



The WSU Energy Program: A national leader and catalyst for creating powerful energy solutions

**Transition to a Bioeconomy:
The Role of Extension in Energy**

***How State Energy Offices and
Extension Can Work Together***

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June 30, 2009

Energy Office – a different model in the State of Washington

The State of Washington does not have one central Energy Office anymore. Duties of the old energy office are split up between:

- Washington State University (WSU)
- Washington State Department of Community Trade and Economic Development
- Washington State Department of General Administration
- Washington State Department of Transportation

The WSU Extension Energy Program – housed within WSU – is by far the most significant.

WSU Extension Energy Program

- Formerly part of the Washington State Energy Office, established in 1976
- In 1996, the state transferred the energy office's education, information, technical assistance, and training programs to WSU Extension
- The WSU Extension Energy Program is comprised of approximately 70 specialized staff members – including engineers, software developers, energy specialists, librarians, and more



The **WSU Extension Energy Program is supported by project funding partnerships with:**

- **Federal government agencies:** The Department of Energy, the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development
- **Federal Power Marketing Agencies:** The Bonneville Power Administration and the Western Area Power Authority
- **The Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance,** a nonprofit group of utilities, state governments, public interest groups and efficiency industry representatives
- **The private sector**

Our Program Areas

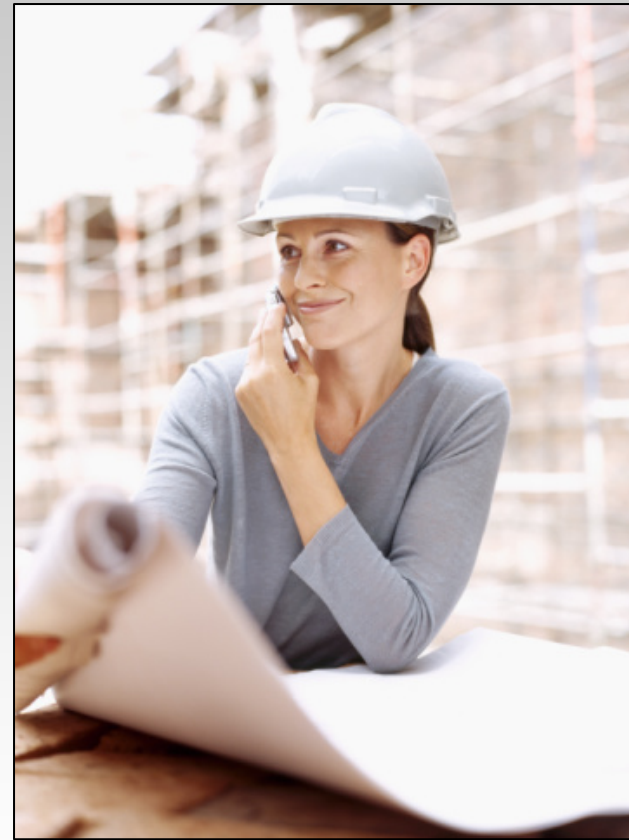
- Commercial and Industrial Engineering
- Technical Assistance Clearinghouses
- Renewable Energy
- Climate and Rural Energy Development
- Resource Conservation Management
- Applied Building Science
- Distributed Generation
- Library

We do business in our state and region, as well as nationally and internationally.



Our Clearinghouses

- Technical Assistance Call Centers
- Unique market niche for us
- Nearly 20 years of Clearinghouse experience



We currently manage and operate these Clearinghouses:

- U.S. Department of Energy's EERE Information Center



- U.S. Department of Energy's Recovery Act Clearinghouse



- The Western Area Power Administration Clearinghouse



Our Clearinghouses

- Information delivery services
- Help accelerate the adoption of new technologies and practices
- Deliver credible, objective information, resources, technical and programmatic assistance, and tools nationwide



Our Clearinghouses

- Core Services:
 - Toll-free Hotlines
 - Internet Websites
 - Consultations with on-call team of professional engineers, research librarians, energy specialists, and communications and information staff
 - Comprehensive Energy Research Library
 - Fact sheets, reports, case studies...
 - Energy software



Energy and Extension

- Rising energy costs, supply alternatives and new opportunities make energy a timely topic for many Extension customers
- State Energy Offices and Extension can work together
- The U.S. Department of Energy's EERE Information Center can be a resource for both
- Contact: 1-877-EERE-INF or www.eere.energy.gov

A Resource for You

- To help Extension agents and State Energy Office's meet the growing needs of their constituents
- To assist as they face new challenges in the energy arena
- They can access and direct constituents to the highly reputable and useful one stop energy resource center – the EERE Information Center
- A related and successful pilot project recently wrapped up in the Pacific Northwest involving Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska Extension

Other Ways for Extension to get Engaged: Build Relationships

- Historically not a lot of contact between Extension and the State Energy Offices – true nationwide
- Meet at staff level – find out about the experts in bioenergy, weatherization and food processing/ industry
- Work with each other as a team
- Attend relevant conferences: For example: Harvesting Clean Energy (Pacific Northwest), American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) Farm Energy Conference, and more
- Support accelerated activity at the federal level
 - Recovery Act

Other Ways for Extension to get Engaged: Mutual Support

- Be mutually supportive of relevant
 - Events
 - Efforts
 - Budget requests
- Put forward joint budget/funding requests



Other Ways for Extension to get Engaged: Strategic Planning

- Participate in each others strategic planning processes



Other Ways for Extension to get Engaged: Work with Local Utilities

- State Energy Offices work with local utilities – so should Extension staff



Other Ways for Extension to get Engaged: Agriculture and Carbon Markets

- Coming – Ability to sell carbon credits
- Extension should learn about this
- For more information, see the Agriculture Work Group of the Washington State Governor's Climate Action Team final report at:
www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/2008FA_agr.htm



Other Ways for Extension to get Engaged: Organized Contact Information

- Work together to create a list of experts to call
 - Jointly shared
 - Create a list for both the State Energy Office and Extension
 - Do the same at the local level with utilities and Extension



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EXTENSION ENERGY PROGRAM

www.energy.wsu.edu