



Colleges Lead the Way to Global Warming Solutions

(April 18, 2007—Reston, VA) Colleges and universities are stepping up climate leadership to confront global warming head on and the winners of the National Wildlife Federation's national competition, *Chill Out*, exemplify the significant impact they are making. If every campus, business and organization in the country followed the lead set by these schools, global warming pollution could be significantly reduced in this country along with the environmental damage it is causing.

Colleges and universities manage more than five billion square feet of space, spending more than \$18 billion annually on energy costs and emitting more than 19 million metric tons of CO₂ annually. Collectively, the National Wildlife Federation estimates that the winning schools saved approximately \$5 million annually along with removing 20,000 tons (40 million pounds) of CO₂ from the atmosphere. This is equivalent to planting 6,900 acres of trees, or removing 4,600 cars from the road.

"The projects implemented by the *Chill Out* winners put them on a fast track toward reducing their emissions of carbon dioxide by 30 percent by 2020 as recommended by the world's scientists." says Julian Keniry, Senior Director of Campus and Community Leadership for the National Wildlife Federation. "These schools, and many of the over 100 schools which entered the *Chill Out* competition, are modeling exactly what the science says should be done and are well on the pathway toward climate neutrality before mid-century."

The *Chill Out* competition was designed to identify and reward all the cool things institutions of higher learning are doing to reduce their carbon dioxide emissions. The winning schools are implementing a wide variety of projects that are making a dramatic shift toward clean, renewable sources of energy while saving the schools considerable money on their energy costs.

Some of the best examples are: covering roof space with solar panels to generate electricity; shifting from coal to local renewable sources of biomass to meet all campus electricity needs; meeting all campus heating requirements and saving a million dollars annually with geothermal energy; and using real-time energy monitoring systems to help students and staff track and reduce energy waste.

The eight top winners in the *Chill Out* competition were featured in a first-of-its-kind webcast from George Washington University in Washington DC, which was broadcast onto 160 college campuses throughout the country as part of campus global

warming events. The webcast featured an address from Al Gore about the important role colleges and universities play in developing solutions to global warming that others should emulate.

Winning schools receive a small grant from the National Wildlife Federation and a copy of the movie “An Inconvenient Truth” for showing on campus.

“Campuses are crucibles for a sustainable future free of global warming pollution,” continued Keniry. “Others should emulate their example so that we can create better career prospects for graduates, reduce our reliance on polluting fossil fuels and build healthier communities. It is a win-win proposition.”

Chill Out winners are: California State University, Chico (Grand Prize); Mount Wachusett Community College, Gardner, Massachusetts; Monmouth University, West Long Branch, New Jersey; Richard Stockton College, Somers Point, New Jersey; Oregon Institute of Technology, Klamath Falls, Oregon; University of California at Santa Barbara; Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio; Lawrenceville School, Lawrenceville, New Jersey; Temple University, Philadelphia, PA; Towson University, Towson, Maryland.

The National Wildlife Federation’s Campus Ecology Program has been an integral part of the campus greening movement since 1989. The nation’s 4,100 colleges and universities educate more than 15 million students in any given year making these schools important laboratories for developing creative solutions to major problems facing our nation like global warming.

Chill Out is sponsored in partnership with Earth Day Network, Society for College and University Planning and the Campus Climate Challenge.

The National Wildlife Federation is America’s conservation organization protecting wildlife for our children’s future, www.nwf.org.

For full details on the *Chill Out* competition go to www.nwf.org/chillout

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