

# NJHEPS Late September 2006

NJHEPS

Volume 6, Issue XI

September 21, 2006

## News from the Front Line of Sustainability: Executive Director, John Cusack

Fall is in the air as I write this column, the day after possibly our last day of 2006 above 80 degrees. However, the heat for addressing key sustainability issues continues to increase, both within New Jersey and beyond. I just became aware that the state of Illinois convened a Sustainable University Symposium on 28 June 2006, at which Illinois' Lt. Governor Pat Quinn introduced the "Illinois Sustainable University Compact", which outlines twelve environmental goals universities and community colleges may adopt on their campuses. The Compact also includes such objectives as purchasing renewable energy, improving water conservation, implementing green building practices, developing sustainable transportation options, and incorporating sustainable dining practices. Lt. Governor Quinn invited institutions of higher education across the state to identify and accomplish these attainable environmental goals by 2010 as a first step towards becoming sustainable universities. You can view the Illinois Sustainable University Compact at: <http://www.standingupforillinois.org/green/compact.html>.

Eleven Illinois institutions have signed the Compact already, including: Chicago State University, Columbia College-Chicago, Elgin Community College, Governors State University, John Wood Community College, Kishwaukee College, Northwestern University, Robert Morris College, Roosevelt University, University of St. Francis and Western Illinois University. Note that the signatories range from Big 10 schools like Northwestern to private colleges and community colleges. This list sounds just like the mix of schools we have in NJHEPS, and if New Jersey is to maintain our leadership role in sustainability, we have better get moving to stay ahead of states like Illinois!

I guess a trip to Trenton is therefore in order to speak to the key players there, as well as reporting on this development at the next New Jersey President's Council meeting- maybe NJHEPS can put together a govern-

ment/private partnership in New Jersey to sign up our higher education institutions to a New Jersey Sustainable University Compact. Hopefully this task will be made easier after a meeting I am presently scheduling with the new Treasurer of New Jersey, Bradley Abelow. I found out recently that Treasurer Abelow, who spent 15 years with Goldman Sachs before becoming New Jersey's Treasurer earlier this year, was the initial head of the innovative Environmental Policy group at Goldman Sachs before he retired to come to New Jersey government. Also, in June, in his role as NJ Treasurer, he joined with two-dozen other state treasurers and institutional investors (a group known as the Investor Network on Climate Risk-INCR), managing more than \$1 trillion of assets, to call on the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to require publicly-traded companies to disclose the financial risks of global warming in their securities filings. Since the NJ Treasury is responsible for implementing the Governor's Executive Order #11 (issued on 22 April) which outlined significant steps to increase energy efficiency in state government and, whenever possible, encouraged state agencies to purchase products that are made from renewable materials and composed of low or no toxicity materials, I think it is great we have a chief financial officer of the State that understands key environmental/ sustainability issues and their material financial relevance, and is concerned about how they affect the State of New Jersey's investments.

Does your institution's CFO understand sustainability and environmental issues and how they affect your organization's bottom line as well as our State Treasurer does? If not, please contact me and I will be glad to meet with them to discuss how sustainability can make their operations more efficient, cost-effective and sustainable. I am not encouraged by our recent NJHEPS survey that said that not a single NJ higher education endowment is making clean technology investments

or considering environmental issues as an investment criteria, and only one has a socially-responsible investment (SRI) policy- I hope we can change this over the coming years. I will have an opportunity to mention these issues to many of the CFO's and business officers of NJ higher education institutions this fall, when NJHEPS is planning to present to every New Jersey college and university CFO a copy of the book entitled "The Business Case for Renewable Energy at Colleges and Universities". This book was recently published by the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO), with lead co-sponsorship from NJHEPS (through the generous financial support of the NJBPU Clean Energy Program!). However, in case your CFO needs more personal attention, I will be glad to provide that through a one-on-one meeting.

I would also point out that Treasurer Abelow is not the only state treasurer that "gets it", as there were 8 other state treasurers who signed the global warming risk disclosure letter to the SEC. Treasurer Jeb Spaulding of the state of Vermont was also one of these signatories, and I had the honor of having Treasurer Spaulding as a member of a panel on the subject of "Climate Change and Investment" that I recently moderated at an investment conference. By the way, Treasurer Spaulding was so impressed with my description of what NJHEPS has done in New Jersey over the past 8 years, that he asked NJHEPS to help him form a "VTHEPS" for the 25 colleges and universities in Vermont! Even the head of the US Treasury, Hank Paulson (another ex-Goldman Sachs investment banker!) understands these issues, as was pointed out during his recent trip to China, where he chided Chinese government leaders to do more to protect their environment as the Chinese economy grows rapidly.

So for those of you who think you can't change the world to understand sustainability alone, don't feel bad-

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you have plenty of company to assist you on this journey! I would point out that there are a number of emerging bi-partisan efforts to make sustainability issues like climate change an important part of higher education and the electoral process. For example, there is a grass-roots group led by faculty and students from across the country called "Focus the Nation", which aims to mobilize the students and faculty of hundreds of schools across the country to make addressing climate change policy a major national bi-partisan issue in the 2008 presidential elections. I suggest you look at their new website ([www.focusthenation.org](http://www.focusthenation.org)) for more information, and I will be reporting back to you on their progress after attending a Focus the Nation symposium at Middlebury College on 30 September.

