



# Campus Sustainability

## Accelerating Out of the 'Stone Age'

We can sum up campus sustainability in higher education during 2006 and into 2008, with a single phrase: *It's all about acceleration!* Late last winter, Arizona State University president **Michael Crow**, speaking of our society's relationship with Planet Earth, described universities as "actually mired in the Stone Age" and our species as "still living in the final decades of the Stone Age." That statement conjures up images of the pedal-powered Flintstone's vehicle, but in fact the campus sustainability movement had begun accelerating like a Tesla Roadster with the pedal to the metal.

We know this because the Society for College and University Planning (SCUP) is constantly scanning the higher education environment for important trends. We've been watching and participating—first advocacy groups and student groups, followed by the professional associations for college administrators and then the

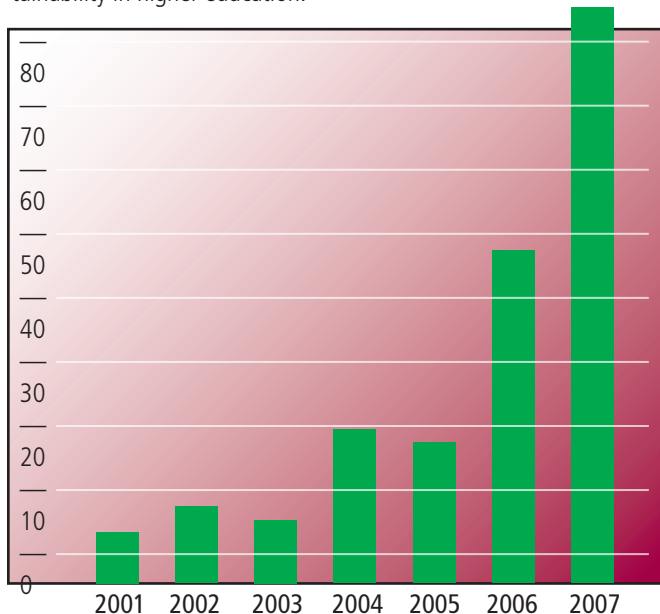
academic disciplinary associations, gathered together in various consortia and collaborative work. When the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment's leadership gathered earlier this year in Washington, they found that their own leadership from the top was encountering a prepared and responsive, campus-wide constituency.

**"Given the inability of our institutions to address the escalating complexity of our relationship with the planet, one could make the case that our universities are actually mired in the Stone Age . . . as a species we seem to be still living in the final decades of the Stone Age."**

**ASU President Michael Crowe at the Rocky Mountain Sustainability Summit**

### Sustainability in Higher Education

"Sustainability" search hits at *The Chronicle of Higher Education* ([www.chronicle.com](http://www.chronicle.com)) representing the growth in importance of sustainability in higher education.



One of the ways we monitor the higher education environment is by examining media coverage of higher education. For this report, we conducted a search inside *The Chronicle of Higher Education's* website (all departments) for all items published about "sustainability." We found a doubling of "hits" on "sustainability" from 2001 to 2004 and then another doubling from 2005 to 2006. The increase in hits from 2006 to 2007 will result in more than yet another doubling; acceleration indeed!

At the beginning of this millennium, sustainability was on the horizon but not yet a major force in higher education. That has changed forever. And as we green our campus operations, work toward climate neutrality, and instill sustainability principles into our planning for policies and curricula, higher education institutions will be centers for change for the rest of society.

We hope that you will encourage student, faculty, and administrative leaders on your campus to celebrate your achievements and work together on challenges during **Campus Sustainability Day V on October 24, 2007.**

## Where We Have Been

To see where you are headed, you need to know where you've been and where you are. This graphic timeline begins with the fall semester 2006 and ends with the beginning of the fall semester 2007. The events noted are further annotated in the paragraphs to the right. Most of the conferences repeat annually or bi-annually, and all of the associations noted—such as the ACUPCC, DANS, and HEASC, continue to grow.

