

Energizing Utah

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USU Launches New Energy Engineering Program

USU's College of Engineering is taking the lead to train future engineers for Utah's energy and critical minerals future. Earlier this year, USU announced plans to develop the state's first comprehensive energy engineering program. New degree and credential programs will help prepare engineering experts to lead the development of clean and sustainable energy for a rapidly growing state.



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The Statewide Energy Education & Workforce Initiative was approved in the 2024 General Session of the Utah Legislature. Lawmakers committed \$2.1 million in ongoing funding for the hire of several new energy engineering faculty experts. An additional one-time appropriation of \$450,000 will cover upgrades to existing USU facilities and the purchase of new equipment for energy research.

What Energy Experts Are Saying

"There is a growing talent gap in the energy engineering space. Many who have dedicated their careers to the industry are retiring and there aren't enough young people to take their place. There are exciting opportunities in everything from designing safe, cost-effective, and environmentally sound ways to get the raw materials we need for energy and energy infrastructure out of the ground and into final form, to energy efficiency design and automation. I am excited about this new opportunity at Utah State University. It will give aspiring engineers a path to career opportunities and help Utah provide the projected doubling of energy capacity needed over the next 20 years as our population and industry grow. Things are changing quickly and engineers getting into the field today will be a part of innovations that most of us haven't dreamed of yet."



— Dana Dean, Deputy Director — Utah Department of Natural Resources, Division of Oil, Gas & Mining

“Utah’s energy future will be shaped by our growth, electrification and the development of nuclear and renewable resources. A myriad of energy issues are introduced as transportation and heating systems electrify, energy intensive AI data centers are sited, economic and population growth accelerates and energy resources promoting environmental respect are integrated into Utah’s energy infrastructure. Energy engineers will play a vital role in providing proactive issue identification and solid solutions for Utah’s energy systems. Not only will our energy engineers be involved with an innovative and challenging field, but they will also be engaged in a career that provides invaluable support to the communities in which they live.”



— Jake Barker, Director — Distribution Engineering, PacifiCorp

“Today’s energy landscape is ripe with innovation. The economics of clean energy continue to improve, with solar and wind power being less expensive than traditional fossil fuel energy generation. On top of that, decarbonization of our homes, buildings, and facilities is a growing area of interest. From building energy efficiency and demand response technologies, rooftop solar paired with battery storage to create great flexible buildings, and the integration of more and

more renewable energy on the electric grid, energy engineering is a field that is poised to play a huge part of Utah's clean energy future and economic success."



— *Kevin Emerson, Director of Building Efficiency and Decarbonization — Utah Clean Energy*

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