Finally, I would like to congratulate NJHEPS member Monmouth University on winning the NJ Clean Energy School of the Year Award!



## 2006 New Jersey Clean Energy Awards Winners



On Monday, September 18th, more than 550 leading businesses and energy professionals came together to attend the second annual Clean Energy Awards and Conference.

**NJ Clean Energy Business Leader of the Year:** New Jersey American Water showed leadership in undertaking more than \$5,000,000 in energy efficiency and renewable energy projects over the last 18 months.

**New Jersey Clean Energy Market Innovator of the Year:** PowerLight for the introduction of its PowerTracker technology.

**Clean Power Purchaser of the**

**Year:** Sandy Alexander was one of the first business to step up and commit to purchasing Jersey Atlantic Wind certificates from New Jersey's first Coastal Wind Farm in Atlantic City.

**NJ Clean Energy School of the Year:** Monmouth University for its commitment and energy leadership encompassing renewables and energy conservation with their recently installed 454 kw solar PV system, noted as being the largest higher education installation east of the Mississippi River.

**NJ Clean Energy Municipality of the Year:** Highland Park, one of the State's first 'green communities' using clean energy technologies

that have saved approximately \$14,000 a year. 25 % of these savings came from their Borough Hall PV installation.

**NJ Clean Energy Manufacturer of the Year:** BASF for their Near Zero Energy Home in Parsippany, NJ.

**NJ Clean Energy YOUR POWER TO SAVE Project of the Year:** ACUA because of the size and scope of its renewable energy projects which include a wind farm, solar PV installation and landfill gas to electricity generator.

Please visit:  
[www.njcleanenergy.com](http://www.njcleanenergy.com)

*"The road of excess leads to the palace of wisdom."*

*-William Blake*

## NJHEPS Joins ACORE!

This fiscal year NJHEPS joined ACORE, The American Council on Renewable Energy.

The American Council On Renewable Energy, a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization in Washington, D.C., is focused on accelerating the adoption of renewable energy technologies into the mainstream of American society through work in convening, information publishing and communications.

Founded in 2001, with a focus on trade, finance and policy, ACORE promotes all renewable energy options for the production of electricity, hydrogen, fuels and end-use energy.

ACORE will work to create better understanding of renewable energy issues through publishing initiatives, such as the new annual publication the [Renewable Energy Finance and Invest-](#)

[tors Network \(REFIN\) Directory](#), the executive briefing book on renewables and their impact on national security, jobs & economic growth and environment & climate change: Renewable Energy in America. Forthcoming publications also include a directory of renewable energy educational resources.

## New World Trade Center Complex to Pursue LEED Gold



Last week marked the fifth anniversary of the 9/11 and New York Governor George Pataki announced that the Freedom Tower and other buildings in the complex will be designed to achieve LEED Gold certification from the USGBC. The LEED certification assures that the new complex will be a model of green building and will stand as a symbol of the city's commitment to a healthy and sustainable

future.

The Freedom Tower and World Trade Center Office Towers 2, 3, and 4 will all be designed to achieve LEED Gold certification and to be 20 percent more energy efficient than required by New York energy codes. The Freedom Tower and World Trade Center Office Towers will draw on four fuel cell systems for 4.8 megawatts of power,

while the New York Power Authority and Silverstein Properties will buy a total of 184 million kilowatt-hours of renewable energy credits to offset the remaining power needs for the complex. World Trade Center 7, completed early this year, achieved LEED Gold certification in March. Construction on the Freedom Tower began in April and should be complete in five years, and the Memorial by 2009.



## AASHE 2006: The Role of Higher Education in Creating a Sustainable World

October 4-6, 2006  
University of Arizona, Tempe, AZ

We're pleased to invite you to ASU's campus for the inaugural North American conference of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE).

AASHE 2006 offers an exciting and unique opportunity for every sector of higher education to come together to demonstrate how colleges and universities can lead the way to a sustainable future. Whether student or

administrator, faculty or staff, community member or business, your participation in this inspiring event is welcome. And while at ASU, please take time to visit the new Global Institute for Sustainability.

### Keynote Speakers

- Ray Anderson - Chairman and founder of Interface, Inc.
- Beverly Wright - founder of the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice.
- Hunter Lovins - President and founder of Natural

Capitalism, Inc., and co-founder of the Rocky Mountain Institute.

- Bill McKibben - author and scholar whose books include *The End of Nature* and *Hope, Human and Wild*.

Please visit <http://www.aashe.org/conference/index.php> for registration and further details. You may register at the AASHE member rate if you are a NJHEPS member school, since NJHEPS is an AASHE member!



