



2010 Business Operations Conference Summit

Students, Planet, Profit: Opportunities to Implement Sustainability in Campus Housing

As the world-wide economic downturn continues, many colleges and universities are looking for innovative ways to lower operating costs while still providing quality service, meeting high student expectations, and addressing the growing focus on environmental stewardship in higher education. This year's ACUHO-I Business Operations Conference will start with a half day summit to explore sustainability initiatives that can be implemented to score "triple wins" for your bottom line, the environment, and the campus community.

This summit will be experiential, thought provoking, and at all times focused on providing tangible recommendations on how to "green" your organization. The summit will provide all participants information about how to identify and nurture sustainability initiatives that save money, benefit the environment, and support campus and residence life. There will be a mix of large-group facilitation as well as break-out activities for each topic area represented at the conference (IT, marketing, assignments, finance, and conference services).

The summit program will be facilitated by consultants from Brendle Group located in Fort Collins, Colorado. Brendle Group is an environmentally focused engineering consulting firm. They have worked with a variety of colleges and universities to develop Climate Action Plans, greenhouse gas inventories, and action plans to implement sustainability initiatives.

The recent BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico has once again focused national attention on the importance of addressing sustainability issues. Colleges and universities will continue to play a significant role in preparing our students to address the challenging environmental and social justice issues related to sustainability. At the same time, our institutions and departments need to work to bring sustainable practices to our organizations, especially at a time when they can help the bottom line and engage today's green-minded students.