

Appalachian Energy Summit

APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Fourth Annual Summit Draws Largest, Most Diverse Audience Ever

More than 425 clean energy advocates and educators attended the 2015 Appalachian Energy Summit (AES) July 13 – 15, 2015. It was the fourth annual gathering for the University of North Carolina Energy Leadership Challenge. Due to efforts of summit participants, the [North Carolina University system](#) is well on its way to realizing \$2 billion in avoided utility costs by 2025.

Cumulative UNC Utilities at a Glance

2015's guest list included university executives, campus operation leaders, industry partners, faculty and students:

- 80 students
- 15 out-of-state universities
- 30 student posters
- 15 community colleges
- 8 states represented
- 5 non-profits
- 12 industry organizations

Metric	2002-2003 Baseline	2013-2014 Current	% Change
Gross Square Feet	71,562,179	134,962,064	89%
BTU per Square Foot per Year	164,581	116,012	-30%
Cost per Million BTU	\$12.59	\$19.04	51%
Avoided Energy Costs		\$749,738,289	
Water Galleons per GSF	55.26	33.49	-39%
Water Cost per KGAL	\$3.25	\$10.17	212%
Avoided Water Costs		\$158,591,123	
Total Cumulative Avoided Cost		\$908,329,412	



Amory Lovins, chief scientist at Rocky Mountain Institute, engages with environmentalist Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. at Monday evening's keynote.

Plenary Sessions

During plenary sessions attendees heard from world-recognized energy experts Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., Amory Lovins, chief scientist, Rocky Mountain Institute, and David Orr, senior advisor to the president at Oberlin College. Working group members exchanged success stories and panels of corporate partners shared best practices, engaging student attendees with insights about the new energy economy and career opportunities. Students sparked imaginations with their personal ideas and initiatives.



Summit-within-a-Summit

Opening day afforded top leadership from across the system the opportunity to come together for a summit-within-a-summit. University chancellors, provosts, CFOs and business leaders had the opportunity to hear first-hand from Kennedy, Lovins, and Orr and to discuss specific issues around sustainability practices, clean energy, curriculum, academic research, and funding.

“A system level collaboration like this does not exist elsewhere else in higher education,” Ged Moody, special advisor to the chancellor for sustainability, said. “This was an incredible opportunity for these leaders to learn from each other and from our expert panel of guests.”



“Every nation that has decarbonized its economy has experienced extraordinary prosperity, almost instantaneously.” Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

Working Groups Continue to Build the Foundation

In closed sessions, seven working groups met to develop initiatives and explore emerging opportunities and challenges. The working groups, established at the first Summit in 2012, meet quarterly and are charged with developing and executing the energy-saving initiatives. This academic year alone their efforts on the individual campuses saved the system more than \$103 million in avoided energy expense. The working groups, each with specific goals, milestones and accomplishments are:

- Academic Integration (academic and faculty leaders);
- Campus-based Energy Efficiency (energy managers);
- Finance, Regulatory, and Energy Generation (senior facilities officers);
- High Performance Campus Design (design and construction leaders);
- Transportation Opportunities (transportation managers);
- Student Leadership and Engagement (student leaders and business partners)



More working group reports [here](#).

Student Summit – An Exchange of Ideas and Opportunities

Bringing fresh perspectives and ideas, 80 students were selected to attend the summit where they had the opportunity to meet with and engage key energy executives and innovators. These industry partners shared advice and experience with the students during a lively career panel and networking reception.

Students spent their second session deliberating on recommendations to drive change and encourage the implementation of clean energy initiatives on their respective campuses across the system. Thirty student research posters were displayed over the course of the event, four receiving cash awards (see student ideas [here](#).) **Robert Sam, University of North Carolina Pembroke, '15** attended his first summit. **“I networked with so many people,” he said. “Opportunities are all around. It only takes courage to take advantage of them.”**

One of the sponsoring business partners, **John Casadonte, project marketing manager at Cree**, said he was impressed with the caliber of the students. **“Their questions were insightful and the conversation was genuine and inspiring,” he said. “The interface with the student attendees has given me incentive to be sure Cree plays its part in introducing students to our world of energy-efficient lighting.”**

“The protection of the environment is not a liberal or conservative issue. It transcends every political boundary. It connects us.” – David Orr

Each year the Appalachian hosts work to make the summit a green event. The university encourages and facilitates carpooling and provides free bus service to reduce carbon emissions. Meals are zero waste and housing is provided at no charge in [Mountaineer Hall](#), a LEED® certified residence hall.

Closing Comments

Until we reconvene at 2016 midyear meeting at University of North Carolina – Pembroke...

Gratitude. For your time, for your hard work, for your cooperation, for making this mission a priority.

Activism: It comes in many forms. Learn to use the right one at the right time. Fine-tune your inner Kennedy or Lovins.

Spark. Thank you, Students! Amory Lovins said, “One of the ways to move forward is to stop having the old idea.” You bring the new ideas. You are on fire!

Elders. Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Lovins, Mr Orr. You lead the way. You educate us, embolden us, inspire us. We are challenged.

Gap. Our elders have presented a vision that is challenged by the current reality. It is our job to close this gap. This is our work.

Partners. We can only advance together — true systems-thinking at work. Our innovative ideas influencing incumbent- and emerging energy players alike.

One. We have truly become a team, no longer separate campuses. There are no observers at the Appalachian Energy Summit. We share one purpose. In collaboration and in debate, we are making a difference.

My very best regards,

Ged Moody

Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Sustainability



Attendance at the summit is by invitation only and provided at no charge thanks to the generosity of these sponsors.