*The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education*

## The 2nd Annual Conference on Clean Energy: Financing and Partnering for Emerging Technologies

November 2, 2006  
8:30 AM – 5:00 PM  
Hynes Convention Center,  
Boston, MA

The Massachusetts Technology Transfer Center is pleased to announce the second annual conference promoting New Ventures in Clean Energy Technologies and the Development of the Clean Energy Cluster in the Northeast. Up to a dozen entre-

preneurs will give investor pitches promoting their business concepts and be available at exhibits for in-depth discussion. Industry sector sessions featuring successful clean energy companies will be presented by the Massachusetts Hydrogen Coalition; and the Energy Special Interest Group at the MIT Enterprise Forum will hold a Job Fair.

Featuring:

- \* The latest technologies from across the state and region
- \* Panel discussions by clean energy investors
- \* Exhibits of very early stage to mature companies in the Clean Energy Cluster
- \* Keynote speakers TBA
- \* Job Fair

For information, please contact Julia Goldberg at 617-287-7105 or [jgoldberg@umassp.edu](mailto:jgoldberg@umassp.edu) or visit [www.mattcenter.org](http://www.mattcenter.org).

*"Action is the foundational key to all success."*

*- Pablo Picasso*

## 3rd Annual Conference of the Northeast Campus Sustainability Consortium

In keeping with Yale's focus on global outreach, the 2006 conference will engage practitioners and experts from institutions of higher learning both from within and outside of the region to foster broader opportunities for exchange. After the two-day NECSC conference, attendees are invited to join us for a third day for an international round-table symposium on Saturday morning, November 4th entitled

"The role of international alliances to advance sustainability objectives on university campuses"

Every attempt will be made to reduce the environmental impact of the two events, including minimizing the need for carbon-dependent transportation between meeting and tour sites; using reusable, recycled content and recyclable materials; maxi-

mizing the use of locally and organically produced foods; minimizing the amount of waste produced; and purchasing renewable energy certificates to offset the carbon emissions of the participants traveling to and from New Haven.

Please contact Lisa Fernandez at [lisa.fernandez@yale.edu](mailto:lisa.fernandez@yale.edu) or please visit: <http://www.yale.edu/sustainability/consortium.htm>.





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*transform the higher education community, to consistently practice sustainability, and to more effectively contribute to the world's emerging understanding of sustainability, through teaching, research, outreach, operations, and community life.*



# NJHEPS

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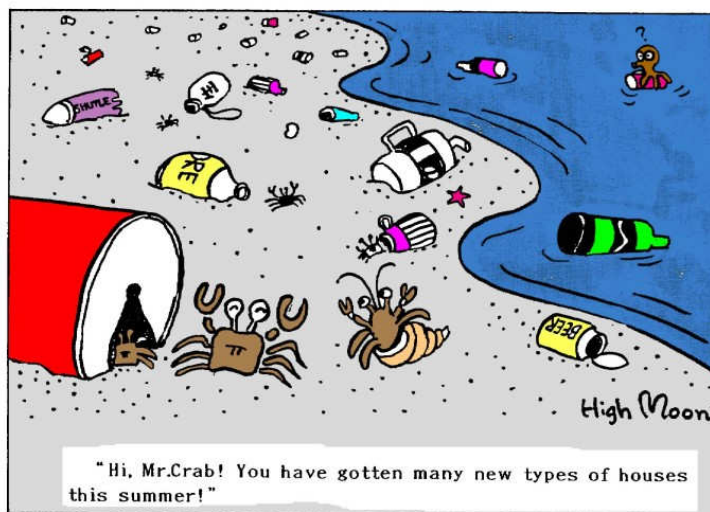
Want to share progress towards sustainability on your campus? Please send news items to Terra Meierdierck (973-642-7848; [tmeierdierck@njheps.org](mailto:tmeierdierck@njheps.org)) for inclusion in our newsletter.

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### NJHEPS GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT OF:

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[Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation;](#)  
[New Jersey Board of Public Utilities;](#)  
[New Jersey Clean Energy Program;](#)  
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and [NJHEPS 40+ Member Institutions](#)

Cartoon by Hiroshi Takatsuki



Note: In Japan, there are 125 kinds of beer containers.

## California Passes Tough CO2 Emissions Law

The California legislation passed a landmark global warming bill that caps California's emissions at 1990 levels by 2020 (representing an estimated 25 percent overall reduction from current levels); establishes a mandatory emissions reduction reporting program to the state's Air Resource Board; and establishes a "cap and trade" program allowing businesses to buy and sell emissions rights.

Several nonprofit advocacy

groups, including Environment California, Natural Resources Defense Council and Environmental Defense, were instrumental in building public support for the new bill and pushing it through the legislative process.

The legislation gets California closer to the emissions reductions specified in the Kyoto Protocol, an international agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that the U.S. government refuses to sign. The proto-

col calls for participating developed countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 5.2 percent below their 1990 levels by 2012. Environmentalists are optimistic that California's tough new stance on greenhouse gas emissions will spur other U.S. states to pass similar legislation, rendering federal inaction on the issue irrelevant as the states enforce emissions limits directly.

Source: Environment California, [www.environmentcalifornia.org](http://www.environmentcalifornia.org)

