



Sustaining Higher Education in an Age of Challenge

2010 Southern Metro Mini Conference

APRIL 7, 2010
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON, UNIVERSITY CENTER | HOUSTON, TX (USA)

REGISTRATION | 9:00 AM–9:45 AM

10:00 AM–11:00 AM | Bluebonnet

(S10M11) Embracing and Embedding Sustainability in Academia

Presented by: Richard Johnson, Director of Sustainability, Rice University

In 2008 Rice University adopted a sustainable facilities policy, underscoring their goal “of designing, constructing, operating and maintaining its buildings, grounds, and infrastructure in such a way as to be described as ecologically restorative.” Over the past decade or two, many colleges and universities have embraced the concept of sustainability in some broad manner, and are now attempting to embed it into their institutions. Richard Johnson, Rice University’s Director of Sustainability, will discuss the rise of the campus sustainability movement in higher education and share lessons for launching and sustaining a campus sustainability program.

AIA/HSW/SD 1.0 unit

11:00 AM–NOON | Bluebonnet

(S10M12) Sustainable Best Practices in Budgeting, Academic Programs, and Facilities

Presented by: Wayne Robertson, President, Energy Ace, Inc.; Dennis Topper, Retired-Interim President, Lee College
Today’s colleges and universities face ever-increasing challenges in budgeting with decreased state support for public institutions and dwindling endowments and uncertain enrollments for private institutions. Academic programs are changing at an ever-increasing rate to meet the changing needs of students and faculty, and facilities are required to change to meet these changing needs in budget and academics. Overlaying all of this change is the awareness that new models of sustainability need to be developed to meet the needs in each of these areas. This panel will examine best practices in each of these areas and share what their institutions and organizations are doing to help meet these changing needs.

AIA/HSW/SD 1.0 unit

LUNCH | NOON–12:30 PM | COUGAR DEN

12:30 PM–1:30 PM | Bluebonnet

(S10M13) Helios Plaza—A Platinum Commitment

Presented by: Gavin Dillingham, Director of Sustainable Growth, City of Houston; David Kinnaird, Project Director, BP
BP is a leading provider of energy for the needs of our ever-changing world. BP will share their approach to sustainability and how they are managing the impacts of their operations on the environment. Carbon Sequestration, Solar Power, controlling emissions and Alternative Energy Initiatives are all issues BP is addressing in a proactive and responsible manner and they have brought this leadership into the design and construction of facilities that support their businesses.

AIA/HSW/SD 1.0 unit

1:30 PM–2:30 PM | Bluebonnet

(S10M15) Respect. Honor. Preserve. Aggies Leading the Way to Sustainability.

Presented by: Keaton Tucker, Student, President, Emerging Green Builders; Kelly Wellman, Director of Sustainability, Texas A & M University

Texas A&M has embarked upon a sustainability program that impacts the University from the Administration to the Students. This session will provide insight into Texas A&M’s philosophy related to sustainability, the efforts made to engage and collaborate with multiple campus constituents and how the University is tracking their success.

The Emerging Green Builders chapter will also share how they are supporting the campus sustainability efforts through education and action and how their efforts have made a difference to the campus and surrounding community.

AIA/HSW/SD 1.0 unit

2:30 PM–3:30 PM | Bluebonnet

(S10M16) Greening Higher Education Facilities

Presented by: Dave Irvin, Assoc VC/VP, Plant Operations, University of Houston; Sameer Kapileshwair, Director of Utilities and Technical Systems, University of Houston; Joe Meppelink, METALAB, Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture, Principal, University of Houston
The University of Houston is approaching sustainability on several fronts. Two recent efforts demonstrate the University’s growing commitment to finding practical and relevant ways to green the University and the community at large. On the administrative side, the Physical Plant department underwent a retro-commissioning program that successfully reduced the amount of energy usage for several campus buildings. On the academic side, the College of Architecture faculty and

staff developed a research initiative that designs, develops and implements sustainable, renewable, green building components and systems across the architecture, engineering and construction industries. Dave Irvin, Associate Vice Chancellor and Associate Vice President for Plant Operations, will introduce the session by sharing the UH Administration and Finance's recent efforts and successes in implementing sustainable strategies on campus facilities. The UH Plant Operations received special recognition from CenterPoint Energy for successfully implementing energy efficient measures as a result of participation in the 2009 Commercial Retro-Commissioning Program. Under the direction of Sameer Kapileshwari, director of Utilities and Technical Systems, the Energy Management & Environmental Controls group has implemented suggested improvements for the last five years and has retro-commissioned 11 campus buildings. They have met and, in most cases, exceeded CenterPoint's energy savings requirement. UH is the first and only customer in CenterPoint's service territory to receive this recognition thus far. Their execution of energy improvements has saved the university approximately \$1 million dollars annually in utility expenses. The University of Houston Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture is greening the cutting edge of design and architecture with the UH Green Building Components (GBC)

research initiative. The effort is funded by nearly \$1 million in grants that are to be disbursed over three years. They will allow the college to fund faculty research initiatives as well as purchase state-of-the-art digital fabrication equipment for the design and development of environmentally sensitive building components for commercial use. Joe Meppelink, adjunct assistant professor and faculty research coordinator for the college, will discuss how the UH Green Building Components hopes to develop industrial partnerships for projects that yield prototype green building components in the coming years. He will also conduct a tour of the college's Keeland Design Exploration Center—a metal building recently transformed into a model of sustainable design and featuring the only sloped, green roof in the city.

AIA/HSW/SD 1.0 unit

CAMPUS TOUR | 3:30 PM–4:30 PM

(S10M17) Tour of Keeland Design Exploration Center

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for their hard work and dedication.*



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