

PA 567: Energy Resources Policy & Administration

(Also known as “Northwest Energy Policy & the Columbia River”)

Course Description

This course explores the history, politics, and institutions related to current energy policy and administration, with particular attention to the distinctive nature of energy policy issues in the Pacific Northwest and the Columbia River Basin. It provides social science theories and analytical tools to help graduate students and energy professionals navigate the complexities of the energy sector.

This course was created in 1984 at the request of the Administrator of the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and has been offered annually ever since. For many years, BPA, Northwest utilities, the Energy Trust of Oregon, Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, state energy agencies and public utility commissions, law firms with a significant presence in the energy sector, energy consulting companies, advocacy organizations and coalitions, and other energy companies and agencies have encouraged and supported employees that these organizations have identified as future leaders to participate in this course. This participant mix leads to lively and informative class discussions.

The course includes networking and learning opportunities from guest speakers active in these areas.

Please contact us about **Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credits**.

Why Take this Course?

The electricity sector is undergoing especially turbulent times as traditional business models are being altered due to renewable energy targets, climate change legislation, and energy efficiency and distributed generation requirements. Utilities are being required to deliver renewable electricity to their customers, but the challenge of transporting the renewable electricity from rural to urban areas is increasingly difficult due to citizen and environmental opposition to new power lines.

This course gives students and professionals knowledge, ideas, and tools to understand, analyze, and advocate for equity and empowerment of affected stakeholders.

Who Should Register?

This course serves two key audiences:

- **Graduate students** from PSU and elsewhere interested in the history and current state of the critical energy policy issues facing the Pacific Northwest and nation.
- **Mid-career professionals** interested in career advancement or exploring a career transition.

Term: Fall 2025

Days and Times

- Tuesdays
- 5:30-8:00 PM
- September 30 – December 9

Location:

- PSU, Urban Center 204
- Offered in-person & Zoom

Cost & Registration Options:

- Graduate Credit (CRN: 12486): \$1,503 plus university fees
- Professional Development (Non-Credit): \$1,503

Course Website:

<https://www.pdx.edu/center-for-public-service/northwest-energy-policy>

Contact Information

Brandon Kurtz,
Office: 570-S
URBN Building
Email: brandonk@pdx.edu

For non-credit registration questions please contact at: cps_energy@pdx.edu

