



Higher Education Program and Member Committee American Council On Renewable Energy (ACORE)

The American Council On Renewable Energy (ACORE), a Washington, DC-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, has announced the establishment of a Higher Education Committee (HEC) and Program, the purpose of which is to provide forums, information, tools, and other resources to facilitate three new initiatives:

- Use of renewable energy and green power on U.S. college and university campuses,
- Investment by endowments in clean energy funds and companies, and
- Resources for education of the current and future generations.

Background

The US faces serious and mounting challenges associated with energy supply, energy consumption, and the economic, environmental and climate-related consequences of those conditions. In particular, US imports of oil threaten our economic stability and national security, and the problem is only getting worse as China, India and the rest of the world put upward pressure on demand for oil at the very time that peak oil production appears to be close at hand. The outlook is grim. Our colleges and universities have a vital and urgent role to play in mobilizing our nation's intellectual capital towards solutions for our nation.

The world faces serious and mounting challenges on environmental degradation and global warming that are associated with our energy supply and demand. Our colleges and universities have a vital and urgent role to play in guiding our thinking about strategies for all nations.

In addition to leading the intellectual development of solutions, our colleges and universities can take direct action by (a) demonstrating how to transition to a cleaner and more secure energy future, (b) moving their financial strength in favor of clean energy industries by investing endowment funds to those sectors, and (c) developing educational materials and curricula for renewable energy in schools of engineering, science, law, business, public policy and other subjects.

Higher Education Committee

The HEC will bring together the leading colleges and universities that are working on renewable energy in the ways described above. The membership will consist of colleges and universities. The HEC also will seek corporate sponsors, and will allow for a category of Associate Members of vendors, service firms, NGOs, government agencies, and others.

The HEC will address three topics that will form the Working Groups within the Committee: use of renewable energy on campus, investment of endowment funds in the renewable energy industries, and the development and distribution of educational materials.

Programs are envisioned to include information publishing (such as a monthly newsletter or magazine), a series of workshops for the members, and a prestigious annual awards program in conjunction with an annual meeting, as more fully described below.

Goals of the HEC

The initial goal of the HEC will be to encourage 100 U.S. colleges and universities to purchase 100% renewable energy by 2010. A second goal is to encourage 100 colleges to invest at least 10% of their endowments into funds which support renewable energy companies by 2010. A third goal is to encourage 100 colleges and universities to create renewable energy courses of study by 2010.

Workshop Series for HEC Members

Renewable Energy on Campus Workshop Series

A series of workshops are planned, providing “how to” training on maximizing the financial value and minimizing costs of renewable energy on campus. The primary issues will relate to attracting financing and other funding support for the projects. They also will examine technical issues related to planning, designing, procuring, and maintaining renewable energy projects. The workshops will be held in three locations per year: typically, San Francisco, Denver, and New York. They will be made possible with the generous support of corporate sponsors. Illustrative topics are likely to include:

- Obtaining State Implementation Plan (SIP) funds by working with the state/local clean air office
- Achieving Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) funds by working with EPA and alleged violators
- Using leases, performance contracts, and third party model to pay for on-site systems
- Creating aggregate purchasing agreements for renewable energy
- Ownership options for on-site systems – vendor, private equity, community, and college ownership
- On-site generation for green buildings.

Endowment Enhancement Workshop Series

ACORE, in conjunction with NACUBO and United Nation’s Principles for Responsible Investment initiative, plans to offer a series of webcasts and workshops on how to strengthen college and university endowments through increased commitment to investments in renewable energy companies. The workshop examines how renewable energy investments meet prudent man criteria and have superior financial performance. The workshops will be planned for three locations per year. The endowment workshop series will be made possible by generous support from three major financial services firms.

Education Resources Workshop Series

ACORE, in conjunction with several nationally-recognized educational nonprofit groups, will plan on offering a webcast series on renewable energy related curricula, textbooks, and other teaching materials. It is envisioned that each webcast will feature a different curricula, course, textbook, or other point of interest. ACORE also will plan on operating a bookstore and resource center on its web site, specializing in educational resources. The webcast series and the online resource center will be made available through the generous support of several major corporations.

Annual Meeting and Awards Program

ACORE's Higher Education Award program is for colleges and universities that have achieved exemplary results. The awards will include monetary rewards, and be given to institutions that demonstrate leadership and innovation in the three themes. The awarded funds are to be dedicated to additional renewable energy use on campus. The awards will be funded with the generous support of several corporate sponsors, whose name will appear on each award. Categories are likely to include:

- Leadership in the use of green power on campus
- Leadership in endowment investment strategies for renewable energy
- Leadership in renewable energy education
- Innovative on-site generation projects
- Innovative financing of on-site generation
- Other categories to be developed

HEC Leadership and Governance

Chairpersons

The HEC will be led by a Chairperson and a group of 3-5 active and committed Vice Chairpersons representing a broad perspective on the mission of the committee and providing the leadership to make it successful. It is anticipated that the Vice Chairpersons will be college and university Presidents, Provosts, Trustees, Chief Financial Officers, and Deans, and other senior leaders. The Vice Chairs will assist the Chair on matters of overall strategy and governance. The Vice Chairs shall elect the Chairperson following the term of the initial Chairperson.

