



Undergraduate Programs in Energy and Sustainability Policy



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A leader in online learning since 1998

To learn more about energy and
sustainability policy programs, visit:
worldcampus.psu.edu/esp

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“The energy and sustainability policy (ESP) program at Penn State is one of the few online programs in the country that examines the entire complexity of energy sources available to modern society with a specific emphasis on policy as the program nexus. Students in ESP learn from engaged faculty and energy professionals to acquire strong science, business, and analytical skills to become prepared for careers in industry, government, and public organizations.”

—**Dr. Mark V. Fedkin**
Lead Faculty, Energy and Sustainability Policy Program

Online Programs in Sustainability

As a global society, we must balance growing energy demands with our understanding of the consequences of our energy choices. As we move toward a low-carbon global economy, sustainability experts are needed to navigate complicated policy design and implement new energy strategies on both local and global scales.

These experts work in all areas of the energy sector, from energy generation, to power grid design, to renewable resources, to government initiatives designed to usher in change. Our global economy relies heavily on an abundant and consistent supply of energy, and these experts will oversee the transition to sustainable energy

resources, relying on their ability to research, analyze, and communicate diverse information about emerging global trends in energy policy, technologies, and economics.

To prepare you for the workforce of tomorrow, Penn State World Campus offers a portfolio of undergraduate programs in sustainability. Whether you are complementing your current occupation with the Undergraduate Certificate in Earth Sustainability, or deciding between a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science in Energy and Sustainability Policy, you can feel confident knowing you are acquiring a credential geared toward sustaining a brighter future for all.



“The biggest challenge with learning online was becoming good at managing my time and motivating myself. I’ve been able to balance work, family, and school, without getting too stressed out.”

—Amanda F.,
B.A. in Energy and
Sustainability Policy,
graduate



Energy and Sustainability Policy Bachelor's Degree Programs

The Bachelor of Arts and the Bachelor of Science in Energy and Sustainability Policy are both 120-credit programs designed to examine crucial environmental issues including climate change, sustainable development, and energy. All aspects of the programs are carefully designed for online learners who require flexibility and are often managing full lives with careers and family. Energy and sustainability policy faculty provide one-on-one academic advising to assess transfer credit applicability to both versions of the major, course selection and schedule planning each semester, and postgraduation career advising. The bachelor of arts and bachelor of science programs require the same General Education and core major course work.

Bachelor of Arts

Selecting the bachelor of arts degree allows exploration of course work in foreign language, global culture, and the humanities.

Bachelor of Science

Choosing the bachelor of science degree provides in-depth analysis of technology, science, and business.

If you have prior learning experience, the applicability of your earlier course work to degree requirements across the two programs may also be a consideration in your selection.

An Engaging Education

Penn State was selected by the Carnegie Foundation for its Community Engagement Classification, honoring our commitment to providing students with at least one outside-the-classroom engagement opportunity that impacts their community. As an energy and sustainability policy student, you are required to complete a capstone course in which you

will conduct in-depth research and analysis while interacting with various stakeholders in the community and beyond. Additionally, you will complete an internship or foreign studies experience, deepening your learning by applying classroom knowledge in the real world. You will work with faculty to design meaningful and appropriate experiences, taking into consideration your current work and family commitments. Your prior learning experiences will also be reviewed in fulfilling these degree requirements.



Curriculum

These interdisciplinary programs, developed by industry experts and academic leaders in the field, integrate course work in sustainability principles and practices, policy development and analysis, as well as energy sources, uses, and implications. As a bachelor of science student, you can also enhance your skills in management and leadership.

As a bachelor of arts student, you can enhance your communication skills as you acquire knowledge of the international, social, cultural, and political dimensions of energy and sustainability considerations from a global perspective.

Courses in these programs include:

Global Energy Enterprise—Industry insight into the resources, technologies, engineering approaches, and externalities involved in satisfying worldwide energy demand profitably and sustainably.

Energy Industry Applications of GIS—Roles of geographic information systems in energy-siting decisions focusing on electric energy transmission networks.

Energy Policy—Analysis, formulation, implementation, and impacts of energy-related policies, regulations, and initiatives.

Energy and Sustainability in Society—Capstone course in energy technology and policy options for reduced-carbon communities that covers agent/ stakeholder relations, sustainability, communication, and public engagement.



Competency Areas

The energy and sustainability policy programs' curricula emphasize five common competency areas:

- › **Energy industry knowledge:** Gain an in-depth and comprehensive understanding of the energy industry landscape, with focus on both renewable and nonrenewable resources.
- › **Sustainability ethic:** Develop and refine a personal sustainability ethic that guides thinking and decision-making in matters related to energy, the climate, and sustainability.
- › **Global perspective:** Learn about the global systems of energy production and consumption and how our varied social, economic, and environmental systems affect global energy use.
- › **Analytical skills:** Cultivate the skills necessary to find, read, understand, interpret, and synthesize evolving policy and regulations.
- › **Communication skills:** Work to effectively explain to diverse audiences—orally, in writing, and through other artifacts and graphics—the intended and unintended consequences of energy policy and regulation.