### Seventh Bi-Annual Greening of the Campus Conference

*Partnering for Sustainability. Enabling a Diverse Future.*  
September 6–8, 2007

### ACUPCC Leadership Summit, Washington

*American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC)*  
June 11–12, 2007

### Second Smart & Sustainable Campuses Conference

April 17–19, 2007  
University of Maryland-College Park

### Rising to the Challenge: A Week of Climate Action

*Campus Climate Challenge*  
January 29–February 2, 2007

### Higher Education Associations Sustainability Consortium (HEASC)

January 10–11, 2007: Steering Committee Face to Face Meeting, Washington DC

### Disciplinary Associations Network for Sustainability (DANS)

*US Partnership for a Decade of Education for Sustainability*  
January 12, 2007: Seminal Meeting

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

*Strategies for Institutionalizing Sustainability in Higher Education*  
November 2–3, 2006: Yale University

### Campus Sustainability Day 2006

*Where Is Your Campus On the Continuum of Integrated Sustainability Planning?*  
October 25, 2006: Webcast by the Society for College and University Planning

### Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Conference

*The Role of Higher Education in Creating a Sustainable World*  
October 4–6, 2006: Arizona State University

# The Year of Acceleration in Campus Sustainability

## Sixth Annual UC-CSU-CCC Sustainability Conference

June 24–27, 2007

## Chill Out: Campus Solutions to Global Warming

*National Wildlife Federation's Campus Ecology Project*

April 18, 2007

## Rocky Mountain Sustainability Summit

*Forging Solutions at Colleges and Universities*

February 22–23, 2007:  
University of Colorado Boulder

## Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education Conference

*The Role of Higher Education in Creating a Sustainable World*

October 4–6, 2006, Arizona State University

At the time of this conference, the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) was not even a year old, yet hundreds of sustainability coordinators, vice presidents, provosts, students, and nongovernmental organization representatives gathered in Tempe, AZ. AASHE is still not yet two years old, yet it has 400 dues-paying institutional memberships and expects to draw 1,500+ attendees at its conference in Raleigh-Durham in early November 2008. [www.aashe.org/](http://www.aashe.org/)

## Society for College and University Planning—Campus Sustainability Day IV

*Where Is Your Campus On the Continuum of Integrated Sustainability Planning?*

October 25, 2006, virtual

More than 200 universities and colleges celebrated the fourth, annual Campus Sustainability Day (or in many cases “Week”). The webcast, provided by the Society for College and University Planning, was viewed by several thousand students, faculty, and staff. [www.scup.org/csd/4/](http://www.scup.org/csd/4/)

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

*Strategies for Institutionalizing Sustainability in Higher Education*

November 2–3, 2006, Yale University

Attendees from the more than 40 higher education institutions that are members of the consortium, as well as many

from outside the region, attended this third regional conference. Many of the presentations are available on line. [www.yale.edu/sustainability/consortium.htm](http://www.yale.edu/sustainability/consortium.htm)

## Higher Education Associations Sustainability Consortium (HEASC)

January 10–11, 2007: Steering Committee Meeting, Washington DC

For most of this millennium, a number of mainstream higher education professional and presidential associations have been assisting a growing awareness of sustainability among their members. Many of which have joined together to leverage their individual and collaborative activities by forming and participating in the Higher Education Associations Sustainability Consortium. [www.heasc.net/](http://www.heasc.net/)

## Disciplinary Associations Network for Sustainability (DANS)

*US Partnership for a Decade of Education for Sustainability*

January 12, 2007: Seminal Meeting of the First 20+ Members, Washington DC

How often does your faculty from different disciplines get together around the same issue? DANS is an informal network of professional associations working on sustainability issues across all academic disciplines. It began with this January meeting. Currently, more than 30 academic disciplinary associations are linked through DANS. [www.aashe.net/dans/](http://www.aashe.net/dans/)

## Rising to the Challenge: A Week of Climate Action

*Campus Climate Challenge*

January 29–February 2, 2007

This effort by the Campus Climate Challenge (a student-run group) had 37 partner organizations and 500+ local groups working to unite young people to fight for and win clean energy and climate policies throughout the United States and Canada. This week's activities garnered participation by more than 50,000 students on 587 campuses.

