

PERC NEWSLETTER

VOL. 1 ISSUE 6

18 JUNE 2025

Welcome to the latest edition of the Pennsylvania Environmental Resource Consortium's bimonthly newsletter! Members can use this newsletter to stay informed on member institutions' efforts, PERC's upcoming events, and fluctuating federal and state policies while gaining positive sustainability news and recommendations!

**HIGHER EDUCATION
CONNECTING, COLLABORATING,
AND TAKING ACTION**

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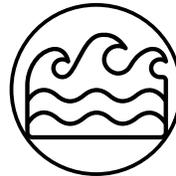
**SUSTAINABILITY
LEADERS
CONFERENCE
RECAP**

Brightside Report!



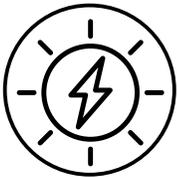
UK HEIs' DIVESTMENT PLEDGE

Over 75% of UK institutions have pledged to divest from fossil fuels, an amount equivalent to over \$17 billion in endowments.



PROGRESS ON THE GLOBAL OCEAN TREATY

Recently ratified by the European Union, the treaty binds all participants in working to protect 30% of international waters by 2030.



SOLAR'S FIRST QUARTER BREAKTHROUGH

During this year's first quarter, 98% of the new electricity capacity put in place across the United States was for solar and its expansion.



LARGEST AGGREGATED STATE SOLAR PPA

Eleven entities, including the State College Area School District, have joined the largest by-member state aggregated solar PPA, which will save taxpayers \$4.4 million over 15 years.



