OUR 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

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 Vice President for Research.

LEADERSHIP

The PSIEE is under the leadership of director Tom Richard, associate director Chunshan Song, and assistant directors Beth Boyer, Nancy Franklin, and Denice 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.

CONTACT US

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Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce.

PSIEE is focused around a set of strategic priorities that reflect areas of significant challenge and societal interest, that tend to cross traditional disciplinary boundaries, and where Penn State aspires to global leadership. These strategic priorities include:

- Energy Efficient Buildings
- Climate Science
- Biomass Energy
- Coupled Biogeochemical Cycles
- Carbon Capture, Sequestration and Utilization
- Unconventional Gas Shales
- Energy Storage
- Coal Utilization
- Health and the Environment
- Polar Science
- Solar Photoconversion
- Water Science

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

- Hiring new faculty into areas of strategic importance and opportunity;
- Management of core analytical instruments and experimental facilities;
- Seed grants to support collaborative research in strategic priority areas;
- Financial support of faculty developing large-scale research proposals;
- Matching funds for individual proposals;
- Sponsorship of graduate and undergraduate training;
- 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 website, e-newsletter, listservs, and outreach to sponsors.

Visit us on the Internet at www.psiee.psu.edu

Recent Highlights:

- Recruitment and hiring of 25 new faculty positions in energy science, engineering, and policy as part of the University’s new energy initiative.
- The Greater Philadelphia Innovation Cluster, a DOE funded Energy Innovation Hub developing dramatic increases in energy efficiency for commercial buildings and retrofits.
- The Center for Lignocellulose Structure and Formation, a DOE funded Energy Frontiers Research Center increasing our fundamental understanding of how biomass is formed and performs as a molecular material in plant cell walls.
- The Battery and Energy Storage Technologies Center, which includes the first US university-based battery manufacturing facility, and is supported in part by a DOE ARPA-E award.
- The Critical Zone Observatory, a new NSF program of interdisciplinary biogeochemical, hydrologic, and environmental research.