

CAN WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY?

It's a question that doesn't have

an easy answer. We'd like to think that all of our campus efforts with recycling, energy retrofits, climate action plans, biomass plants and geothermal, solar arrays and wind turbines, would be enough to start to make a difference in our overall improvement to the environment. And realistically, they must be.

But Walter Simpson, former energy officer at the University at Buffalo and author of our cover story, warns that, while these efforts are meaningful and effective, more urgency and intensity of effort is needed by all campuses to truly start making a difference in the long term. At current rates, Walter and other climate experts are not overly positive about our campuses reaching the (sometimes meager) goals we've set for ourselves.


The cumulative portfolio of buildings on college and university campuses, at independent schools, and at public K-12 school districts is massive, and *could* have an impact if more were to make the commitment to affect climate change in a fairly aggressive manner. Unfortunately, too often political polarization or budget constraints or "other" priorities result in an overall diffusing of the ultimate targets. We *can* do more, but will we?

We're pleased that Walter Simpson has agreed to prepare this article for *Facilities Manager*. Our relationship goes back nearly 20 years, when APPA shipped free information on SUNY Buffalo's innovative energy efforts to members via the magazine. Since then we have published a number of articles by Walter, including three that won APPA's Rex Dillow Award for Outstanding Article. The topics included ESCOs and demand-side management, a guide to green building design, and a 1996 article that first introduced the term "environmental stewardship" to APPA.

Walter's more recent articles put forth the discussions on sustainability and climate neutrality that continue with this issue's "Cool Campuses?!" feature. We're also proud of his tremendous efforts as the editor of APPA's popular book, *The Green Campus: Meeting the Challenge of Environmental Sustainability*, published in 2008 and still valuable today.

Readership Survey Coming

We will be conducting a comprehensive readership survey for *Facilities Manager* in the next month or so. If you are asked to complete the online survey, we hope that you will participate and share with us your readership, habits, and opinions of the magazine's content, design, and value to you as a busy educational facilities professional. All survey participants will be entered into a drawing to receive one of three exciting gifts still to be determined.

Thank you in advance for completing the survey. Doing so helps us to continue providing you with the content you need to be most effective in your jobs while serving the goals and missions of your schools. 



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