunity for members of the public to see renewable energy and other green building technologies at work; for homeowners and building managers to showcase their buildings; and for green builders, architects, and businesses to connect with the public. On the day of the event, homeowners and building managers will be on site to describe their green building features and answer questions. Members of the public can learn basic principles of green building, such as designing for solar heating ("passive solar"), energy-efficient building techniques such as superinsulation and air sealing, safe indoor air quality, and resource-efficient and healthy building materials.

To sign up, or for more information please visit the Green Buildings Open House page at [www.nesea.org](http://www.nesea.org)

## *Captured Heat Makes Rowan University Richer and Greener*

Rowan University is a school with a mission: to unite its staff and students in the campus-wide goal of achieving climate neutrality as soon as possible. Though it has implemented many innovative green measures in recent years, perhaps the most significant is the construction of a CHP cogeneration plant, completed early this year. Rowan's cogen plant is a demonstration of their green initiative, providing both energy efficiency and financial benefits. John Imperatore, Director of Facilities and Resource Management, stated that the plant should contribute to energy savings by \$1 million a year, but already it is exceeding expectations.

According to Rowan University's newspaper, Rowan Today, the university has balanced its budget for 2009 and has allocated a \$2 million increase for utilities, stating that without the cogeneration plant the total would have been \$4 million. Part of the savings comes from increased efficiency, as excess heat from the plant is directed towards supplying heating, air conditioning, and hot water to the entire campus. Finally, the plant can be run on either natural gas or #2 heating oil, allowing the university to choose the most cost effective fuel for its budget.

The CHP facility originally cost \$12 million to build, \$1 million of which was provided by a rebate from the state board of utilities. This means that if the plant meets its efficiency goals, it will have earned back its construction fee in savings in less than a decade. In addition to the financial savings, the plant has allowed Rowan to cut its emissions by 8,000 tons per year. The output of the new plant is 4.7 megawatts, up from 1.7 MW, which provides approximately 80 percent of Rowan's electricity. Generating so much clean power onsite brings the university a reported 30 percent closer to its emissions neutrality goal.

And Rowan isn't done. The university's recent decision to buy 25 percent of the remaining electricity from wind power sources is another step forward, as is its goal to have a plan for total climate neutrality in place by 2009.

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.

NJHEPS GRATEFULLY  
ACKNOWLEDGES THE  
SUPPORT OF:

NJHEPS Corporate Sponsors;  
NJ Natural Resources; New  
Jersey Board of Public Utili-  
ties; New Jersey Clean Energy  
Program; PSEG Foundation,  
ATT Foundation; and NJHEPS  
40+ Member Institutions

### NJHEPS STAFF

John L. Cusack, Executive  
Director  
Terra Meierdierck, Program  
Manager  
Nicholson Kurian, Webmaster

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Reginald Luke, President  
Daniel Watts, Immediate Past  
President  
Clint Andrews, Vice-President  
and Treasurer  
Peter Jansson, Vice-President  
Lynn Stiles, Vice-President  
Shana Weber, Vice-President

### SENIOR ADVISOR

Donald Wheeler

New Jersey Higher Education  
Partnership for Sustainability  
c/o NJIT - YCEES  
138 Warren Street  
Newark, NJ 07102  
p: 973.642.4881  
f: 973.642.7170  
[www.njheps.org](http://www.njheps.org)