

# C2E2 2009 Projects Summary



## 2009 Highlights

2009 was a year in which we took “stock” of where we were and where we were going. How damaging was the impact of the economy on campus EH&S budgets and program objectives? How well positioned were campus environmental compliance professionals to seize opportunities associated with managing carbon and engaging administration in long term environmental strategies?

We conducted numerous surveys covering such topics as the impact of the recession, carbon reduction financing strategies, EH&S management and “hot topics.” As members focused scarce resources on core programmatic and regulatory compliance issues, we successfully leveraged our organizational strength to assist members keep their eyes on critical emerging issues — chemical hoods and laboratory

operations, carbon management, and sustainability performance rating systems. The new reality is that even in a tough economy “beyond compliance” programs are becoming mandatory due to new regulations, emerging standards and pressure in the marketplace. No rest for the weary.

Thomas Balf, Director, C2E2

### REGULATORY INNOVATION

- ▶ The C2E2 continued to promote the advantages of the “Academic Lab Rule” and support the adoption by states. Toward that goal, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, DC is working with the states and higher education association. According to EPA, the federal rule is likely to be adopted in at least 25 states in the next two years. The C2E2 is actively supporting adoption efforts in Vermont, Massachusetts and other northeast states.
- ▶ In an effort to develop a proactive and circumspect policy approach to addressing PCBs in building materials in the college and the university setting, the C2E2 convened a workgroup in 2009. The workgroup has pursued three core objectives: First, we sought to understand the management of PCB containing materials from a multitude of perspectives: the state of the art on PCB remediation strategies; the enforcement orders and guidance prescribed by EPA; the body of research on PCB fate and transport as published in peer-reviewed scientific journals; and community and building occupant concerns. Second, it was our intent to share our experiences and management approaches as EH&S professionals who advise our college and university administration on public health protection and risk management strategies. And finally, our objective is to work with EPA to develop a risk management approach that supports both the safe and effective management of PCBs in building materials and proactive and predictable building renovation programs on campus. Stay tuned.

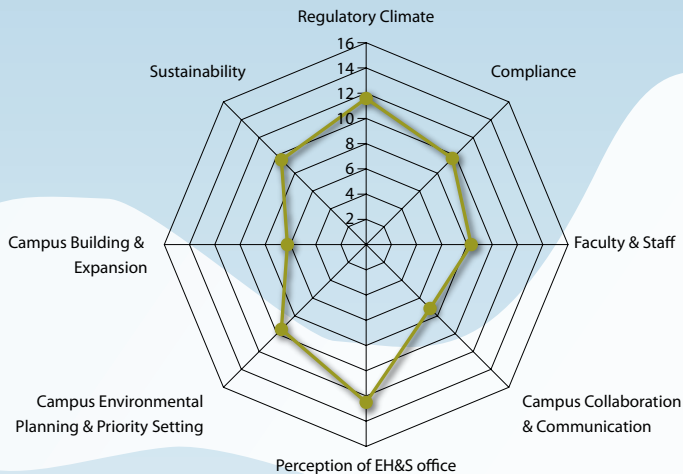
### ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS AND PERFORMANCE

- ▶ Conducted an updated survey of Environmental Management System (EMS) practices on campus. The 2009 survey sought to: understand the degree to which campuses have implemented EMSs; collect information about successful practices and challenges associated with implementing an EMS on campus; and gain insight to the relationship between a campus EMS and other relevant programs including sustainability, emergency management, regulatory compliance and operations. The final C2E2 report will be issued in 2010.
- ▶ Provided comments on the final 1.0 version of the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS), which was developed by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). Tom Balf, Director of C2E2, has been active in discussions regarding the STARS program.
- ▶ We are proud to be one of twelve Founding Partners of STARS. This endorsement reflects our members’ support for the comprehensive, thoughtful and transparent effort in developing STARS, and the hope that it can and will become the dominant campus sustainability rating framework and database.

