



# HEASC News Digest

Higher Education Associations Sustainability Consortium ♦

<http://www.heasc.net>

Number 30.0 – January 15, 2008

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## **1. ACUPCC Update**

The ACUPCC continues to grow, with 8 more institutions signing on since the last digest; we now stand at **473** strong. This represents over 3.75 million students – 22% of the total student population! Also, the ACUPCC now represents 48 States! Thank you University of North Dakota.

- **Big News from the Big Ten!**: The University of Minnesota has signed the ACUPCC! The University of Minnesota is the states primary research university, a land-grant university, and has a student population greater than 50,000. The U of Minn also holds the distinction of being the first Big Ten school to sign the ACUPCC. Go Gophers!!
- **Implementation Clock Starts Jan 15th for New Signatories & New Online Reporting Form Coming Soon:** For all institutions that signed the ACUPCC after September 15, 2007, your "implementation clock start date" is January 15, 2008. This means that your 2-month report is due March 15, 2008. A new online form for submitting this report has been developed and is nearly complete – a username and password along with instructions will be sent to Implementation Liaisons next week. All of the data submitted through the .pdfs for the first 2-month report will be uploaded into the new online system. Charter signatories that have not yet submitted a two-month report are encouraged to do so using the new online reporting form.

*-Stephen Muzzy (via the ACUPCC Update 01/15)*

## 2. ACUPCC Checklist for HEASC Members

A new document has been created to help HEASC members streamline a process of supporting and updating the progress of the ACUPCC to its' constituents. The 6 item checklist ranges from posting the ACUPCC logo (with link) onto your organizations website to becoming a role model of the ACUPCC in your own operations. The document has been uploaded to the HEASC website and can be found in the 'Resources' sections under *recently added resources* and under *resources for supporting the ACUPCC*. You can also download it here: [Support the ACUPCC Checklist](#). **Coming Soon:** A template letter that can be sent to your non-signatory members outlining the commitment and asking them to join.

-Stephen Muzzy

## 3. **Only Three Days Left: Call for Presentations closes Jan 18th: NACUBO's Smart & Sustainable Campuses Conference**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual S&SSC will be held March 31 – April 2, 2008 at the University of Maryland University College Campus. The conference brings together current and future leaders in the areas of campus planning and development, environmental health and safety, sustainability, finance and business, facilities management, and procurement. This comprehensive symposium will feature sessions and workshops on smart growth and sustainable practices that serve the economy, the community, and the environment specifically in:

- **Institutionalizing Sustainability**- *Benefits, strategies, sustainability and mission, Presidents Climate Commitment, trustee engagement, committees/task forces on campus, financing sustainability, student recruitment, and marketplace advantages*
- **Operational Solutions**- *Energy, green building, transportation, procurement, and food and dining*
- **Smart Growth and Campus Planning**- *Development issues, open spaces, density, mixed uses, future growth, growth and carbon emission reduction, town/gown collaboration*
- **Assessment and Measurement**- *Behavioral changes measurement, campus improvements metrics, and reporting*

The call for presentations is open until January 18, 2008. The link to submit proposals can be found at <http://www.nacubo.org/x9790.xml>

The conference is produced from a partnership of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), **NACUBO**, the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (**AASHE**), the University of Maryland, College Park, Campus Consortium for Environmental Excellence (C2E2), **APPA**: The Association for Higher Education Facilities Officers, the Campus Safety Health and Environmental Management Association (**CSHEMA**) and the Society for College and University Planning (**SCUP**).

-NACUBO Website

## 4. **ACUHO-I's 21st Century Project is proud to announce that the Qatar Foundation has confirmed its participation in the Product Design Showcase.**

The Product Design Showcase being held February 1, 2008 in St. Petersburg, Florida will be an excellent opportunity for college housing professionals as well as architects and designers to see the innovative and groundbreaking sustainability efforts the Qatar Foundation will implement as it seeks certified LEED platinum status for its Education City residence halls. More information about the 21st Century Project event, as well as images and video of the Qatar Foundation project are available online at [www.21stCenturyProject.com](http://www.21stCenturyProject.com)

-Sallie Traxler

### **5. Congress Approves Bill Promoting Efficient, Renewable Energy on Campuses**

Congress gave final approval on Tuesday to a bill authorizing up to \$750-million annually in federal assistance for renewable-energy and energy-efficiency projects on college campuses. President Bush is expected to sign the measure, which also promises new spending for academic research on renewable energy. College officials may not see any money for a while, though. The assistance for campus projects, which would be the first of its kind from the federal government, is not authorized to begin until the 2009 fiscal year. The bill provides no dollars for any new research programs, and those were not explicitly included when lawmakers unveiled this week a separate, stripped-down, appropriations bill to finance most federal programs in 2008.

