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## **Campuses Nationwide Take Action to Promote Clean Energy**

November 13, 2003, Students at more than 60 colleges and universities across the country participated in a massive National Day of Action calling for Clean Energy Campuses. Five years after the US signing of the Kyoto Protocol to curb greenhouse gas emissions, students are sending a message to school administrators and the US government that the youth of this country are collectively building a demand for clean energy alternatives and reducing the emissions of their institutions. Students are making their campuses more sustainable by pushing for clean energy, efficiency, and green building standards.

The day of action has been co-sponsored by the Student Environmental Action Coalition's Youth Power Shift Campaign, the Climate Campaign, the California Student Sustainability Coalition, Greenpeace's Clean Energy Now! Campaign, Religious Witness for the Earth, and NY PIRG.

The day's events included a group of students at Union College in New York organizing phone calls to Governor Pataki to urge him to cap CO2 emissions from power plants. Students in California have organized a statewide sustainability convergence. At Connecticut College, the Renewable Energy Club encouraged students to reduce energy consumption and "Do it in the Dark" by turning off their lights, computers, etc, and attending an acoustic concert by candlelight.

"This national day of action is a first step in uniting student efforts for sustainable institutions," says Patricia Feeney, a senior Biology Major at Berea College in Kentucky and Co-coordinator of the Youth Power Shift Campaign. "We are building solidarity, sharing resources, and inspiring one another to collectively shift the energy paradigm in this country."

"Reasons to support clean, renewable energy go beyond the environment to include cost efficiency, our health, and human rights," adds Erin Taylor, a junior Political Communications Major at Emerson College in Boston.

Following student-led initiatives, many campuses have already implemented more sustainable practices. Cornell University, Lewis and Clark College, and Stanford University have each pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to meet or exceed the requirements of the Kyoto Protocol. Last year the University of California system passed a groundbreaking policy that includes renewable energy purchases and installations, green building standards, and emissions reductions. Students at the University of Colorado at Boulder voted to increase student fees in order to purchase 27% of their energy from a wind energy supplier.

"Students are demanding that we choose clean energy solutions," Billy Parish, Co-coordinator of the Climate Campaign said. "As more of these campuses link up and coordinate their activities, this movement will affect serious change both on and off college campuses. This is just the beginning."

The Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC), founders of the *Youth Power Shift* campaign, initiated the National Day of Action to help local groups join voices with others around the country in calling for clean, renewable energy, now!

More information concerning the National Day of Action and the organizations involved can be found at [www.youthpowershift.org](http://www.youthpowershift.org).