Steering Committee

The Chairperson and Vice Chairpersons will establish a Steering Committee of approximately 15-25 members including representatives from administrators, faculty, students, alumni, and possibly respected leaders from government agencies, NGOs and the private sector. The Steering Committee will be tasked with addressing the broad strategies and programs of the HEC.

Subcommittee (Working Group) Chairpersons

Within the HEC will be working groups or subcommittees, each co-chaired by 2-4 leading individuals who are respected by their peers in the respective area. The sub-committees will provide a forum for exchange of ideas, best practices and "lessons learned" on the subject of the subcommittee, tools with which to implement ideas, technical expertise and assistance to fellow members, and outreach opportunities.

Membership in the HEC by Colleges and Universities

Membership in the HEC by colleges and universities requires joining ACORE and payment of annual dues as a regular member, having the president of the member institution sign an acknowledgement letter, and naming a primary and secondary point of contact. The amount of annual dues varies with size:

Category	Full time enrollment	Annual Membership Dues
Very Large	20,000 and over	\$1,500
Large	10,000 to 20,000	\$750
Medium	2,000 to 10,000	\$500
Small	under 2000	\$250

Benefits of Membership

- Toolbox and Publications: Benefits will include a monthly newsletter or magazine, *Renewable Energy on Campus*; online reports; special research reports on the three areas of interest; member-only web pages with links to resources; and issue briefs on best practices.
- Professional Development and Networking opportunities: Benefits will include regional meetings in San Francisco, Denver (in conjunction w/ NREL), and New York; the 2-day annual meeting; and workshops, web casts and teleconferences.
- Discounts: Benefits will include discounts on the cost of the annual conference; regional meetings; web casts and teleconferences; advertising in *Renewable Energy on Campus*; and subscriptions to *New Energy Finance* and other ACORE publications.

Corporate Sponsors of the HEC

ACORE's Higher Education program provides an opportunity for corporations to become sponsors at several levels, allowing for their participation in the education process while putting their corporate brands in front of thousands of administrators and educators, and millions of students (future shareholders and employees), reinforcing the companies' commitments to education and renewable energy. Companies, professional service firms and other organizations that are not colleges or universities may join the HEC as a Sponsoring Member at six levels:

Leadership Sponsoring Member:	\$250,000
Platinum Sponsoring Member:	\$100,000
Gold Sponsoring Member:	\$50,000
Silver Sponsoring Member:	\$25,000
Bronze Sponsoring Member:	\$10,000
Supporting Sponsoring Member:	\$5,000

Associate Members

The HEC will provide for a category of Associate member, for companies, NGOs, government agencies and others that want to support and participate in the HEC, but are not colleges or universities. There will be certain meetings and events that are for full members only, and some that will be open to Sponsoring Members and Associate Members.

Additional Information

Institutions of higher education can provide leadership in moving the country to a cleaner energy future and, at the same time, minimize energy costs and receive a strong financial return for their endowments. As we educate tomorrow's engineers, scientists, lawyers and business leaders, institutions of higher education play a vital role in moving the U.S. toward a cleaner and more secure future. Please join us.

About ACORE

The American Council On Renewable Energy (ACORE), a Washington, DC-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is dedicated to “bringing renewable energy into the mainstream” of America’s economy and lifestyle. ACORE presents a positive message about renewable energy, being “for” renewable energy and against nothing. ACORE promotes all renewable energy options including solar energy, wind power, hydro and ocean power, geothermal energy, biomass energy, biofuels, and waste fuels. ACORE covers renewable energy in all forms including electricity, fuels, hydrogen, and end-use energy.

As a membership nonprofit organization with over 300 members, ACORE embraces the participation of many types of organizations, including but not limited to:

- **End Users** – transportation, utility, industry, commercial, and residential
- **Renewable Energy Industries** – components, systems, and services
- **Associations** - trade, labor and consumer groups
- **Professional Services** – law, consulting, architecture and engineering
- **Financial Institutions and services** – lending, investment, and insurance
- **Nonprofit Sector** – foundations, nonprofit and religious groups
- **Education** - universities, primary/secondary, and technical
- **Government** - federal, state and local.

ACORE focuses its work in three areas: trade, finance, and policy research; and in four kinds of programs: convening the renewable energy community, conducting research and analysis of key issues, publishing information, and sponsoring national communications programs. In its convening activity, ACORE is the organizer of three major events:

- **Power-Gen Renewable Energy & Fuels (PGREF)**, a conference and exposition (trade show) held each March in Las Vegas, produced in a joint venture with Pennwell Communications;
- **Renewable Energy Finance Forum–Wall Street (REFF-WS)**, a high-level finance conference held each June in New York, produced in a joint venture with Euromoney Institutional Investor;
- **Renewable Energy in America (REIA)**, a national policy forum held each autumn in Washington, DC.

ACORE is establishing committees and working groups of the members. There is a CEO Council, a Utility Committee, a Higher Education Committee, a Policy Research Committee, an International Committee, and others in formation.

In summary, ACORE is creating a leadership forum across all renewable energy sectors, building a greater sense of common purpose, developing a better understanding about renewable energy issues, and sponsoring national outreach about the benefits of putting renewable energy to use in America.

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