

Furman University receives 2009 Climate Champion Award



Dr. David Shi, left, and Angela Halfacre of Furman University accept the award from Clean Air - Cool Planet's CEO, Adam Markham.

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Boston, MA – Furman University in Greenville, SC, received a Climate Champion Award from Clean Air-Cool Planet, the leading non-profit organization dedicated to finding and promoting solutions to global warming, for its leadership in corporate climate action at an awards dinner here October 15th.

Furman was honored for its innovative climate action planning model, the breadth of its campus sustainability initiatives, and the visionary leadership in the higher education community of its president, Dr. David Shi.

“Furman is receiving this year’s Climate Champion Award because of its exemplary institutional commitment to solving the climate change problem” said Clean Air-Cool Planet CEO Adam Markham, “a commitment that we believe should be widely emulated.”

In particular, Markham noted the leadership of President Shi “in the higher education community, as demonstrated through your personal level of active participation in Furman’s

climate action planning process and as an early and vocal proponent of the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment.

“It is vital that we have leaders like you who translate their commitments into sustained action across every level of the institution, from the president’s office to facilities to student and faculty life,” Markham said.

Furman University’s innovative climate action planning model includes impressive participation from stakeholders on and off campus, while the breadth of campus sustainability initiatives has resulted in completion of an exceptional range of sustainable projects, including working with CA-CP in developing its new CHEFS (CHArting Emissions from Food Services) initiative, for which Furman is a pilot school.

This year’s winners also included:

- Chewonki Foundation of Wiscasset, ME, for the quality and level of innovation of its outreach and education efforts.
- Hannaford Supermarkets for opening the world’s first LEED Platinum certified supermarket in Augusta, Maine and leadership in corporate climate action;
- Sven-Olof Lindblad for his tremendous commitment to global conservation issues;
- Representative Edward J. Markey for leadership in the fight for a more progressive energy strategy in the House of Representatives;
- SunEdison for its unique business model supporting the development of large scale renewable energy projects;
- Dr. Susan F. Tierney, founding board member at CA-CP, former environmental affairs commissioner for Massachusetts and assistant secretary for policy in the US Department of Energy, for her work in the energy and climate field;
- And the Town of Temple, NH for its common sense, citizen-supported efficiency projects, conservation and continuing education.

“We are honored that Clean Air-Cool Planet has recognized Furman with this important award,” Shi said. “Over 10 years ago, Furman adopted sustainability as a primary strategic goal, and it has been very fulfilling to see the entire university community engage the issues—and opportunities—related to climate change, energy conservation, and environmental stewardship.”

Past winners of the award for their leadership in climate action include governors John Baldacci of Maine and George Pataki of New York; Bank of America, Oakhurst Dairy, Staples and Timberland; Hull, MA, and Maplewood, NJ; Middlebury College, UNH, and Tufts University.

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