



HEASC News Digest

Higher Education Associations Sustainability Consortium ♦
<http://www.heasc.net>
Number 32.0 – February 15, 2008

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1. ACUPCC Update

The ACUPCC continues to grow, 8 more institutions signed on since the last digest; we now stand at **492**, 8 away from 500! This represents over 3.75 million students in 48 States – 22% of the total student population!

- [Introducing the ACUPCC Ambassadors Program:](#)

We have developed a webpage with resources and information for "ACUPCC Ambassadors" to assist in recruiting new signatories. Ambassadors include signatories, higher education associations, partnering organizations, students, and alumni. To view the webpage click [here](#)

- [Information on the ACUPCC / Clinton Climate Initiative \(CCI\) program](#)

Can now be found at:

<http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/html/solutions.php>. Also, Honeywell has developed an extranet site for ACUPCC signatories who are interested in learning more about the ACUPCC / CCI program. The site includes performance contracting case studies, renewable energy briefs, and other materials. To request a password for the site, please contact Christina Theus at christina.theus@honeywell.com or Mike Taylor at mike.w.taylor@honeywell.com.

2. NACUBO Webcast- [Commit to Change: Leading Your Campus Towards Climate Neutrality](#)

Is your institution one of the almost 500 that have signed the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment? Thinking about signing but want to find out

more? Learn what your peers are doing to satisfy the Commitment and to lead their institutions towards a more sustainable future.

Building on the growing call for action on climate change, the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) provides a framework for institutions to become climate neutral. During this Webcast, three CFOs and a facilities director will provide an overview of the Commitment, discuss strategies for achieving climate neutral campuses, and suggest financing approaches for implementation. Moderating the event is Anthony Cortese, President of Second Nature and one of the organizers of the ACUPCC. [Register Today!](#)

Presenters:

- Anthony Cortese—President, Second Nature
- Ed Poppel—Vice President, Business Affairs, University of Florida
- Larry Eisenberg—Executive Director for Facilities Planning and Development, Los Angeles Community College District
- F. Robert Huth—Executive Vice President and Treasurer, Middlebury College
- Sherry Mondou—Vice President for Finance and Administration, University of Puget Sound

-Tadu Yimam

3. AASHE Announces Campus Sustainability Rating System Pilots

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education recently announced the launch of its pilot rating system for sustainability in higher education. Over ninety college and universities will test the self-assessment tool, called STARS (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System). Over the course of 2008, they will provide feedback to AASHE and inform STARS version 1.0, planned for release in spring 2009. The 90-plus participating campuses were selected to represent a wide range of institutional types, sizes, and geography. They include public and private schools, and community colleges and research universities. STARS is designed to help gauge the progress of colleges and universities toward sustainability in all sectors, from governance and operations to academics and community engagement; enable meaningful comparisons across institutions as well as benchmarking within institutions; create incentives for continuous improvement toward sustainability; facilitate information sharing about sustainability practices and performance in higher education; and build a stronger, more diverse campus sustainability community.

Here is the link to the [STARS Homepage](#)

See also AASHE's [Press Release](#)

One final note:

AASHE has released a [study on the position](#) (relatively new at many campuses) of sustainability officer, examining when jobs were created, reporting structures, salaries, funding sources and other factors related to the posts.

-Stephen Muzzy via AASHE Website

4. NAEP to host sustainability sessions at their Annual Meeting

Sustainability Essentials for Higher Education: Responsible strategies that add value to every initiative, process and challenge

Nearly 500 College and University Presidents have signed on to the President's Climate Commitment, and more are signing on every day. The need to integrate sustainable business practices is at the forefront of everything you do, and procurement is uniquely positioned to take a leadership role. NAEP is proud to support procurement's contributions to this important initiative with professional development that speaks to your high visibility involvement on campus. Look for the leaf symbol (to the left) in our program guide to identify all the Sustainability Essentials sessions.

For more information about these sessions please visit our Annual Meeting **Program at a Glance** by clicking [here](#).

-Toni Valenti

5. Opportunity to Cosponsor Harvard Conference on Sustainability

Great news. If any HEASC member organization wants to cosponsor the ACPA Harvard University Sustainability Institute, their members will receive the reduced member rate for registration. All they have to do is fax in the registration to ACPA at 202-296-3286. The only requirement to be a cosponsor is to let your membership know about the Institute three times, which we hope you would do anyway. It will be a conference to be proud of. To be a cosponsor, contact Jeanne Steffes at jsteffes@syr.edu.

This conference will be most effective at moving sustainability forward if people from a variety of areas in higher education attend.

The ACPA Institute On Sustainability will bring together a diverse group of professionals who serve higher education and are committed to sustainability. The goal of this institute is to invite individuals and teams from institutions to create an understanding, framework and actionable goals and tasks that can be taken back to campus and integrated into the core of the institution. Leading sustainability scholars and practitioners will discuss current trends, benchmark and promising practices, as well as afford participants with the opportunity to plan the beginning of or next institutional steps to their on-campus practice. The ACPA Institute On Sustainability will seek to create education and awareness for sustainability's triple bottom line: healthy social systems, healthy environment and healthy economy.