Nevertheless, the energy bill (<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d110:H.R.6>): [HR 6] establishes spending priorities that may influence future years' appropriations. The provisions affecting colleges are part of a larger, sprawling bill to reduce dependence on imported oil and find environmentally friendly sources of energy. A key provision mandates a 40-percent increase in the government's fuel-efficiency standards for all motor vehicles, from the current average of 25 miles per gallon to 35 miles a gallon\*\*the first rise in three decades.

#### Less-Wealthy Colleges Favored for Grants

For energy projects, the measure authorizes the Department of Energy to make \$250-million in grants and \$500-million in loans annually to colleges, public schools, or local governments. The bill establishes grants of up to \$1-million each for energy-efficiency improvements to facilities and of up to \$500,000 each for projects that test new techniques in energy efficiency and sustainable energy production.

At least 50 percent of the total grant money must be awarded to institutions of higher education\*\*and the bill's language specifically favors colleges with modest financial resources. The grant dollars awarded to academe must be evenly split between colleges with endowments between \$50-million and \$100-million and others whose endowments do not exceed \$50-million. Sen. Jeff Bingaman, Democrat of New Mexico, was a lead sponsor of the language on endowments. The measure also authorizes grants of up to \$250,000 to plan and design the projects.

The money, if provided, would be "absolutely critical," given the need, said Anthony D. Cortese, president of Second Nature, a nonprofit organization that supports sustainability in higher education. His group estimates that colleges face at least \$16-billion in costs just to retrofit campus buildings to make them more energy efficient.

#### Research on Biofuels Included

For research, the bill authorizes:

- \$25-million a year for grants to colleges, or consortia including a college, for research and development on biofuel production "in states with low rates of ethanol production."
- \$25-million for grants of up to \$2-million each to universities for research on renewable energy.

- \$50-million a year for grants to projects involving engineering colleges to study harnessing energy from ocean waves and tides.
- More than \$184-million annually for industrial research centers based at colleges.

Congress may be hard-pressed to finance new energy programs in the 2009 fiscal year, which begins next October, because of deep-seated disagreements with President Bush about the government's overall spending levels and priorities. But even if lawmakers do not actually provide many of those dollars authorized, a different provision of the bill could provide a significant boost to academic research on advanced biofuels other than corn-based ethanol. The bill mandates annual production by 2022 of 21-billion gallons of advanced biofuels, including 16-billion gallons of "cellulosic" ethanol.

A 2005 energy bill required refiners to produce 7.5-billion gallons of corn-based ethanol by 2012. But many experts worry that this production, using corn kernels, cannot be expanded much further without harming the environment and driving up food prices. To find an alternative, researchers are eager to unlock energy contained in plant cellulose, which makes up plants' stems and leaves. No commercial refineries currently derive ethanol this way (<http://chronicle.com/weekly/v53/i33/33a01801.htm> ]The Chronicle, April 20).

The House of Representatives approved the measure on Tuesday, 314 to 100. The Senate passed the bill last week, 86 to 8. Congress may also include provisions on sustainable energy production when it considers a bill in 2008 to renew the Higher Education Act, which sets federal policies for colleges.

*-The Chronicle of Higher Education (12/19/2007)*

### **6. Saving Money (and Going Green) by Going Virtual**

As colleges offer more and more network services to their students and faculty, the capacity to support applications like e-mail, Web access, databases and course signups doesn't materialize out of thin air. Servers take up space, gobble up energy and require maintenance like any other tool or appliance. For the full article click [here](#).

*- from Inside Higher Education 01/04/08*

### **7. Focus the Nation: Global Warming Solutions for America**

(Thursday, January 31, 2008) Focus the Nation is a major educational initiative that is coordinating teams of faculty, students and staff at over a thousand colleges, universities and high schools in the United States, to collaboratively engage in a nationwide, interdisciplinary discussion centered around the theme of "Global Warming Solutions for America." The project will culminate January 31, 2008, in the form of one-day, national symposia held simultaneously on campuses across the country. For more information go to <http://www.focusthenation.org/>.

