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Contact: Anna Farneski; afarnesk@ramapo.edu

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**RAMAPO COLLEGE IS NEW HOME FOR NEW JERSEY HIGHER
EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABILITY**

MAHWAH - Ramapo College of New Jersey is the new home of the New Jersey Higher Education Partnership for Sustainability (NJHEPS). The organization is located in the College's new Sharp Sustainability Education Center.

The construction of the Sharp Sustainability Education Center is part of Ramapo College's continued effort to foster environmental awareness and a greater understanding of the importance of sustainability. The demonstration project provides classroom space for Ramapo students and host visits from area schoolchildren. Features include a geothermal heating and cooling system and photovoltaic roof panels for electricity production.

Emma Rainforth, an associate professor of Geology/Environmental Science, is the current NJHEPS president. "We are excited by the opportunities this new partnership creates for our community," said Rainforth. "Together, Ramapo College and NJHEPS will be able to advance sustainability education and awareness on our own and other campuses, benefiting students, campuses, and our surrounding communities."

The mission of NJHEPS is to transform the higher education community to consistently practice sustainability and to more effectively contribute to the world's emerging understanding of sustainability, through teaching, research, outreach, operations, and community life. Currently there are more than 40 institutions, both public and private, participating in the partnership, working to promote the implementation and integration of sustainability into higher education in New Jersey and beyond. NJHEPS was originally founded in 1999 by two Ramapo faculty members, Donald Wheeler and Clifford Peterson with the help of a Dodge Foundation grant.

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