

# 10th Annual National Hispanic Sustainable Energy & Environmental Conference

November 5-8, 2005  
Seattle, WA



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, with over 5,000 members, and located outside Washington, D.C. NHEC seeks to educate, empower, and engage our community on environmental and sustainable development issues; provide a national voice for Latinos before federal, state, and non-profit environmental decision-makers; and actively assist Latinos and other minorities to pursue the many career, educational, and policy opportunities in the environmental, natural resources and agricultural fields. We operate programs that accomplish this mission, and furthers our guiding credo: **“because it’s our environment too.”**

**WHAT:** **The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual “National Hispanic Sustainable Energy and Environmental Conference and Career Fair”**

The Conference is the **only national** event of its kind, designed to educate Latinos 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 Latino environmental community, and for many others.**

In particular, the NHEC Conference is designed to inform Latinos—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 experts, on a wide range of key environmental policies affecting Latinos and other minorities.

**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 U.S. Geological Survey. 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.

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

While there is naturally a focus on issues affecting Latinos, the Conference is not just for Latinos. **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 2004 conference was a great success. It brought together **400 Latino 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 2004, we **paid for 210 such students to attend the Conference from over 65 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 Seattle 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 Latino/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 college students**—the next generation of minority environmental leaders and professionals—to attend the Conference.

To apply, applicants must be currently enrolled in an environmental/natural resources/agricultural discipline, or a discipline reasonably related; include a current resume with GPA; attach a copy of current college transcripts; and submit a one page essay 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:** November 5-8, 2005 (Saturday through Tuesday)

**WHERE:** The Conference will be held at the **Seattle Hilton Airport and Conference Center**, in **Seattle, WA**. This hotel is located just outside SEA-TAC Airport, which is the major airport for the Seattle/Tacoma area. Seattle is about 25 minutes from the airport.

**Room rates at the Hilton are \$105 for a single or double room.** To make a reservation, call the Hilton directly at 206-244-4800, or call 1-800-HILTONS. To receive the Conference rate, you **must call the hotel by October 21.** Be sure to tell them you are attending the NHEC Conference. The hotel address is 17620 Pacific Highway South, Seattle, WA 98188.

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

**WHY:** The reality is that today minorities, and especially Latinos, still **do not truly have a seat** at the environmental decision-making table. In so many ways, the Latino community—40 million strong and growing—is involved in, and often disproportionately impacted by natural resource, environmental, and related issues. Yet, environmental outreach efforts aimed at building partnerships with or providing information to Latinos 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, Latinos 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 Latinos 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 Latino 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 Latinos 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:** **For students**, visit our web page at [www.nheec.org](http://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, Programs Coordinator, at [jrodriguez@nheec.org](mailto: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](http://www.nheec.org) for periodic Conference updates, especially regarding the Conference workshop program and environmental site visits. See you in Seattle.