

CESAS

**Consortium for Environmental
Stewardship and Sustainability
Annual Report for 2008**

December 31, 2008

Introduction/Overview

The Consortium for Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability (CESAS) is a network of partner organizations choosing to work cooperatively to advance sustainability and sustainable development. This Consortium brings together cooperative groups focused on sustainability that integrate and connect multidisciplinary research, education, and engagement efforts in the areas of science, engineering, economics and social science.

In 2008, there were major developments related to sustainability. Dr. Ben Champion was appointed to the new position of Director of Sustainability at Kansas State University. Sustainability Seminar, CHE 670 was offered for the first time. K-State became a member of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). The Stewardship Committee conducted a survey of sustainability activities at K-State. A Student Sustainability Coalition was organized at K-State. The University of Kansas was selected to participate in the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS) being developed by AASHE. The University of Kansas has started a Sustainability Working Group on including sustainability content in courses. K-State has established a Sustainability Task Force which will have meetings in 2009. A Technical Assistance for a Sustainable Kansas (TASK) effort was started by CESAS.

There were many learning opportunities in 2008. The third Dialog on Sustainability was held at K-State in July. K-State hosted and cosponsored the EPA "From Brown to Green: Sustainable Redevelopment of Contaminated Properties Workshop" K-CARE provided leadership for "The Sustainability of Biofuels Production and Processing in the Great Plains" conference. The Kansas Wind and Renewable Energy Conference was held in Topeka. The Land Institute organized and hosted the Prairie Festival "Restoration and Conservation" in Salina.

Activities

Proposals

CESAS partners worked cooperatively on several proposals in 2008 that were developed to advance sustainability. These include a NSF Informal Science Education proposal, a NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates proposal, a 4-H proposal to USDA, a Targeted Excellence proposal, and an EPSCoR proposal.

K-State has been informed that the proposal "Sustainable Gardening Initiatives at Brownfield Sites" is to be funded by EPA. The objective of this project is to increase utilization of Brownfield sites for gardening by developing a better understanding of environmental health and safety among those who wish to make use of these sites for gardening.

K-State Stewardship Committee

The K-State Stewardship Committee continued to meet in 2008. As a result of recommendations by the committee, K-State became a member of AASHE and a director

of sustainability position was established. Ben Champion was selected as the first Director of Sustainability. The Stewardship Committee, and the CESAS leadership have been working cooperatively with Ben Champion to advance sustainability. K-State has established a Sustainability Task Force which will meet regularly to expand sustainability plans, programs, and activities at K-State. Students, Curriculum, Operations, Research, and Engagement (SCORE) have been included in the dialog on sustainability, and they will be elements of the January 23, 2009 K-State conference "Leading Kansas in Sustainability: The Role of K-State".

Technical Assistance for a Sustainable Kansas (TASK)

The CESAS leadership has recognized the need for public education related to sustainability and sustainable development. Partner organizations are able to work cooperatively through the TASK program to provide public education, empower citizens to participate in policy development, help people make personal life style changes, encourage energy conservation and efficiency, and find funding to advance sustainability. The partners will provide non-biased technical assistance to Kansas communities, small business, and others related to climate change and sustainability. A Speakers' Bureau provides speakers on topics related to sustainability. With leadership from the Center for Engagement and Community Development (CECD), significant help has been provided to Greensburg, Kansas to enable the community to appropriately include sustainability in the rebuilding of their infrastructure, businesses, government buildings, and homes.

Future Goals and Activities

KSU Sustainability Conference

"Leading Kansas in Sustainability: The Role of K-State" will be held in the K-State Union, January 23, 2009. This is the first conference that is being organized through the office of the Director of Sustainability with support from CESAS, many units of the university, and others. More information on the conference can be found at <http://sustainability.k-state.edu/conferences/leadingkansas/>. Registration information is at: <http://sustainability.k-state.edu/conferences/leadingkansas/registration>.

Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation

There is great interest in Kansas and at K-State in renewable energy and energy conservation. The Center for Sustainable Energy, the Wind Application Center, the governor's office, and industry are all working to advance sustainable energy in Kansas. There is significant interest in renewable energy and energy conservation at K-State and in the Manhattan community. Research, education, operations, and engagement activities are ongoing and also planned for 2009. Two LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) courses are being offered in January Intersession. There is ongoing dialog and planning with respect to bicycle transportation routes, safety, and parking. There is significant interest and activity related to expanding the grid of transmission lines to carry electrical energy from points of production to points where it is used.

Comprehensive Plan

There is a need for a comprehensive plan to advance sustainability at K-State and elsewhere in Kansas. The University of Kansas Sustainability Working Group and the new K-State Sustainability Task Force are timely and appropriate. The past year of activities has included an expansion of interest and events related to sustainability. There is an expectation that sustainability will be a growing interest for many students, faculty, and staff.

Membership Update

Consortium membership has continued to grow. Current membership includes four universities, one consortium, nine industry members, five membership organizations, four 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 2008.

Membership Category	Group Name
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University	Gorno-Altai State University, Russian Federation
	Kansas State University <i>Agricultural Economics, Apparel and Textile Sustainability Research Lab, Advanced Manufacturing Institute, 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, Horticulture, Forestry & Recreation Resources, Institute for Civic Discourse and Democracy, Kansas Agricultural Mediation Services, KCARE, K-State Research & Extension, Dept. of 4-H Youth Development, Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences Secondary Major, NILMT, Stewardship Committee, Student Sustainability Coalition, University Committee for Geographic Information Systems, Women's Studies</i>
	King Mongkut's University of Technology, Thailand <i>Faculty of Science; Joint Graduate School of Energy and Environment</i>
	University of Kansas

Membership Category	Group Name
	<i>Center for Sustainability</i>
Consortia	Blue Skyways Collaborative
Industry	Agriment Services CABEM Technologies Decent Energy, Inc Harmony Environmental M2 Technologies Mensch-und region, GbR Oak Grove Fabrication Terracon Wind Energy Consulting and Contracting, Inc.
Membership Organizations	Friends of the Kaw ICF International Institute of Green Professionals Kansas Natural Resource Council New Earth
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 with the KSU Foundation is open to accept and manage financial contributions. The account number is I24260 and the name of the account is Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability. The 2008 beginning balance was \$5,780.51. Receipts for 2008 totaled \$2,000.00 and expenditures were \$2,276.74, leaving an ending balance of \$5,503.77

In addition CESAS members have provided financial support for specific events and activities in 2008.

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

Summary

In 2008, Ben Champion was appointed Director of Sustainability at K-State and activities related to sustainability expanded significantly. Several proposals were submitted through cooperative efforts of partner organizations of CESAS. In 2009, CESAS will continue its efforts to advance sustainability through education, dialog, research, and engagement. We thank all who have helped with proposals, activities, and dialog as well as those who have provided financial support.