*-Sustainability Digest*

### **8. Sign up for RecycleMania**

Does your campus care about sustainability? Show it! Sign up for the inter-campus recycling and waste minimization competition. Over 250 campuses have already registered. See the current list here: <http://www.recyclemania.org/> under "Participating Schools. These campuses are now members of the 2008 RecycleMania PLATINUM CLUB. Privileges include receiving your RecycleMania street banner, color-printed posters and

the "Starter Kit" before the beginning of the competition.

THERE IS STILL TIME to sign up as a Gold Registrant! The first 350 schools to register will receive the Starter Kit by Week 1 of the contest, which begins 1-27-08. All other campuses registering by the deadline, Friday 1-18-08, will be Silver Registrants. They will not receive the limit-edition Starter Kit but will still be able to down-load most of the printed materials from the Starter Kit off the fabulous web page accessible by clicking "Tools," then "Promoting," then "RecycleMania Posters and Web Banners."

Even if you don't currently have all the data you need to register your school, YOU WILL STILL QUALIFY for Gold or Silver Club privileges if you're among the first 350. To register, you only need to declare your intent to compete in the contest. As long as you get the data to us by the 24th, you'll be fine. RecycleMania veterans can show you easy, practical ways to overcome hurdles like promotion and measurement. If for no other reason, sign up to get access to the fabulous "Tools" section.

Remember also that participation in RecycleMania's Waste Minimization contest is one of two Tangible Actions which campuses can take in fulfillment of the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment sponsored by AASHE. See page 18 of the "Implementation Guide" here for details:

[http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/pdf/ACUPCC\\_IG\\_Final.pdf](http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/pdf/ACUPCC_IG_Final.pdf)

DON'T BE LEFT OUT OF THE FUN! Help Sustainability plug into the power-house of inter-campus rivalry, which fuels the best efforts of our campus scholars, researchers and athletes.

- Green School List-serve

### **9. Sustainability: Deepening the Conversation-**

Here is a quote from the keynote address at the International Conference on Education for a Sustainable Future in Prague, September 2003:

*"the Johannesburg World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) has made one thing unmistakably clear: the political leadership the world over is incapable of rising to the challenges of sustainability. Yet, most of the hundred or so world leaders who attended have a higher education degree from some of the world's most prestigious universities. This raises some serious questions for the higher education sector. 'Why is it that those people, who contribute most to wreaking havoc on poor communities and the Earth's ecosystems, are also those with BAs, MScs, and Ph.D.s... The fact is that the higher education sector is failing society by producing leaders incapable of addressing the most pressing problems. If higher education is the 'nursery of tomorrow's leaders', then the sector bears profound responsibilities to create a sustainable future. This implies that graduates of every discipline need a sound working knowledge about sustainability".*

From the report of the International Conference on Education for a Sustainable Future in Prague, September 2003 held by the International Association of Universities (IAU) (an affiliate of UNESCO created to bring together universities across the globe).

-Stephen Muzzy

### **10. Upcoming Events Reminder**

- **NCSE** National Center for Science Education presents Climate Change: Science and Solutions, Jan 16-18, 2008  
<http://www.ncseonline.org/2008conference/>

- **RecycleMania** begins Jan 27, 2008 <http://www.recyclemania.org/>
  - **Focus the Nation**, Jan 31, 2008 <http://www.focusthenation.org/>
  - **ACUHO-I 21st Century Project Design Showcase II**, February 1, 2008 in St. Petersburg, Florida. (*Register by January 9, 2008 and save \$100*)  
<http://www.21stcenturyproject.com>.
  - **Planning the Carbon Neutral Campus:** A course developed with the help of SCUP to be offered at the University of Colorado at Boulder. The course begins **February 4, 2008** and run through **May 9, 2008**  
<http://www.colorado.edu/ContinuingEducation/sustainable/carbonneutral.htm>
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Your articles, announcements, news blurbs are always welcome for inclusion in the HEASC News Digest. Please send to [smuzzy@secondnature.org](mailto:smuzzy@secondnature.org). Thank you!

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