

PENN STATE INSTITUTES of ENERGY and the ENVIRONMENT

Leading Penn State's energy and environmental initiatives through interdisciplinary research, education, and outreach.



MISSION

The mission of the Penn State Institutes of Energy and the Environment (PSIEE) is to expand Penn State's capacity to pursue the newest frontiers in energy and environmental research by encouraging cooperation across disciplines and engaging the participation of local, state, federal, and international stakeholders.

WHO WE ARE

The PSIEE is the central coordinating structure for energy and environmental research, education, and outreach at Penn State. It is a dynamic, tightly coupled, intercampus network of expertise and infrastructure organized under the Office of the Senior Vice President for Research. Its core colleges include:

- ◆ Agricultural Sciences
- ◆ Earth and Mineral Sciences
- ◆ Engineering
- ◆ Health and Human Development
- ◆ Liberal Arts
- ◆ Medicine
- ◆ Eberly College of Science
- ◆ Harrisburg Capital College

STUDENTS

Students are an integral part of the PSIEE. Projects administered by the PSIEE provide many opportunities to support student research. Students participate in a wide range of research activities including field research, laboratory experiments, literature reviews, and data analysis.

WHAT WE DO

The PSIEE promotes Penn State's interdisciplinary enterprise through a variety of activities. Selected activities include the:

- ◆ Hiring of new faculty;
- ◆ Financial support of faculty developing large-scale research proposals;
- ◆ Matching funds for individual proposals;
- ◆ Sponsorship of graduate and undergraduate training;
- ◆ Proposal preparation and sponsored research management services;
- ◆ Monitoring of funding opportunities and their communication to faculty;
- ◆ Communication with government and non-government sponsors; and
- ◆ Promotion of Penn State's energy and environmental capabilities through its web site, e-newsletter, listservs, and outreach to sponsors.

RESEARCH FOCUS

The PSIEE is focused around a set of major themes that reflect areas of significant challenge and societal interest, which tend to cross traditional disciplinary boundaries. Current focus is on the following themes:

- ◆ Air Quality
- ◆ Biodiversity and Ecosystems
- ◆ Energy
- ◆ Global Change
- ◆ Health and the Environment
- ◆ Industrial Ecology and Green Engineering
- ◆ Water Resources

RECENT INITIATIVES

- ◆ Recruitment and hiring of at least 25 new faculty positions in energy science, engineering, and policy during the next 3 years as part of the University's new energy initiative.
- ◆ Establishment of a major research alliance with Chevron Energy Technology Company to research coal conversion technologies.
- ◆ Support for the BioEconomy Bridge to Innovation, bringing stakeholders together to address the critical need for integrating research and technology development for the next generation bioenergy and bioproducts.
- ◆ Support for the Hydrogen Energy Center, whose activities span energy production, biofuels, transportation, green engineering, and sustainable technologies.

LEADERSHIP

The PSIEE is under the leadership of director Tom Richard, associate director Chunshan Song, and assistant directors Beth Boyer, Nancy Franklin, and Denise Wardrop. They are assisted by an Executive Committee comprised of the deans of the core colleges and by a Coordinating Council consisting of University faculty and directors of college-level institutes and centers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Visit us on the Internet at:
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