

CESAS

**Consortium for Environmental
Stewardship and Sustainability
Annual Report for 2007**

December 31, 2007

Introduction/Overview

The Consortium for Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability (CESAS) is a network of partner organizations choosing to work collaboratively to advance sustainability and sustainable development. This Consortium brings together cooperative groups focused on sustainability that integrate and connect multidisciplinary research and education efforts in the areas of science, engineering, economics, and social science. Since sustainable development requires appropriate consideration of both present and future needs, the foundation is the concept of a “Triple Bottom Line” where economic, social, and environmental values are all vital to decision making.

In 2007, CESAS facilitated the submission of a pre-proposal to Kansas State University’s (KSU) Targeted Excellence Program, hosted two campus dialogs on sustainability, developed an intersession course on sustainability issues to be offered in January 2008, and continued to grow its membership.

Activities

Targeted Excellence Pre-proposal

Several units at KSU partnered in the development of a pre-proposal to the Targeted Excellence Program. The Targeted Excellence Program is an internal funding mechanism at KSU which makes resources available to inter-disciplinary programs which have the promise of elevating the university's stature. The pre-proposal, *Program in Rural Systems Sustainability (PiRSS)*, was selected for the final competition. PiRSS is a four-year project that would facilitate collaborative work (both research and outreach) regarding social, environmental, and economic sustainability, and would promote pursuit of external support to further sustainability-oriented activities. The full proposal will be submitted in February.

July Dialog on Sustainability

On July 19-20, 2007, the Consortium for Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability and its consortium partners hosted a Dialog on Sustainability to disseminate information on current sustainability related activities, groups and resources; and to explore opportunities for further collaboration and future funding.

The following presentations were made during the dialog on July 19.

- Ecological Forecasting, Walter Dodds, Kansas State University
- Eating as if the Future Matters, Ken Warren, The Land Institute
- Landscape Architecture and Sustainability, Lee Skabelund, Kansas State University
- The Market for Transformation, Greg Norris, New Earth
- Public Policy and Sustainability, John Carlin, Kansas State University
- Sustainability and Economics, Jeff Peterson, Kansas State University
- Applications of Solar and Wind Energy, David Sampson, Oak Grove Fabrication

- Green Chemistry and Green Engineering, Jennifer Anthony, Kansas State University
- University of Kansas Center for Sustainability, Jeff Severin, University of Kansas
- Sustainability Educational Activities, Laura Downey, KACEE

Participants engaged in facilitated discussions on the following topics:

1. Sustainability Needs and Opportunities in Kansas with respect to education, research and service
2. Dialog on strengths and opportunities within CESAS
3. Dialog on next steps

Participant comments were related to five themes: administrative actions and needs; curricular/academic issues; education/awareness/communications actions and needs; research; and facilities issues.

Additional activities at the Dialog included tours of the Solar Decathlon House and KSU Rain Garden, an evening session and a life cycle analysis workshop. The evening session was a presentation on Sustainable Communities by Bruce Snead. This was followed by a discussion and an update on New Earth activities. On July 20, CESAS sponsored a workshop on Life Cycle Analysis by presenter Greg Norris of New Earth. Life cycle assessments are important in decisions related to sustainability.

A complete report on the facilitated discussion is available at <http://www.engg.ksu.edu/CHSR/sustainability/docs/DOSsummary.pdf>.

International Dialog on Sustainability

On August 15, 2007, CESAS sponsored *A Dialog on Civic Discourse and Sustainability: Environmental Stewardship in the Altai Republic, Russian Federation*. Presenters included Rector Yuri Tabakaev, Nikolai Malkov, Victor Lukyanenko, and Maria Ostanina from Gorno-Altai State University and Cynthia Annett and Wendy Griswold from the Center for Hazardous Substance Research. The dialog focused on civic discourse on environmental stewardship in the Altai and the historic and current efforts to preserve the Republic's nature and natural resources while providing opportunities for economic growth.



Dr. Nikolai Malkov discusses the ecological situation in the Altai Republic during the International Dialog on Sustainability.

