

MASTER ENERGY PROGRAM FALL 2010 – CLASS TOPICS

1. From Fossil Fuels to Future Fuels

In this class we will discuss what sources our energy came from historically, where it comes from now and where it might come from in the future. We will also cover how we use our energy at state/regional, national and global scales.

2. Energy Management and Planning

We'll tell you how to read your utility bills, conduct your own basic home energy survey or audit, and assess the information you collected. Learn how to track and benchmark your home's energy consumption and where to find a professional energy auditor.

3. Low Cost/No Cost Energy Solutions

Learn how to pick the low-hanging fruit of the energy world! You will also learn how to access energy efficiency programs by our state's utility, National Grid, and how to implement easy, low or no cost projects that will increase your home's efficiency. Finally, we'll go over how simple behavior changes can lead to big energy savings.

4. Big Investment, Big Return: Renewable Energy

Is renewable energy cost-effective for my home? How can I make my own power without breaking the bank? Learn about your renewable energy options, simple calculations to determine cost-effectiveness of potential projects and incentives that can reduce your initial investment.

5. Energy Policy from the Ground Up: Legislation, Policy and Incentives

Learn how energy policy can affect you, your community and the region in which you live. Hear local policymakers and advocates from state and non-profit sectors discuss how Rhode Island is on the cutting edge of innovative energy policy. Is the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (the Northeast's cap and trade system) working to reduce emissions in the region? Will we see a federal cap and trade system soon?

6. Cutting Edge Energy Research in Rhode Island

Rhode Island may be a small state, but it boasts big energy ideas. This class will feature a panel of University research faculty exploring cutting edge energy topics like smart grid technology – the hotly debated concept of upgrading our electric grid system to take advantage of real-time energy prices.

7. Educating the Public on Energy: Volunteering and Final Exam

Educating the public is an exciting way to share information you've learned through this training program and do your part to educate your local community. The focus of this class is to learn how to successfully share your knowledge with the public through various volunteer activities. The final exam will be administered to culminate the class.