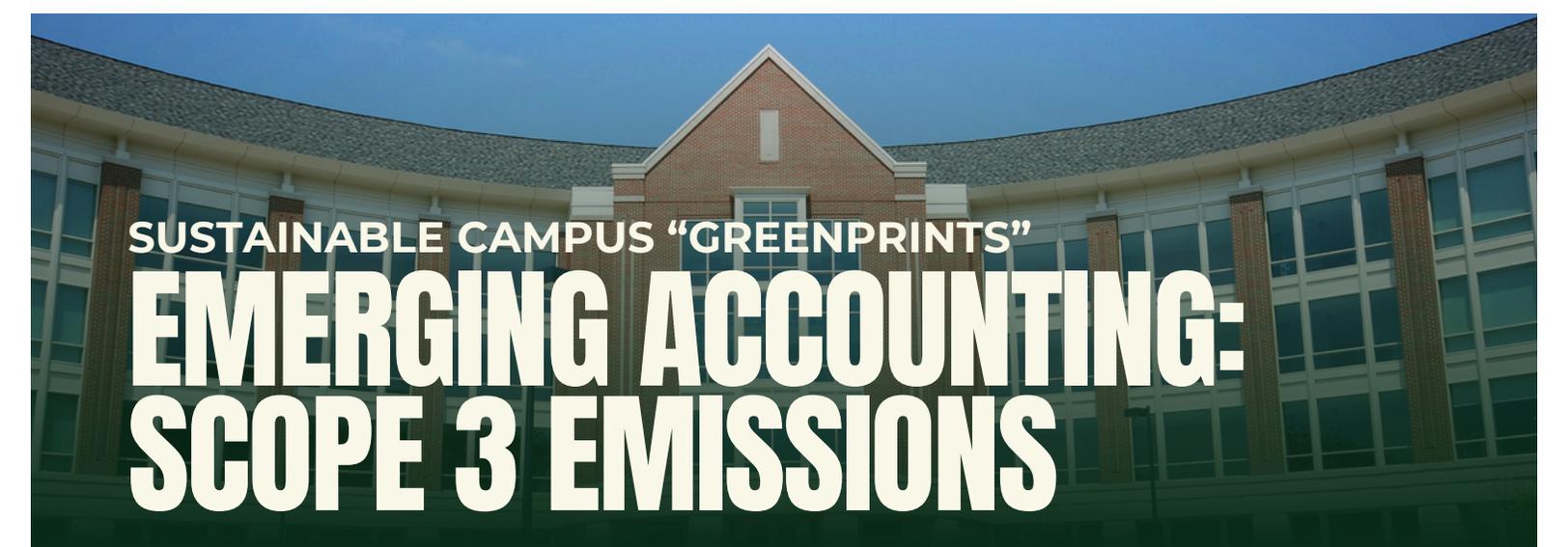
LIVERPOOL FOOTBALL VERSUS FOSSIL FUELS

For PERC's sports fans, the Liverpool Football Club's facilities, including the stadium and training club, are now run by 96% renewable energy!



PROTECTING STATE PARKS ONE BILL AT A TIME

Florida's newly instituted State Park Preservation Act protects the state's 175 parks from development, thus preserving critical ecosystems.



SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS “GREENPRINTS”

EMERGING ACCOUNTING: SCOPE 3 EMISSIONS

Many who work in the sustainability, operations, and facility fields have encountered, if not memorized, the basic three scopes of emissions. However, as Scope 3 emissions continue to move into the limelight for emissions accounting, we asked Ken Shultes, a Senior Advisor at the Stone House Group, about their current and future role in campus environments.

In your experience, what are Scope 3 emissions and how do they connect to institutional campuses?

I used to think that if you added up all of the Scope 1, Scope 2 and Scope 3 emissions from all organizations and added them together that the result would be the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions impacting the planet. It turns out this is not how carbon accounting works, and that is largely because of the way we account for Scope 3 emissions!

Scope 3 Emissions are indirect emissions that occur in your campus' value chain- which includes your purchases and your waste. They include your campus' upstream and downstream emissions. I think of them as generally falling into three main categories, being upstream or supply chain emissions from the purchase of goods and services; downstream or waste related emissions; and travel related emissions –although not including campus fleet vehicles, since those are direct emissions that belong in Scope 1.

For many campuses, one of the main sources of supply chain emissions comes from the procurement of food for campus dining halls. Another significant area rests in the procurement of maintenance and construction materials, as well as electronics and campus vehicles.

One of the typical struggles reported with Scope 3 emissions is the accounting process. How does one go about Scope 3 emissions accounting?

Since Scope 3 emissions are generated from an organization's value chain, it is necessarily the case that one organization's Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions are another institution's Scope 3 emissions. I'll admit that it took me a while to grasp this reality. What this means is that organizations seeking to mitigate their Scope 3 emissions must actively research the carbon footprints of their supply chain and then make procurement decisions and take action accordingly.

Admittedly, it is particularly challenging to account for Scope 3 Emissions related to supply chain and procurement. Supply Chain emissions include emissions that result from the raw materials that are used to make a product, the manufacturing of the product, the transportation of the product from the point of manufacture or in the case of food, from the point of harvest, all the way to campus. You need to perform a Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) of each product purchased by your campus, and then assess and calculate the emissions that come from each stage of the life cycle. It's hard to do!

In fact, it's so challenging that many campuses, and in my estimation the majority of college and universities striving for carbon neutrality, have essentially decided to focus on Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions, and to pick and choose the easiest Scope 3 Emissions to calculate, and to essentially call it a day. The problem is, Scope 3 Emissions are responsible for more than 75% of the total emissions on the planet.

SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS “GREENPRINTS”

EMERGING ACCOUNTING: SCOPE 3 EMISSIONS

Can you compare Scope 3 emissions’ integration into corporate and industry sectors to the higher education space?

In March, I attended the North American Sustainability and Responsibility Summit (NASRS) in Denver Colorado. I’ve attended many conferences focused on sustainability and carbon neutrality in Higher Education – AASHE, Second Nature, SCUP and more – but the NASRS is a conference which focuses on sustainability in the corporate world, and I was fascinated by the emphasis on supply chain, circularity, LCA, and all-things Scope 3.

