

C2E2 2008 Projects Summary



2008 Highlights

2008 was a year in which we celebrated our past hard work and looked to the future. After 10 long years, a lab rule for colleges and universities became federal law. Our work in the laboratory arena is by no means complete as we focus our efforts on helping members balance chemical hood health/safety considerations with campus carbon reduction goals. We also forayed into new products that build on our previous work. We developed a comprehensive set of Excel tools to conduct a campus vulnerability assessment and we began work on a self-assessment and planning process that enables an EH&S office to assess EH&S megatrends on campus and address real or perceived gaps. There is much work ahead, and we feel we are well-positioned to assist our members in these challenging economic times.

Thomas Balf
Director, C2E2

REGULATORY INNOVATION

- ▶ The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency finalized the “Lab Rule” — Subpart K — Standards Applicable to Academic Laboratories — on December 1, 2008. The publication of this rule culminates more than ten years of work on behalf of the C2E2 and other key higher education stakeholders. The University of Vermont, Boston College and the University of Massachusetts played a significant role in the passage of the final rule by piloting, for eight long years, an alternative regulatory framework and generating extensive data about the benefits of the approach. According to a recent CSHEMA survey, 40% of college and university respondents reported that they would use the new rule — if and when it becomes state law. We will continue to promote the adoption of the rule by state agencies.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS AND PERFORMANCE

- ▶ Provided extensive comments on the final draft version of the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS). Tom Balf, Director of C2E2, serves on AASHE’s Advisory Council and has been active in discussions regarding the development of the STARS program.
- ▶ Surveyed members in collaboration with the Harvard EH&S Department, on current practices in conducting a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory and measuring GHGs. Survey results, including a PowerPoint presentation prepared by Harvard, were shared with C2E2 members.
- ▶ Continued to update and host the colleges/universities sector EMS website at www.campusEMS.org

PROGRAMS, PRODUCTS AND WORKSHOPS

- ▶ Worked with other campus associations to develop the program agenda and conference for the third annual “*Smart and Sustainable Campus*” conference at the University of Maryland in April 2008.
- ▶ Initiated Phase 2 of the “Campus EH&S at a Crossroads Project” which involves the development of an “EH&S Climate” self-assessment tool and planning process. The assessment tool was reviewed in November 2008 at an all-day focus group at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. The self-assessment is intended to elicit the opinions and perceptions of EH&S staff and/or administration, faculty, staff and students. The results and visual scorecards generated from the tool can be used by the campus EH&S office to assess the “EH&S climate” on campus and determine whether, or how, campus EH&S megatrends apply. In 2009, we will complete the design of a facilitated planning process and pilot the process at two campuses which will include a stakeholder meeting and the creation of Action Plans designed to improve the effectiveness of a campus’ EH&S program.
- ▶ Produced a podcast and supported the Chemical Health and Safety (CHAS) division of the American Chemical Society in preparing a webcast on the topic of “*Chemical Hoods in the 21st Century*.” We will sponsor a workshop on the topic of balancing energy conservation with health and safety in March 2009.
- ▶ Developed a strategic plan to guide our organization for the next 2–3 years based on a strategic retreat held in June.





“C2E2’s mission

is to support the continuous improvement of **environmental management in higher education** through promotion of professional networking, information exchange, resources and tools, and the development of innovative regulatory models.”

PROGRAMS, PRODUCTS AND WORKSHOPS (continued)

- ▶ Completed work on the development of a comprehensive vulnerability assessment tool designed specifically for colleges and universities. The toolkit includes three key tools: a Campus Characteristic Worksheet, which includes open field questions to record core information about a campus/community; a Hazard Impact Analysis Worksheet which is an Excel spreadsheet tool to identify and prioritize types of hazards and vulnerabilities; and a Preparedness Gap Analysis Tool — an Excel spreadsheet to assess management readiness and prioritize preparedness steps. We hope to repackage as a web tool in 2009.
- ▶ Endorsed the application of a grant, submitted by Tom Ouimet, to NIEHS and WETP to fund EH&S e-learning video clips. If selected, C2E2 members will play an important role in reviewing topics and video clips.
- ▶ Played a prominent role in providing support and documents to the www.campuserc.org web site, which is the higher education sector website, sponsored by the U.S. EPA, and supported by NACUBO, APPA, C2E2 and CSHEMA.

OUTREACH

- ▶ Distributed more than 1500 hard copies and 2000 downloaded versions of our highly regarded *“Environmental Roles and Responsibilities in a Climate of Change: Campus EH&S at a Crossroads.”* Tom Balf also spoke about the megatrends described in the document at both the CSHEMA and AASHE annual conferences.
- ▶ The C2E2 website continues to be actively used. The site averages more than 600 visitors and 2500 hits per day and includes visitors from around the world.
- ▶ C2E2 and its members participated in various workshops, conferences and meetings on environmental health and safety compliance and campus sustainability issues.

MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY

- ▶ Current membership of 32 colleges and universities
- ▶ Hosted one all-day focus group workshop, four membership meetings, and two audio podcasts
- ▶ Conducted three surveys — two “Hot Topic” surveys and one survey on conducting a Campus GHG Inventory
- ▶ Supported the “PCBs in Caulk” workgroup which explored EPA requirements and best practices associated with this vexing issue.
- ▶ Elected new officers in March: Zehra Schneider Graham (UMass Boston) was re-elected as President; Steve Brehio was re-elected as Treasurer; and Gail Hall was elected as Clerk
- ▶ Our Executive Committee includes the three officers and Karen Misbach (Trinity), Bert Bland (Cornell), Ralph Stuart (UVM) and Rich Miller (UConn)



“The highly regarded ‘*Campus EHS at a Crossroads*’ document was distributed and downloaded to more than a thousand campuses.”