



HEASC News Digest

Higher Education Associations Sustainability Consortium ♦
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1. 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](#)

-Stephen Muzzy

2. Maine's College of the Atlantic becomes 'carbon neutral'

Tiny College of the Atlantic, with 300 students and only one major, human ecology, has become the nation's first "carbon-neutral" campus. The private college said it has offset emissions of 2,488 tons over the past 15 months by investing in a greenhouse gas reduction project in Oregon. The cost: about \$25,000. The term "carbon neutral" refers to the practice of balancing the amount of carbon dioxide released into the air with the amount being removed from the atmosphere, either by using renewable energy or through carbon offsets elsewhere. To read the full article click [here](#).

-Associated Press (via the NAICU News Room: Daily update)

3. ACUPCC Update

The ACUPCC continues to grow, with **465** signatories representing over 3.5 million students – 22% of the total student population! Also, the ACUPCC now represents 48

States! (Thank you University of North Dakota). To the two remaining states (Mississippi and Nebraska) we look forward to your commitment!

- **Clinton Climate Initiative Pilot Schools:** The partnership between the ACUPCC and the Clinton Climate Initiative (CCI) continues to make great progress. Andrea Putman, author of NACUBO's Business Case for Renewable Energy, has been coordinating efforts to engage a group of pilot schools – eighteen to date – that have or are sending out RFPs for installing energy efficiency projects in existing buildings in collaboration with the CCI partner energy service companies (ESCOs) and banks. These projects reduce energy demand, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and generate cost-savings – all important early steps towards climate neutrality. They will also demonstrate the benefits of collective action and cooperative effort embodied in the ACUPCC, attracting more schools to sign. We have already heard from many schools that didn't previously see the value in joining a national initiative, and are now reevaluating the ACUPCC. For more information, contact Andrea Putman at: aputman@secondnature.org or 703-528-8579
- **2-Month Reporting Status and Reminder:** For those of you who signed the Commitment before September 15, 2007, the two-month target date for reporting on the institutional structure and identifying which of the two tangible action you plan to take was November 15th. About 220 of you have sent in reports – thank you! It is very exciting to see the 'rubber hitting the road.' That leaves about 180 of you who have not yet sent in reports. Please do so as soon as possible, as this will be one of the most effective ways for inspiring more institutions to join, and it is an important step in promoting engagement and action within your campus community. The reporting form and submitted reports are available [here](#).

-Stephen Muzzy (via the ACUPCC Update 12/15)

4. New course: Planning the Carbon Neutral Campus

Sign Up For "**Carbon Neutral University Planning**"
ENVS 4100.002 (credit) or NSCP 5100 (non-credit)

The course begins **February 4, 2008** and run through **May 9, 2008**

Are you planning how to make your campus carbon neutral? SCUP and the University of Colorado-Boulder are launching an online and live course that will bring together experts and information to expand our understanding of how to reach that goal. The course is offered live in Boulder or online for credit or non-credit through the University of Colorado Distance Education program.

As of December 2007 over 450 American colleges and universities have signed the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC), pledging to "eliminate their campus' greenhouse emissions over time." The pledge requires colleges and universities to implement certain short term carbon mitigation activities—and a two year process to create a robust plan and forecast date by which to attain campus climate-neutrality.

Many campus sustainability practitioners are now engaged in developing the plans required under the ACUPCC. The course seeks to help inform that effort through

information sharing, experts' guidance, and a targeted planning approach.

The Society of College and University Planners (SCUP) is helping inform the course through the guidance of a panel of planning experts that will interface with the class through the course [Wiki](#) and blog.

The course will feature presentations from many experts including:

- Joel Swisher, Associate Director of the Rocky Mountain Institute (author of the Oberlin College Carbon Neutral 2020 study)
- Julian Deautremont-Smith, one of the ACUPCC's authors (associate director of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, AASHE)
- Famida Ahmed, UC-Berkeley sustainability specialist and project manager for Climate Action

Many other experts will assist the lead faculty for the course, Dave Newport, Director of the University of Colorado-Boulder Environmental Center. See the course website for a more complete list of guest lectures.

The online class features a complete video of the classroom sessions with audio, PowerPoint, and electronic chalkboard capability.

To register online go to:

<http://www.colorado.edu/ContinuingEducation/sustainable/carbonneutral.htm>

Or call 303 492-5148 to register for the credit or non-credit version of this course

For more information contact:

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"What we do in the next two to three years will determine our future." I.P.C.C. chairman, Rajendra Pachauri. November 2007.