I left the conference feeling as though Higher Education was missing a very big piece of the carbon neutrality and resilience puzzle by de-prioritizing Scope 3 Emissions. If our campuses are meant to prepare our graduates to be leaders in their communities and careers, the marginalization of Scope 3 seems like a serious issue.

For example, the Greenhouse Gas Protocol includes 15 sources of emissions in Scope 3. Many campuses do report on a number of the sources which do not require a great deal of supply chain research and/or intervention. These sources include transportation – such as air travel, business travel and employee commutes. Many campuses include waste sources such as waste-water and landfill waste. Still others include fuel and energy-related activities, which in some cases are a simple mathematical formula derived from energy consumption. These are meaningful sources to account for, but to ignore the

heavy hitter emitters such as sold good and services, transportation of goods and services and waste products, the processing of sold products, and of course campus investments seems like a giant oversight.

Due to being a large piece of the emissions puzzle, what recommendations do you, as a professional in this industry, have for campuses interested in working to address their Scope 3 campus emissions?

One way to start would be to list out the companies from which goods and services are procured, and to request some baseline information. For example, ask if they know their carbon footprint? Ask if they have a climate action plan and if they have set targets for meaningful emissions reductions.

Moving beyond emissions, seek out information regarding the values of your value chain. Do they treat their employees fairly? Do they pay their employees a living wage? Generally speaking, how are they doing on the ‘S’ and ‘G’ elements of their ESG reporting and compliance?



KEN SHULTES
SENIOR ADVISOR
THE STONE HOUSE GROUP

Policy Radar



As the federal policy space continues to rapidly unfold, this section provides a brief non-partisan introduction of current key policies, their implementation date, and their implications.

Policy or Action	Effective	Implication	Source
Memorandum revoking “Restoring Healthy and Abundant Salmon, Steelhead, and Other Native Fish Populations in Columbia River Basin” Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (202300846)	6/12/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructs the Secretaries of Energy, Interior, Commerce, and the Assistant Secretary of Army for Civil Works to pull out of the 2023 MOU. Directs the Council for Environmental Quality to review and change associated MOU processes. Directs the Council for Environmental Quality to pull out of the MOU. 	1, 2
SCOTUS Ruling: Seven County Infrastructure Coalition v. Eagle County, CO.	5/29/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unanimous ruling with split (5-3) reasoning on National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) details. Clarified substantial deference, such that courts must acknowledge and yield to agencies’ expertise in questions related to NEPA processes and Environmental Impact Statements (EIS). Indirect effects under NEPA’s consideration cannot require the inclusion of downstream/upstream effects of environmental damage via separate projects in the future or other places. Implications: Easier processing of infrastructure permitting, decreased citizen involvement via NEPA procedures. 	3, 4, 5
Proposed rulings to follow developments from	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presidential directive for FEMA’s closure after the 2025 hurricane season, thus redirecting storm response and management to individual states. EPA Emissions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The repeal of fossil fuel powerplant greenhouse gas emission standards. Reverting the Mercury and Air Toxic Standards (MATS) to 2012 version. Implications: potential basis for further rollback of Clean Air Act regulations, decreased air quality, health implications. 	6, 7, 8



PERC'S 2025

SUSTAINABILITY LEADERS CONFERENCE RECAP

On May 18th, sustainability leaders from across the Commonwealth joined in community to spend their Sunday learning more about sustainability's role in higher education! Looking to continue the exemplary efforts of Pennsylvania's colleges and universities, these leaders took the day to foster new connections while participating in talks and workshops.

20+
ATTENDEES

10+
INSTITUTIONS

The day kicked off with a keynote from Dr. Richard Alley, who highlighted the big picture about sustainability with the help of some penguins! Attendees then learned about the ABCs of sustainability curriculum from Dr. Krista Bailey. Before breaking for lunch, attendees took part in the premiere of PERC's short film *Stories of Sustainability and Equity*, which features student and alumni perspectives.