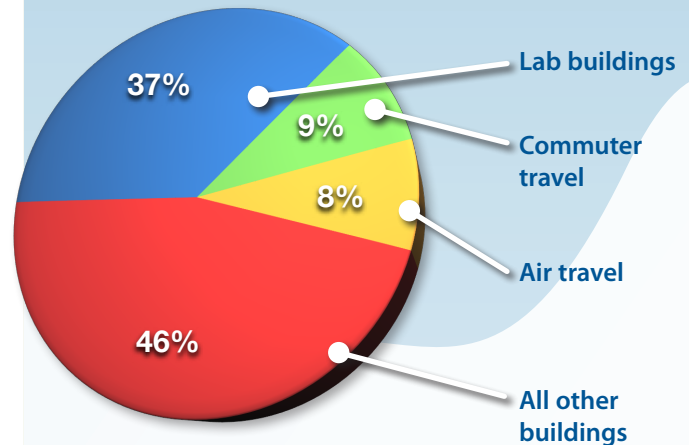
“C2E2’s mission is to support the continuous improvement of **environmental management in higher education** through promotion of professional networking, information exchange, resources and tools, and the development of innovative regulatory models.”



## EH&S strategic trends results.



## Labs are a major source of GHGs.



An example from one research university.

### PROGRAMS, PRODUCTS AND WORKSHOPS

- ▶ Continued to update and host the colleges/universities sector EMS website at [www.campusEMS.org](http://www.campusEMS.org)
- ▶ Finalized and distributed to members the “Campus EH&S Strategic Trends and Perceptions” survey tool. This web-based tool was designed to identify overall strengths, as well as opportunities for improvement, for campus Environmental, Health and Safety (EH&S) offices and related environmental functions. This product was an outgrowth of our highly successful 16-page 2008 booklet entitled “Environmental Roles and Responsibilities in a Climate of Change.” The tool empowers EH&S Departments to assess, on their campus, how these strategic and operational trends apply. The tool (<http://c2e2.emeldee.com/>) offers unique surveying, charting and database management capabilities.
- ▶ Sponsored CHEMICAL HOODS: BALANCING HEALTH/SAFETY WITH ENERGY CONSERVATION with the American Chemical Society division of Chemical, Health and Safety (CHAS). More than 80 people from 30 colleges and universities participated in this groundbreaking and extraordinarily successful event.
- ▶ Conducted multiple surveys and shared results with campus environmental professionals. Surveys covered the impact of the recession on EH&S resources and program priorities, carbon reduction financing strategies and environmental management systems.
- ▶ Worked with other campus associations to develop the program agenda and conference for the fourth annual “Smart and Sustainable Campus” conference at the University of Maryland.

### OUTREACH

- ▶ Continued to make available “cross-over” materials that have relevance to EH&S professionals as well as campus facility and sustainability professionals. Resources included C2E2 research papers, workshop proceedings, podcasts and survey results.
- ▶ Reviewed publicly available campus Climate Action Plans for material information about financing strategies. Provided members with a summary paper and presented our findings “Campus Financing Strategies for Carbon Reduction” at the 6th Annual Northeast Campus Sustainability Consortium Conference at UVM.
- ▶ The C2E2 played a prominent role in providing support and documents to the [www.campuserc.org](http://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.
- ▶ The C2E2 website continues to be actively used. The site averages more than 600 visitors and 2700 hits per day and includes visitors from around the world.

### MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY

- ▶ Current membership of 28 colleges and universities.
- ▶ Hosted one all-day technology workshop, and three membership meetings on key topical subjects — climate action plan development, STARS and EH&S Management Practices.
- ▶ Conducted members-only surveys on EH&S Hot Topics and discrete program issues.
- ▶ Re-elected Zehra Schneider Graham (UMass Boston as President and Steve Brehio as Treasurer; Gail Hall was elected as Clerk.