[www.campusclimatechallenge.org](http://www.campusclimatechallenge.org)

## The Year of Acceleration in Campus Sustainability Cont.

### Rocky Mountain Sustainability Summit

*Forging Solutions at Colleges and Universities*

February 22–23, 2007, University of Colorado-Boulder

More than 800 attendees from throughout the United States, including a group of more than 30 presidents and chancellors attended this conference. <http://ecenter.colorado.edu/rmss2007/>

### Chill Out: Campus Solutions to Global Warming

*National Wildlife Federation's Campus Ecology Project*

April 18, 2007, virtual

The Campus Ecology Project has been at the forefront of campus sustainability for well over a decade. Its student fellows and its annual Campus Ecology Yearbook (digital; soon in its 17th edition) are only part of the valuable work it does. Thousands watched the April 18 broadcast of the Chill Out competition-winning videos, which can be viewed on the Campus Ecology website. Written and video entries for the April 2008 broadcast are due November 30, 2007. [www.nwf.org/campusecology/](http://www.nwf.org/campusecology/)

### Second Smart & Sustainable Campuses Conference

April 17–19, 2007, University of Maryland-College Park

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), the Association of Higher Education Facilities Officers (APPA), the Campus Safety, Health, and Environmental Management Association (CSHEMA), the Campus Consortium for Environmental Excellence (C2E2), the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO), the Society for College and University Planning (SCUP), and the University of Maryland College Park collaborated to deliver a comprehensive symposium on smart growth and sustainable practices that serve the economy, the community, and the environment. [www.scup.org/profdev/sustainability/2007/epa\\_sccc.html](http://www.scup.org/profdev/sustainability/2007/epa_sccc.html)

### ACUPCC Leadership Summit, Washington

American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC)

June 11–12, 2007

With visits by government representatives such as Senator John Kerry, and keynote addresses from Eileen Claussen of the Pew Center on Global Climate Change and NASA scientist James Hansen, this group (at the time 200+ and growing) of college and university presidents kicked off its campaign. Its goal is 1,000 signatories by 2009. The media coverage generated by this event was greater than any other single higher education sustainability event to date.

[www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/html/summit.php](http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/html/summit.php)

### Sixth Annual California Higher Education Sustainability Conference

June 24–27, 2007, University of California-Santa Barbara

The University of California and its Santa Barbara campus, along with California State University and the Higher Education Energy Partnership, hosted the sixth annual UC-CSU-CCC Sustainability Conference, which had more than 850 attendees. The conference was the largest event of its kind in the short history of the global sustainability in higher education movement. The 2008 conference will be held in San Luis Obispo on July 31–August 3. [www.geog.ucsb.edu/sustainability/conference2007/](http://www.geog.ucsb.edu/sustainability/conference2007/)

### Seventh Bi-Annual Greening of the Campus Conference

*Partnering for Sustainability. Enabling a Diverse Future.*

September 6–8, 2007

This conference is held every two years and has, for fourteen years, been the place where campus sustainability coordinators and directors, faculty, students, and staff assemble to share their challenges and solutions. Its proceedings are fully available on line, including most of the past conferences. Greening of the Campus VIII will be held in 2009. <http://www.bsu.edu/greening/>

## Looking to the Future

Most of the important events being presented this academic year are still in the early stages of planning. We are certain of the following, and urge you to stay tuned to the websites referenced throughout this report.

### Gatherings:

Most of the events listed at left repeat on an annual or bi-annual basis and you should ensure active participation by your professional staff.

### Collaboration:

The academic and professional associations that have formed in support of sustainability will continue to grow and become effective agents of change—in particular, expect to see exponential growth in the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, which is planning a conference for 1,500+ campus sustainability coordinators and others for the fall of 2008.