Following lunch, Larry Eighmy, Founder and Principal of the Stone House Group, shared the 10 questions defining carbon budgeting. For the day's keynote, PERC was honored to have Dr. Tim Carter, President of Second Nature, share the history of



sustainability efforts in higher education from a national perspective. The day concluded with a workshop exploring what “fostering a culture of sustainability” really means. We thank our member schools and attendees for supporting this event!

For access to the short film, digital materials, and resource packet, please visit PERC's website under “2025 Events”.



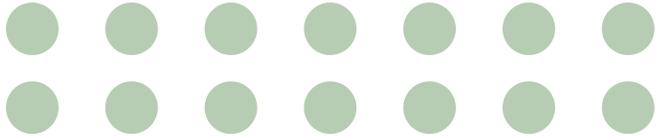
DR. CARTER, PERC'S KEYNOTE SPEAKER, NETWORKING WITH MEMBERS

PERC'S 2025

SUSTAINABILITY LEADERS CONFERENCE RECAP



WITH MORE THAN 20 LEADERS IN ATTENDANCE, PERC'S FIRST CONFERENCE IN ALMOST THREE YEARS WAS A SUCCESS!



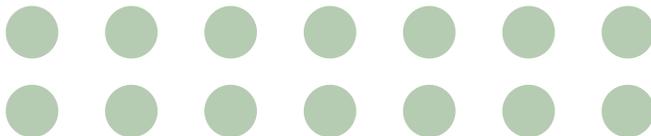
LEADERS FROM ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH CONNECTED AND NETWORKED THROUGHOUT THE DAY, INCLUDING THESE ATTENDEES FROM PSU, WCU, MU, AND DU!



THE DAY FEATURED PRESENTATIONS FROM LEADERS IN EDUCATION, CLIMATE SCIENCE, AND FACILITIES, INCLUDING DR. RICHARD ALLEY!



ATTENDEES GOT THE CHANCE TO WORK COLLABORATIVELY DURING WORKSHOPS TO SOLVE INSTITUTIONAL SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES!

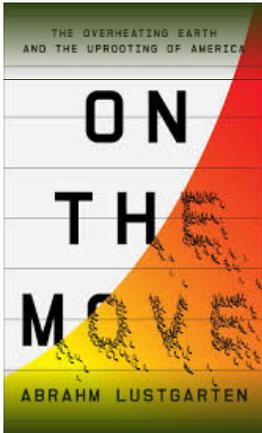


CHECK OUT MORE PHOTOS ONLINE!

Media Roundup

THIS WEEK'S SUSTAINABILITY MEDIA RECOMMENDATIONS!

BOOK



On the Move by Abrahm Lustgarten

Pairing sociology and climate science, this book investigates how climate change will determine, if not force, climate migration in the United States. As a piece of investigative journalism featuring real-life climate migrant stories, this book will make you think critically about America's future.

FILM



An Inconvenient Truth by Al Gore

As a defining film of the environmental field, former Vice President Al Gore shares about his movement in 2000 to educate Americans about the science and dangers of climate change. While much has changed since its release, the film touches on the ever-present inconvenient truth of climate change's impact.

PODCAST



Why It's "Not Too Late" by TED Outrage! + Optimism

Take a break from the climate doom narrative to learn about the "Not Too Late" project, a web repository of climate resources. Aiming to mitigate grief and despair while altering current climate perceptions, the project's creators discuss power frameworks, community building, and reasons for hope.

