



Climate Policy 101: The College Student's Guide to U.S. Climate Legislation

April 8, 2010 - Greener Campus Webinar Series



Speakers

- **Lisa Madry – National Wildlife Federation**
Director of Campus Outreach
- **Joe Mendelson – National Wildlife Federation**
Director of Global Warming Policy
- **Patrick Fitzgerald – National Wildlife Federation**
Director of Education Advocacy
- **Eban Goodstein – Bard College, Campus to Congress**
Director of Bard Center for Environmental Policy,
Campus2Congress



Overview

- Overview of Comprehensive Climate Change Legislation
- Role of Education in Climate Change Bill
- University Sustainability Program
- Community College Legislation
- Let's Talk: Campus to Congress



Clean Air Act Authority

Massachusetts v. EPA, 549 U.S. 497 (April 2, 2007).

Supreme Court held that the Administrator must determine whether or not emissions of greenhouse gases from new motor vehicles cause or contribute to air pollution which may reasonably be anticipated to endanger public health or welfare, or whether the science is too uncertain to make a reasoned decision.

Endangerment.

Current and projected concentrations of the mix of six key GHGs - CO₂, methane, nitrous oxide, HFCs, PFCs, and SF₆-in the atmosphere threaten the public health and welfare of current and future generations.

Cause and Contribute.

Combined emissions of CO₂, CH₄, N₂O, and HFCs from new motor vehicles and motor vehicle engines (24% of total US GHG emissions = 4% global) contribute to the atmospheric concentrations of these key greenhouse gases and hence to the threat of climate change.

Leads to Action by EPA

- New Greenhouse Gas Standards for New Motor Vehicles (2010)
- New Greenhouse Gas Standards for Heavy Duty Truck (end of 2010)
- Stationary Pollution Sources like Electric Generating Coal Plants (2011?)



House of Representatives

American Clean Energy Security Act (HR 2454)

Passed 219- 212 - June 26, 2009

- Efficiency and Renewable Electricity Standard of 20% by 2020
- Cap and Trade system with 17% reduction GHG pollution by 2020 and 83% by 2050
- Plan to reduce emissions from tropical deforestation by 10%
- Provides dedicated funds to safeguard our natural resources and to assist communities in adapting to the impacts of climate change
- Limits Clean Air Act authority and new standards for coal plants

<http://www.nwf.org/Global-Warming/Policy-Solutions/Climate-and-Energy/Federal-Climate-Policy.aspx>



Senate

Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act (S. 1733)

Reported out of EPW Cmte. Nov. 5, 2009

- Cap and Trade system with 20% reduction GHG pollution by 2020 and 83% by 2050
- Plan to reduce emissions from tropical deforestation by 10%
- Provides dedicated funds to safeguard our natural resources assist communities adapt to the impacts of climate change
- Maintains full Clean Air Act authority

<http://www.nwf.org/Global-Warming/Policy-Solutions/Climate-and-Energy/Federal-Climate-Policy.aspx>



Senate: Next Steps

Kerry – Graham – Lieberman Bill

Expected text mid-April 2010, Action late May/early June

- Political trade-offs to get 60 votes:
 1. Maintains 17% target 2020
 2. Different Way to Cover Fuels
 3. Stronger Promotion of Nuclear Energy
 4. Rework Offshore Drilling Situation
 5. Efficiency and Renewable Electricity Standard of 15% by 2021** (** merges w/American Clean Energy Leadership Act, S. 1462)
- Questions of Clean Air Act authority, deforestation, natural resources funding, and state programs



Education for a Green Economy Fund

- K-12
- School-To-Work
- Higher Education
- Professional Re-Education
- Consumer / Public Education



University Sustainability Program

- Newly Created and FUNDED Federal Program for Sustainability on College Campuses
- Funded in FY 2010 as one of 5 “invitational priorities under the Fund for Improvement in Postsecondary Education – RFP Expected in May



University Sustainability Program

- Total Funding for All 5 Programs is \$29 Million
- Supports Operations, Curriculum Integration, Research and Training
- Next Steps – Urge Congress to Fund USP at \$50 million in FY 2011



Role for Community Colleges

- Community College Energy Training Act (S.1097 / H.R. 3731)
- Education Ranging from Green Construction to Sustainable Agriculture and Farming
- Language Is Included in Senate Energy Bill



Current State of Play on Education

- House Bill Includes Green Jobs Act Funding
- Still Pushing for 1% for the Education for a Green Economy Fund in Senate
- Community College Fly-In Last Month
- Education and Training Sign-On Letter



What Can You Do To Help?

- Contact Your Legislators
- Visit NWF Climate Action Center
www.nwf.org/ClimateAction
- Get Signatures On:
<http://online.nwf.org/educationsignon>
- Participate in State Campus to Congress Calls!



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BARD CENTER FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

- Educational Calls between students/faculty and Senate Staff to discuss climate policy
- Faculty and Student moderated
- Question & Answer session with staffer

http://www.bard.edu/cep/lets_talk/



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BARD CENTER FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

- Upcoming Calls:
 - Missouri: Today at 3:30 ET
 - Tennessee: 4/12
 - Maine: 4/13
 - Louisiana: 4/16
- It's not too late for a call on your campus!
 - For more information: climate@bard.edu



Other Resources for Action

National Consequence Campaign

www.consequence09.org

Climate resources

www.nwf.org/climateaction

Education Sign on letter

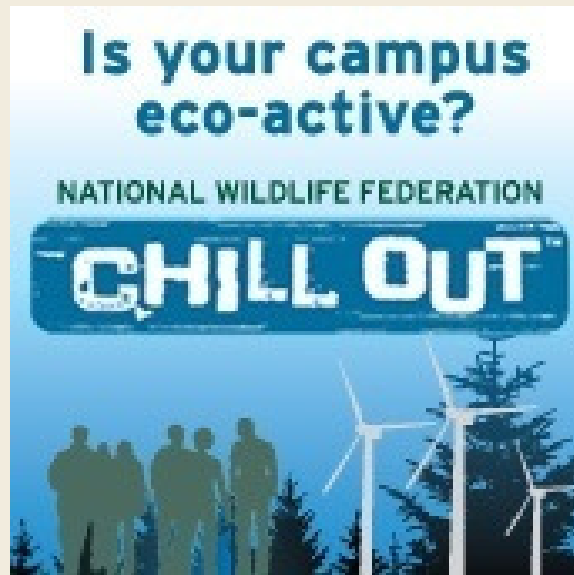
<http://online.nwf.org/educationsignon>



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Host the Chill Out Webcast for Earth Day! Celebrating 40 years!

The 2010 Chill Out webcast is a 30-minute program, FREE to download. It's a great organizing tool for your Earth Day activities.

Chill Out: Campus Solutions to Global Warming is the nation's premier competition and awards program recognizing colleges and universities for their efforts to reduce global warming pollution. Winners will be announced in the following categories: **green jobs**, **students in action**, **innovative design**, and **campus actions**.

Sign up at: www.campuschillout.org



National Wildlife Federation®
CAMPUS
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Promotes climate leadership and sustainability among colleges and universities by providing resources and technical support, creating networking opportunities and organizing education events.





National Wildlife Federation

Inspiring Americans to protect wildlife
for our children's future.



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