Career Opportunities for Graduates

As a student in either of the energy and sustainability policy degree programs, you can prepare for a challenging and rewarding career with a variety of organizations, advocacy groups, commercial firms, or regulatory bodies. You can work on projects related to energy project development, energy efficiency and waste reduction initiatives, environmental assessments, regulatory compliance, and stakeholder communications, as well as policy planning, analysis, and implementation. You may also pursue advanced degrees leading to careers in fields such as education, law, business administration, or

sustainability management. You could use your knowledge and skills to work in such occupations as:

- › sustainability adviser
- › governmental affairs manager
- › energy efficiency and sustainability consultant
- › policy analyst
- › renewable energy program manager
- › lobbyist
- › compliance specialist
- › power services coordinator

Undergraduate Certificate in Earth Sustainability

The Undergraduate Certificate in Earth Sustainability is designed to provide you with the knowledge to make informed, environmentally sustainable decisions. This 12-credit program addresses key sustainability issues, including the impact of climate change on Earth and its inhabitants, access to clean drinking water, sustainable energy, and the hazards posed by our overpopulated coastal regions. This online program was made possible, in part, by the National Science Foundation to introduce more students to the geosciences and the importance of sustainable living.

If you complete your certificate and decide that you want to continue working toward advanced knowledge in the field, the credits you've earned in the certificate program can be applied to a bachelor's degree in energy and sustainability policy, if you apply and are accepted into the program.

Curriculum

Earth in the Future: Predicting Climate Change and Its Impacts over the Next Century—

Climate predictions for the coming century and potential impacts on regions, sectors of society, and natural ecosystems

Climate, Energy, and Our Future—

The past, present, and possible future response of Earth's climate to human energy use

Coastal Processes, Hazards, and Society—

Processes responsible for formation, diversity, and evolution of coastal landscapes; socioeconomic and policy responses to changes in coastal regions

Water: Science and Society—

Investigation of water behavior and occurrence, its relevance to life, human activities, politics, and society

worldcampus.psu.edu/sustainearth



Why Penn State?

A Respected, High-Quality Education

In 1892, Penn State founded one of our nation's first correspondence courses; in 1998, we were one of the first major accredited universities to provide online education. We are committed to ensuring that you have access to a quality academic experience, even when you have job and family obligations to fulfill. Our programs have been developed through a partnership between Penn State's College of Earth and Mineral Sciences and Penn State World Campus, a pioneer in providing global online access to a real university education.

Your online courses are the same academically challenging courses that are taught on campus. Yet they give you the flexibility and convenience to study wherever you are, at times that suit your own schedule.

Faculty

The courses in the earth sustainability certificate and the energy and sustainability policy degree programs are designed and taught by Penn State professors whose teaching and research interests combine academic expertise and industry experience. They are leaders in their fields and experts in the subjects that they teach, and they are committed to making sure you get a quality academic experience in your online programs.

Employer Recognized and Accepted

These online programs will carry the same Penn State commitment to high quality that is respected by employers everywhere. And when you graduate, your credentials will be the same as any other awarded by Penn State. Penn State World Campus is the real Penn State. The only difference is the way in which the courses are delivered to you.



Frequently Asked Questions

Why is Penn State the best choice for me?

Flexibility and convenience

Penn State knows that adults need flexible and convenient learning options to continue meeting their professional and personal commitments. As job responsibilities grow increasingly complex and family schedules become more hectic, online education enables you to study at times and locations that are convenient for you.

Reputation

Penn State is universally regarded as one of the finest educational institutions in the United States. Putting a Penn State degree or certificate on your résumé is a great way to prove to current and potential employers that you are a well-educated professional, and to broaden your career options.

Accreditation

Penn State is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and has an outstanding reputation as a research and teaching university. Our courses are also accepted by most other colleges and universities in fulfillment of their requirements.

Is this the real Penn State?

Absolutely. Penn State values online education as highly as it does resident instruction. Once you complete the degree requirements, you will be awarded a diploma identical to the one received by any Penn State student. There is no mention on your diploma that you earned your degree online.

How will I interact with my instructor and other students?

We use a variety of means to bring students and instructors together, including asynchronous electronic threaded discussions on the course website and email.

What types of student support are available?

Penn State has developed a nationally recognized support system for students who are geographically removed from campus. Our academic advisers, technical support experts, customer service representatives, and Penn State instructors will help you get where you want to go—successfully—through distance education.

Begin Your Application Today

For the Undergraduate Certificate in Earth Sustainability, visit:

worldcampus.psu.edu/sustainearth

For the Bachelor of Arts in Energy and Sustainability Policy, visit:

worldcampus.psu.edu/esp

For the Bachelor of Science in Energy and Sustainability Policy, visit:

worldcampus.psu.edu/espbs

Click the “Apply Now” button to access your application.

Deadlines

Please visit your program’s “How to Apply” page for application deadlines.

Admission Materials

Undergraduate Certificate in Earth Sustainability

- › Official high school transcripts or GED transcript

B.A. or B.S. in Energy and Sustainability Policy

- › Official high school transcripts or GED transcript
- › Official military transcripts (if applicable)
- › Official college or university transcripts (if you attended another institution)
- › TOEFL score (if applicable)
- › Complete online application form and fee

Please visit our website for a more detailed description of the requirements and application procedure: worldcampus.psu.edu/admissions

Did You Know?

- › Penn State has aligned its online programs, student support services, policies, and procedures to support military personnel, veterans, and military family members.
- › Penn State World Campus is consistently ranked in the top 10 by *U.S. News & World Report* for having the best online bachelor’s programs.



Contact Us

Program Questions

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Admissions Questions

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