

Announcing the Return of a Popular Professional Development Opportunity:

The Smart Grid & Sustainable Communities

Available for Graduate Credit or Professional Development Certificate of Completion.
Attend through Zoom or in person, and stream recordings of any missed sessions.

Course Description

This popular and widely heralded course explores a set of emerging concepts, technologies, applications, and business models that are in the process of transforming the nation's century-old, centralized power grid into a more decentralized and climate, consumer, and renewable energy friendly "Smart Grid." These concepts, technologies, and models hold the promise of a significant new paradigm for the generation, use and delivery of electric power that is more efficient, sustainable, robust, flexible, and environmentally sound, and that encourages a much higher level of consumer participation and control.

This interdisciplinary course is co-taught by a team of faculty and industry experts, supported by national and regional experts who will participate as guest speakers. This year, the course will be led by [Angela Long](#), CEO and Founder of Rockcross Consulting. The course will include "real world" projects that will allow the student teams to explore if and how the Smart Grid and related technologies and approaches can support sustainable development and a cleaner and more just energy future.

The class will conclude with a Smart Grid Public Forum during the final class session. At the Forum, student teams will present their findings and recommendations to many invited leaders from the Northwest energy community.

Why Take this Course?

This course is designed to serve both enrolled graduate students who will receive graduate credit and working professionals or people considering a career change who will receive a non-credit Certificate of Completion. It brings together graduate students from different Northwest university programs and departments, and industry professionals from such organizations as the Bonneville Power Administration, the Energy Trust of Oregon, the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, state energy offices and public utility commissions, and many Northwest utilities, consulting companies, law firms, trade associations, and advocacy organizations. This rich mix of participants has fostered lively class discussions and great professional networking.

Who Should Register?

- **Graduate students** from PSU and elsewhere interested in learning more about these exciting new developments in a career path that used to be considered a bit staid and conventional.
- **Mid-career professionals** in energy and other fields seeking career advancement (The Oregon Bar offers Continuing Legal Education credit for this course).

Register or contact us by March 25, 2026!

Spring 2026 Days and Times

- Tuesdays
- 5:30-8:00 PM
- March 31 – June 9, 2026

Location:

- PSU campus – URBN 303
- Zoom option available

Cost & Registration Options:

- Graduate Credit (3 Credits): \$1,503 plus university fees
- Professional Development (Non-Credit): \$1,503 and no university fees

Course Website:

<https://www.pdx.edu/center-for-public-service/smart-grid>

Contact Information:

For Graduate Credit:

Public Administration Department
publicad@pdx.edu

For Professional Development (non-credit):

Brandon Kurtz, Center for Public Service
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PSU Public Administration Department | Publicad@pdx.edu | <https://www.pdx.edu/public-administration/>