-Dave Newport (via the Green School List-serve)

5. 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

Doha, Qatar, 17 December 2007: Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development has commissioned a student housing project that aims to be

the worlds first U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) certified LEED platinum student residence halls. Upon completion, the project would yield the worlds largest collection of platinum buildings (twelve) in one location.

This is a very exciting project Qatar Foundation is committed to building a state of the art residential complex that incorporates sustainability best practice. Students will live in zero-waste residence halls where each day will provide a new lesson on how green savvy technology can help global citizens to live a responsible sustainability focused life, according to Qatar Foundation Director of Campus and Residence Life, Kevin Konecny. Through our sustainability focused programs we hope to help university students develop green lifestyle practices that will last a life time.

Drawing upon the work of the 21st Century Project of the Association of College and University Housing Officers International (ACUHO-I), which seeks to advance design best practices in university student housing, Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company and Treanor Architects, P.A. have planned the 850,000-square foot housing complex. The new housing will maximize energy efficiency and water use, utilizing wind turbines, photovoltaic cells and a bio mass wall for filtering gray water. Students living in the complex will also benefit from wireless computer systems, and smart-room technology, which allow residents to control temperature, lighting and music simply by entering the room.

From the beginning, the 21st Century Project was about colleges and universities coming together to discover innovative ways to incorporate sustainability, utilize technology, enable flexibility and build community within their residence halls, said Sallie Traxler, ACUHO-I executive director. The work that Qatar Foundation and Education City has done epitomizes these ideals and they should be commended for their work.

For more information please contact housing@qf.org.qa or +974 50 55 963 (mobile)

Or visit: www.qf.org.qa

-Sallie Traxler

6. Call for Presentations: NACUBO's Smart & Sustainable Campuses Conference

The 3rd Annual S&SCC 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

7. Update on the Higher Education Sustainability Act

[HESA \(S.2444\)](#), which authorizes \$50 million in funding for higher education sustainability programs, was introduced Tuesday morning in the Senate by Senator Patty Murray. HESA is co-sponsored by Senators Bingaman, Dodd, Kennedy, and Kerry, and supporters continue to look for Republican co-sponsorship to keep HESA as bi-partisan as possible. The House is expected to vote in mid-January on the College Opportunity and Affordability Act ([HR 4137](#)) that reauthorizes the Higher Education Act and also includes HESA. If it passes, then the conference between the House and Senate, which will decide if HESA makes it into the final bill, should occur shortly thereafter. Please endorse HESA and reach out to your Congressional delegation, if you haven't already, and thank you for all you have done to help HESA get this far.

For more information contact Jim Elder: JElderJR@aol.com

-ACUPCC Update 12/15

8. A Threat So Big, Academics Try Collaboration

The political landscape of academia, combined with the fight for grant money, has always fostered competition far more than collaboration. But the threat of global warming may just change all that. To read the full New York Times article on sustainability's role in integrating disciplines click [here](#).

-New York Times (via the NAICU News Room: Daily update 12/27/07)

9. Sustainability: Deepening the Conversation- [Human Needs](#)

In the last digest we left off with the question of whether formal education falls under the category of a fundamental human need or a satisfier of a human need(s)? In order to work towards achieving sustainability, it may be helpful to more concretely define human needs. One attempt at this has come from Chilean economist Manfred Max-Neef, in his work Human Scale Development (1991). He proposes nine fundamental, distinct, basic human needs that are common to all people. They are

Subsistence	Freedom	Participation
Protection	Affection (love)	Identity
Creativity	Understanding	Idleness

As a reminder, it is important to understand the distinction between needs and satisfiers – human needs are constitutional and distinct, while satisfiers are culturally particular and may change over time. For example, food is a satisfier for the need of subsistence. Food is clearly culturally specific, yet we all need it to survive. Of the 9 needs listed above, how many of them are currently satisfied by higher education? Is it possible that higher education could be undermining the capacity of people to meet any of these needs? What if our social and economic systems were redesigned to remove obstacles to people's capacity to meet their needs, would we then achieve a sustainable society? Should the question then be, what is the purpose of education? John Dewey anyone?

-Stephen Muzzy

10. Upcoming Events Reminder

- **AASHE** Sustainability Across the Curriculum Leadership Workshop, Jan 10 - 11, 2008 <http://www.aashe.org/profdev/curriculum.php>

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

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