For more information, visit the site: <http://myacpa.org/pd/sustainability/>

-Jeanne S. Steffes

6. NACUBO Goes Green

NACUBO believes serving our members and protecting the environment can go hand-in-hand. To demonstrate our commitment to both, we are purchasing carbon-offsets to mitigate the pollution generated by participants at this year's [Smart and Sustainable Campuses Conference](#). Carbon-offsets support the production of renewable energy, which produces less pollution than its fossil fuel counterparts. Join us for NACUBO's first ever carbon-neutral event March 31 – April 2 in College Park, MD.

-Tadu Yimam

7. SCUP's Carbon Neutral Offset Program

SCUP has been working with the Higher Education Associations Sustainability Consortium (HEASC) and its coordinating agent, Second Nature, to create a program for conference attendees in which they can offset the enormous amount of carbon dioxide emissions that will result from their travel to and from the conference. As you may know, CO2 and other greenhouse gas emissions are a significant cause of global climate change.

SCUP is pleased to announce its' Carbon Neutral Offset program in partnership with the nonprofit organization, Carbonfund.org. Carbon Neutral Offset will allow attendees to purchase certified "carbon offsets" for \$25.00. One hundred percent of the donation will go directly towards reducing CO2 emissions through investments in clean renewable energy, increased energy efficiency, or carbon sequestration (i.e., planting trees). For more information click [here](#).

-via SCUP's Website

8. Fossil Fools Day

On April 1, 2008 young people from around the world are rising up to show the world that we refuse to fool around with climate change and our future. Led by the Energy Action Coalition, Canadian Youth Climate Coalition, and Rising Tide, on April 1 we will take collective action to turn the tide away from fossil fuel dependence and towards a clean and just energy revolution. On this historic day of action we will tear down the dirty energy that stands in our way, while building the better world we need.

<http://fossilfools08.org>

Energy Action Coalition is a youth-led coalition of more than 40 organizations working together to fight for a clean, just and renewable energy future. Our coalition partners are: Americans for Informed Democracy, **Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education**, Black Mesa Water Coalition, California Student Sustainability Coalition, CALPIRG, Campus Progress, Chesapeake Climate Action Network, Clean Air Cool Planet, Climate Crisis Coalition, ConnPIRG, CoPIRG, Earth Day Network, Energy Justice Network, Environmental Justice and Climate Change Initiative, Global Exchange, Greenpeace Student Network, Indigenous Environmental Network, Kids Against Pollution, League of Conservation Voters Education Fund: Project Democracy, MASSPIRG, National Association of Environmental Law Societies, National Wildlife Federation's Campus Ecology Program, NJPIRG, Rainforest Action Network, Restoring Eden, Sierra Student Coalition, Sierra Youth Coalition, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, Student Environmental Action Coalition, Students United for a Responsible Global Environment, Sustainable Endowments Institute, WashPIRG, WISPIRG, Young People For and Youth Environmental Network.

-Stephen Muzzy

9. Legislative Watch

AWEA Legislative Update: Senate fails to pass 1-year Production Tax Credit extension

PTC extension fails by 1 vote. Contact your Senators regarding their vote.

[Take Action!](#)

On February 6, 2008, the key vote on the Amendment (S.Amdt. 3983) to Economic Stimulus bill (H.R.5140) that would have extended the Production Tax Credit (PTC) for an additional 1-year fell 1 vote short of reaching the 60 votes needed to overcome a filibuster. In a procedural move, Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV) changed his vote from Yes to No in order to bring up the legislation later; therefore, the final count on the vote was 58-41.

Please contact your Senators to thank the ones who supported the PTC extension and convey your unhappiness to those who voted against the Amendment to the Economic Stimulus bill with a 1-year extension of the PTC.

A thank you letter will appear if your one of your Senators voted YES on the amendment. A letter expressing your disappointment will appear if he or she voted NO on the amendment. [Click here to see how your Senators voted.](#)

Please Take Action Yourself and Share With Your Members

-Deb Rowe

10. Sustainability: Deepening the Conversation

Well it's not particularly deep but it's certainly clever:

[Wisconsin college offers free bicycles to new students who shun cars](#)

Just say no to cars - and get a free bicycle for better health and cleaner air. That's what Ripon College is offering new students next fall in what it says is a first-of-a-kind program that keeps the college from having to build more parking lots. If freshmen sign a pledge promising not to bring a car to campus for the full year, the college will give them a Trek 820 mountain bike, a helmet and a lock - a \$400 value.

-(Associated Press) Via the NAICU News Room: Daily Update

11. Upcoming Events Reminder

- **NACUBO/ACUPCC Webcast-Commit to Change: Leading Your Campus Towards Climate Neutrality** February 27th
<http://www.nacubo.org/x9992.xml>
- **HEASC Annual Meeting**, March 26th & 27th Washington D.C
- **Smart and Sustainable Campuses Conference** March 31-April 2, 2008 Adelphi, MD. Hosted by NACUBO, AASHE, APPA, & SCUP
<http://www.nacubo.org/x9790.xml>
- **ACPA Sustainability Institute at Harvard** - June 11-14th
<http://myacpa.org/pd/sustainability/>

Your articles, announcements, news blurbs are always welcome for inclusion in the HEASC News Digest. Please send to smuzzy@secondnature.org. Thank you!

To subscribe or unsubscribe to the HEASC News Digest, email your request to smuzzy@secondnature.org.

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