Future Goals and Activities

January 2008 Intersession

On January 8-10, CESAS will offer an intersession course, *Seminar on Renewable Energy, Food, and Sustainability*. This special seminar will focus on renewable energy and sustainability science (including green engineering and triple bottom line policy issues) with application to food processing and manufacturing. More information on the seminar can be found at <http://www.engg.ksu.edu/CHSR/sustainability/>. Registration information is at: <http://www.dce.k-state.edu/conf/energy/>.

White Paper

A white paper on environmental stewardship and sustainability at KSU has been developed. The goal of the white paper is to facilitate discussion and action at KSU on the development of coordinated activities to advance sustainability at Kansas State University.

The white paper outlines seven recommendations for sustainability efforts at KSU:

- establish one or more focal points for comprehensive leadership related to environmental stewardship and sustainability;
- develop a comprehensive plan to advance environmental stewardship and sustainability at KSU;
- establish an Internet site for university environmental stewardship and sustainability efforts and initiatives, which could include a virtual and interactive community forum;
- establish an environmental stewardship and sustainability list serve that would distribute information to those who wanted to receive messages related to sustainability activities at KSU;

- inventory existing campus activities and invite KSU faculty, staff, and student organizations to be affiliated with the effort to advance sustainability at KSU;
- provide professional support for sustainability related initiatives including research proposals, curriculum developments, outreach initiatives, and operational efforts; and
- invite the KSU Foundation to place greater emphasis on environmental stewardship and sustainability in its programs that are supported by alumni, corporate partners, faculty, staff, students, and friends.

Membership Update

Consortium membership has continued to grow. Current membership includes four universities, one consortium, five industry members, five membership organizations, two non-profit organizations, two units of state government, and one environmental education center. Three members are international partners, representing the countries of Russia, Thailand, and Ukraine. An overview of the members is presented below.

Table 1. CESAS membership in 2007.

Membership Category	Group Name
University	Gorno-Altai State University, Russian Federation
	Kansas State University <i>Agricultural Economics; Bioprocessing and Industrial Value Added Program (BIVAP); Center for Hazardous Substance Research; Center for Science Education; College of Architecture Planning and Design; Departments of Aviation, Biological & Agricultural Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Geography, Geology, Landscape Architecture and Regional Community Planning, Grain Science and Industry; Engineering Extension; Food Science Institute; GroWe; Hale Library; Institute for Civic Discourse and Democracy; KCARE; Committee for Geographic Information Systems; NILMT; Stewardship Committee; Women's Studies, Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences Secondary Major</i>
	King Mongkut's University of Technology, Thailand <i>Faculty of Science; Joint Graduate School of Energy and Environment</i>
	University of Kansas <i>Center for Sustainability</i>
Consortia	
Industry	Blue Skyways Collaborative
	Agriment Services
	CABEM Technologies Harmony Environmental

Membership Category **Group Name**
M2 Technologies
Oak Grove Fabrication
Terracon

Membership Organizations
Friends of the Kaw
Kansas Natural Resource Council
New Earth
ICF International

Non-Profit Organizations
AIB International
Focus the Nation
NISTAC
The Land Institute

Units of Government
Kansas Corporation Commission
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

Other
Center for Sustainable Development and Ecological Education,
Ukraine

Financial Update

Membership dues are voluntary. An account has been opened with the KSU Foundation to accept and manage financial contributions. The account number is I24260 and the name of the account is Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability. The receipts since the account was opened total \$6,000.00 and the balance as of December 14, 2007 is \$5,780.51.

In addition CESAS members have provided financial support for specific events and activities in 2007.

Voluntary dues may be sent to the: KSU Foundation, 2323 Anderson, Manhattan, KS 66506. Indicate that the contribution is for account I24260, Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability.

Summary

In 2007, CESAS sought funding for extending its capacity for research and projects related to rural sustainability efforts. The consortium organized dialogs to help promote sustainability efforts and to connect those interested in working on issues related to environmental stewardship and sustainability. In 2008, CESAS will continue its efforts at providing education and dialog regarding sustainability, expand its membership, and seek funding for its activities.

Appendix A. Publications

Erickson, L.E., P.A. Kulakow, and M. Rankin (Eds.), *Proceedings of the International Conference on The Future of Agriculture: Science, Stewardship and Sustainability* , Sacramento, California, August 7-9, 2006. URL: <http://www.engg.ksu.edu/CHSR/events/ag/200608/proceed/>