[Link to Project in Resource #9](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

PERC EVENTS

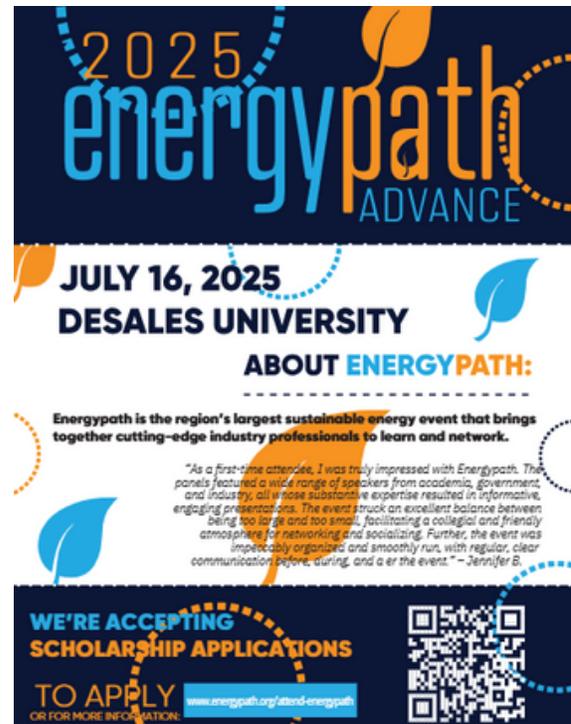
- None upcoming at this time!

MEMBER SCHOOL EVENTS

- PSU Student Farm Summer Solstice Celebration
 - July 2, 2025
 - Penn State Ross Student Farm
- Penn State's Sustainability Coordinator Certificate Info Session
 - August 8, 2025
 - 12:00- 1:00 PM
 - Virtual

OTHER EVENTS

- Sustainable Energy Fund's EnergyPath Conference
 - July 16, 2025
 - DeSales University
 - **Student scholarships available!**



2025
energypath
ADVANCE

JULY 16, 2025
DESALES UNIVERSITY

ABOUT ENERGYPATH:

Energypath is the region's largest sustainable energy event that brings together cutting-edge industry professionals to learn and network.

"As a first-time attendee, I was truly impressed with Energypath. The panels featured a wide range of speakers from academia, government, and industry, all whose substantive expertise resulted in informative, engaging presentations. The event struck an excellent balance between being too large and too small, facilitating a collegial and friendly atmosphere for networking and socializing. Further, the event was impeccably organized and smoothly run, with regular, clear communication before, during, and after the event." - Jennifer B.

**WE'RE ACCEPTING
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS**

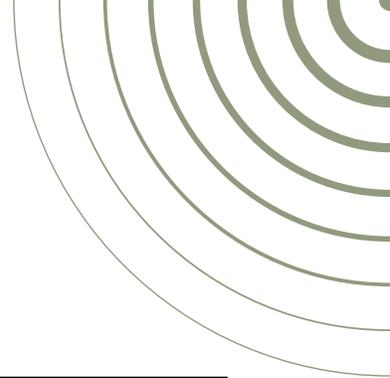
TO APPLY
OR FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.energypath.org/attend-energypath



HAVE AN EVENT?

EMAIL GREENCOLLEGES@GMAIL.COM

Resources



Reference Number	Link
1	https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/06/stopping-radical-environmentalism-to-generate-power-for-the-columbia-river-basin/
2	https://www.whitehouse.gov/fact-sheets/2025/06/fact-sheet-president-donald-j-trump-stops-the-green-agenda-in-the-columbia-river-basin/
3	https://fedsoc.org/commentary/fedsoc-blog/supreme-court-unanimous-ruling-in-seven-county-infrastructure-coalition-v-eagle-county-might-be-a-game-changer-for-infrastructure
4	https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/24pdf/23-975_m648.pdf
5	https://www.dlapiper.com/en/insights/publications/2025/06/supreme-court-nepa-review
6	https://apnews.com/article/fema-hurricane-season-trump-eliminate-state-funding-25fb7714414e17fa51156be7e91a4474
7	https://cen.acs.org/policy/EPA-aims-roll-back-greenhouse/103/web/2025/06
8	https://abcnews.go.com/US/epa-proposes-rolling-back-clean-air-rules-power/story?id=122772357
9	https://www.nottoolateclimate.com/