

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education

*Serving the Campus Sustainability
Community*



What is AASHE?

- Organization of **colleges and universities** working to create a sustainable future.
- **Founded in 2006** to help coordinate and strengthen campus sustainability efforts (at regional & national levels) in US and Canada.
- **First North American professional association** for individuals interested in advancing sustainability in higher education.



About AASHE

- **Members**
 - Over 300 colleges and universities (70 CC's)
 - 100+ businesses, nonprofits, gov't agencies
- **Professional Development**
 - Biennial Conference, workshops, interest groups
- **Resources**
 - AASHE Bulletin
 - Online resource center

Major Projects

- **ACUPCC*** – American College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment (ACUPCC). Over 415 signatories.
www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org
- **STARS** – Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System. Piloting begins Jan '08. www.aashe.org/stars
- **HEASC*** – Higher Education Associations Sustainability Consortium. Coordinated by Second Nature.
www.aashe.org/heasc
- **DANS*** – Disciplinary Associations Network for Sustainability -
www.aashe.org/dans

**Partnerships*



AMERICAN COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY
PRESIDENTS CLIMATE COMMITMENT



The fight against global warming will shape the 21st century.

The American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment

Climate Leadership in Higher Education



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The Initiative



- Led by presidents & chancellors
 - Supported by 3 nonprofits
- High-visibility
- Power of collective action to leverage change
- Create action plans for climate neutrality
- Research & education to develop societal capacity
- Guidance & public reporting



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The Commitment



First 2
Months

Within
1 Year

Within
2 Years



Create
institutional
structures

Complete
inventory of
emissions

Develop institutional
action plan & initiate
two of seven suggested
actions



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Benefits & Opportunities



- Invite stakeholders (alumni, trustees, etc.) into meaningful purpose
- Attract faculty, students, funding
- Fulfill teaching, research, service missions
- Lead technology race
- Stay ahead of regulatory curve



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Testimonials



“We are in the middle of one of those rare moments when the right thing to do it also the economically smart thing to do.”



Kathleen Schatzberg
President, Cape Cod Community College
ACUPCC Leadership Circle Member



Snapshot



- 415 signatories (goal: 1,000 by Dec. 2009)
- 17% of all college students are represented
- 47 states (all except MS, NE, ND)
- All sizes & types of institutions
- 25% are community colleges
- 1/2 of flagship state U's have signed
- Next start date - 1/15/08



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How to Join



- www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org
- Contact:
 - Leadership Circle member
 - Tom Kimmerer, Exec. Director, AASHE
tom@aashe.org
 - Anthony Cortese, President, Second Nature
acortese@secondnature.org



**Sustainability Tracking, Assessment &
Rating System (STARS)**

**A Comparative Tool for
Evaluating Campus Sustainability**

www.aashe.org/stars

Elements of STARS

- Checklist of indicators (similar to LEED)
- Guidance document w/resources
- Integration of social sustainability
- Reporting mechanism
- Transparency; public access
- No 3rd party certification



Categories of Credits

- Governance and Finance
- Social Responsibility and Community Engagement
- Education and Research
- Operations



Goals of STARS

- Provide guide for advancing sustainability in all sectors of higher education
- Enable meaningful comparisons
- Create incentives for continual improvement
- Facilitate information sharing
- Build a stronger, more diverse campus sustainability community



Become a STARS Pilot Campus

- Information: www.aashe.org/stars
- Applications due: November 15
- More CCs will help set thresholds
- Pilots will have head start on Version 1.0 (Spring 2009)



Publications

- **AASHE Bulletin** – weekly news, events, jobs, resources. (Archives in Resource Center.)
- **AASHE Digest** -annual compilation of Bulletin items by category.
- **Campus Sustainability Perspectives (blog)** - news and views from AASHE's staff.
- **Events Calendar** - campus sustainability happenings
- **Guides and Reports** – AASHE-published; available in Resource Center.

Vision – The Model Campus

- Higher education plays **leadership role in preparing students and employees** to achieve a just and sustainable society.
- Campus serves as a **model of sustainability**
- All sectors **working collaboratively**
- Learning reflects **integrative, interdisciplinary focus** on human health, ethics, future generations, and planetary stewardship.

What Can You Do?

- Sign up for *AASHE Bulletin*
- Join AASHE!
- Attend sustainability conferences, workshops
- Communicate sustainability across campus
- Develop institution-wide sustainability plan
- Work on high visibility, high impact projects
- Celebrate success! *Campus Sustainability Day – 9/24/07*

AASHE's Mission

- **Promote sustainability in all sectors of higher education** - from governance and operations to curriculum and outreach - through education, communication, research, and professional development.
- **Definition of sustainability** - beyond environmental; encompasses human and ecological health, social justice, secure livelihoods, and a better world for all generations.

Online Resources

- **Master & Strategic Plans** – incorporating sustainability
- **Sustainability Policies** – e.g, green building, procurement, energy, and more. Over 300.
- **Publications** – articles, reports, fact sheets, books
- **List of Energy Installations** – solar, electric, wind.
- **Sustainability Websites** – at over 200 campuses.
- **Sustainability Professionals** – directory, job descrip's.
- ... and much more!



Critical Role of Higher Education



- Education, research, public service mission
- Ideal setting
 - Place for experimentation, new ideas, research
 - Faculty, staff, students working together
 - Campuses as role models; demonstration projects
 - Tomorrow's leaders shaped on campus
- Catalyze investment & develop new markets



Critical Role of Higher Education



- Demand for renewable energy
- Job creation
- Support green industries
- Innovative financing models
- Local communities engagement
- Living labs
- Incentives (scholarships, fellowships)

Professional Development

- **Biennial Conference** - AASHE 2008 in Raleigh, NC (Nov 9-12). Over 1,000 expected.
- **Workshops , Webinars** - opportunities to meet others, share resources, and collaborate on projects.
- **Co-sponsored Conferences, Events** - discounts for AASHE members.
- **Interest Groups** - to facilitate learning, networking.