

A GREENHOUSE GAS "AUDIT" OF THE COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON

Interim Progress Report

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Participating Students: Catherine Owens (MES Grad.), Kinsey Boehl (Physics Undergrad.)

Period: 1 May 2002 – 30 April 2003

We have received support from the South Carolina Sustainable Universities Initiative to conduct a complete “audit” of the greenhouse gas impact of all activities related to the College of Charleston. One MES graduate student, Katherine Owens, and one Physics undergraduate, Kinsey Boehl (supported with funds from the Physics & Astronomy Department and the School of Science and Math), held multiple meetings with college officials and collected all of the data required for the audit. They used software obtained (for free) from Clean Air Cool Planet (CACP) to input their results. This software converts all of the inputs to CO₂ equivalencies to model the overall climatic impact of the College of Charleston. We are in the final stages of confirming all of our model inputs.

In conducting this greenhouse gas audit, we have already stimulated activity among other students and established connections between them and college officials. It has been a productive and educational exercise, and I was able to use it in my energy class during Fall 2003 to encourage further student activity. Two exceptionally capable and enthusiastic students from that class are now assisting the audit team and suggesting improvements.