### Action:

On-campus work toward climate change solutions will grow exponentially, especially in light of the fact that 2008 is a presidential election year. Examples of that include:

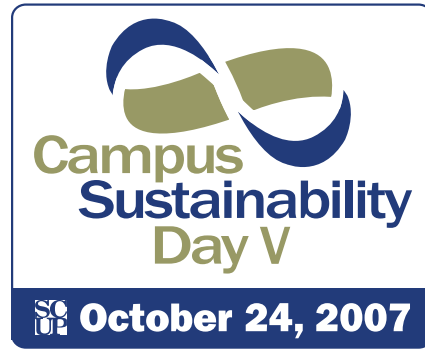
Power Shift 2007 (November 2–5, [www.powershift07.org/](http://www.powershift07.org/)),

Step It Up (, November 3, 2007, [www.stepitup2007.org/](http://www.stepitup2007.org/)), and

Focus the Nation (January 31, 2008, [www.focusthenation.org/](http://www.focusthenation.org/)).

### Presidents:

More presidents will join the 400+ who have signed the American College and University President's Climate Commitment, which is likely to reach its goal of 1,000 signatories by January of 2009.



## Building a Durable Future: Community, the Campus, and Deep Economy

Wednesday, October 24, 2007 • NOON–1:30 PM Eastern

### Presenters:

**Bill McKibben**, author of *The End of Nature and Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities* and the *Durable Future*

**Debra Rowe**, president, US Partnership for Education for Sustainable Development; co-chair, Higher Education Associations Sustainability Consortium; senior advisor, Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education; and senior fellow, Association of University Leaders for a Sustainable Future

**Norm Christopher**, director of sustainability, Grand Valley State University

**Terry Calhoun**, SCUP staff moderator, co-founder of Campus Sustainability Day and founding board member of AASHE.

**About the Webcast:** Colleges and universities are local and regional economic engines. Learn how to use your economic power to create sustainable, local prosperity. Bill McKibben will describe the principles of “Deep Economy” and how they can be incorporated into a college or a university. Norm Christopher will describe what his award-winning regional network has already accomplished. Debra Rowe will share vignettes that AASHE has collected about what many other campuses are doing to stimulate their local economies and create sustainable prosperity.

**About Campus Sustainability Day:** Each year, SCUP presents a webcast on Campus Sustainability Day. Many campuses use it as the centerpiece of their day, or even an entire week. Even if your campus is not celebrating campus-wide, you may have a sustainability committee which can get together around the webcast.

**Get Involved:** If you have a sustainability committee or task force, make sure they see this webcast. If you have a planning team working on your commitments for the ACUPCC, make sure they see this webcast. SCUP encourages cross-departmental and cross-disciplinary gatherings and this year’s topic lends itself to bringing in your off-campus community as well.

**What Others Are Planning:** Campuses including Virginia Tech, Michigan State, and Grand Valley State University are making the webcast the kickoff or focal point of an entire campus sustainability week. Activities include recreational events, poster demonstrations, panel discussions, local food meals, commuter options fairs, and more. Some campuses are sharing what they are doing on our blog at [www.scup.org/blog/csd/](http://www.scup.org/blog/csd/).

We thank the Campus Sustainability Day sponsors—  
ARAMARK Higher Education, Baltix Sustainable Furniture,  
Gilbane Higher Education, Itron, and University Business.



## ABOUT SCUP

SCUP provides knowledge and resources on best planning practices for higher education, with a particular focus on academic, facilities, infrastructure, financial, and resource planning. Headquartered in Ann Arbor, MI, and affiliated with the University of Michigan School of Education, the society will hold its next annual, international conference and idea marketplace July 19–23, 2008, in Montréal, Canada. The society is a community dedicated to providing its members with the knowledge and resources to establish and achieve institutional planning goals within the context of best practices in institutional planning. Visit [www.scup.org](http://www.scup.org).

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SCUP is offering the following program in conjunction with the New York Times.



*Climate Change and Higher Education:  
Leadership to Achieve Climate Neutrality*

available on December 12, 2007, 12:00 PM–3:30 PM, Eastern Time

[www.nytimes.whsites.net/knowledgenetwork/learning/scup-climatechange.html](http://www.nytimes.whsites.net/knowledgenetwork/learning/scup-climatechange.html)