

9th Annual National Hispanic Sustainable Energy & Environmental Conference

April 3-6, 2004
Albuquerque, NM



Sponsored by the National
Hispanic Environmental Council

FACT SHEET

WHO: **The Conference Sponsor is the National Hispanic Environmental Council (NHEC)**, a national, non-profit organization founded in 1996, and located near Washington, D.C. NHEC seeks to educate, unite, and engage our community on environmental and sustainable development issues; provide a national voice for Hispanics before federal, state, and non-profit environmental decision-makers; and actively assist Hispanics and other minorities to pursue the many career, business, educational, and policy opportunities in the environmental, natural resources, and energy fields. We operate programs—in partnership with the environmental movement—that accomplish this mission, and furthers our guiding credo: **“because it’s our environment too.”**

Major Conference Sponsors include the U.S. EPA, the U.S. Dept. of Interior and the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, among others. For example, participating DOI agencies include the National Park Service and the Office of Surface Mining. At USDA, participating agencies include the U.S. Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service. Like last year, EPA, DOI, USDA and other generous supporters have helped underwrite the Conference, especially the student “Travel Scholarships”. Other sponsors in the public, private and non-profit sectors are also supporting the Conference.

WHAT: **The 9th Annual “National Hispanic Sustainable Energy and Environmental Conference”**

The Conference is the **only national** event of its kind, designed to educate Hispanics and other minorities in general about the need to be environmentally conscious and proactive. **It is an unmatched learning, networking, and recruiting vehicle for the Hispanic environmental community, and for many others.**

In particular, the NHEC Conference is designed to inform Hispanics—especially students in environmental and natural resource disciplines—about the wealth of jobs, internships, and minority business opportunities with the federal government, Corporate America, state and local government, and with the mainstream environmental organizations. It also offers attendees the latest information, presented by top issue

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Manuel Hernandez
Chairman, National Hispanic Sustainable
Energy & Environmental Conference
Post Office Box 70196
Riverside, CA 92513

Roger Rivera
President, National Hispanic Environmental Council
106 N. Fayette Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 683-3956 FAX: (703) 683-5125



experts, on a wide range of key environmental policies affecting Hispanics and other minorities.

Fundamentally, the Conference is held to educate, engage and empower our community on these issues, and show that Hispanics are deeply involved in and care about our environment and natural resource heritage.

While there is naturally a focus on issues affecting Hispanics, the Conference is not just for Hispanics. **Everyone is welcome and all are encouraged to attend.** We seek the widest possible diversity of participants, issues, and involvement, so that—working together—we can achieve our common goals.

The 2003 conference was a great success. It brought together **400 Hispanic and other minority students and professional attendees** from a wide range of environmental disciplines, such as: environmental engineers and scientists; forest and park service managers; environmental educators; natural resource and conservation managers; environmental health and safety experts; environmental justice and community activists; green group representatives; academics; and many more.

As a part of our mission, each year NHEC offers “Travel Scholarships” to cover the conference expenses (airfare, 4 nights hotel, meals, and incidentals) of college students, graduate and undergraduate, from every conceivable environmental curricula. NHEC is pleased to say that in 2003, we **paid for 180 such students to attend the Conference from over 70 colleges and universities across America.**

This year’s Conference will offer attendees four days of networking, an array of 30 in-depth workshops/general sessions, at least 8 site visits to Albuquerque area environmental facilities, and a major Exhibit Area/Career Fair. At the Career Fair, companies, government agencies, universities, and non-profit organizations deliver their message while recruiting the nation’s best and brightest Hispanic/minority environmental and natural resource students and professionals.

In addition, **NHEC will again provide Travel Scholarships to cover the attendance of at least 200 undergraduate and graduate students**—the next generation of minority environmental leaders and professionals—to attend the Conference.

The scholarship covers the airfare, hotel, meals, and incidentals of the selected students. To apply, applicants must be currently enrolled in an environmental/natural resources discipline, or a discipline reasonably related; include a current resume with GPA; attach a copy of current college transcripts; and submit a one page cover letter explaining their career goals, why they want to attend, and what they will do in the future with what they learn; and enclose a \$25 registration fee payable to the **Nat. Hispanic Sustainable Energy/Environmental Conference, 106 N. Fayette Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Only students selected to receive a subsidy will have their checks cashed. There is no fee to apply.**

WHEN: April 3–6, 2004 (Saturday through Tuesday)

WHERE: The Conference will be held at the **Marriott Pyramid North Hotel**, in **Albuquerque, NM**. This hotel is just off Interstate 25, conveniently located to all major Albuquerque destinations.

Room rates at the Marriott are \$97 for a single or double room. To make a reservation, call the Marriott directly at 505-821-3333, or call 1-800-262-2043. To receive the Conference rate, you **must call the hotel by March 17, 2004**. Be sure to tell them you are attending the NHEC Conference. The hotel address is 5151 San Francisco Road, NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109.

HOW MUCH: See the attached "**Commitment Form**." Use this Form to register, whether as a Sponsor, Exhibitor, or Individual Registrant.

WHY: Even with the dedicated efforts of the environmental justice movement, the reality is that today, minorities, and especially Hispanics, still **do not truly have a seat** at the environmental decision-making table. In so many ways, the Hispanic community—38 million strong and growing—is involved in, and often disproportionately impacted by natural resource, environmental, and related health issues. Yet, environmental outreach efforts aimed at building partnerships with or providing information to Hispanics have been sporadic, ineffective, or even counter-productive at times.

Too often, the result is a community that, through no fault of its own, **has been disconnected from America's environmental dialogue**, and thus from having real input on policies and programs which directly affect us. This is particularly regrettable because, like many Americans, Hispanics have long been deeply involved in, share an abiding love for, and work every day on behalf of our environment and natural heritage.

While many Hispanics work in the environmental field, the numbers are still far too low. We are severely under-represented—by every measure and at every level—in the public, private, and non-profit environmental sectors. This lack of Hispanic diversity means that our community and its concerns are being shortchanged, especially at the national level. The time is long past for this to end.

Through this Conference, and our other initiatives, NHEC seeks to **open the doors of opportunity** for Hispanics and other minorities. We provide a **national** forum to explore environmental and natural resource issues, empower our community, and meet our responsibility to be good stewards of the earth. In this way, we strive to fulfill our credo: "**because it's our environment too.**"

FOR MORE INFO: **Students** should **first** visit our web page at **www.nheec.org** for more details, especially as to who is eligible and how to apply for a travel scholarship. For further information/questions, e-mail Juan Rodriguez, Conference Coordinator, at jrodriguez@nheec.org

All others, please call NHEC at 703-683-3956. Our fax number is 703-683-5125. Or visit us at **www.nheec.org** for periodic Conference updates, especially regarding the Conference workshop program and environmental site visits.