

Energy providers coalition offers online course on smart grid, renewables

The Energy Providers Coalition for Education has launched a new online course to provide training for electric power industry workers in clean energy solutions and smart grid deployment. The course, "Renewable Energy Sources and the Smart Grid," explores electricity production from various forms of renewable energy as well as the function, operation and vision of the smart grid.

Designed to be an overview, the course covers renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, ocean, biomass and geothermal, as well as smart grid challenges, benefits, technology, and the role of the consumer, EPCE said.

The first in a series of three, the course was developed in collaboration with EPCE's education partner, Bismarck State College's National Energy Center of Excellence, as part of a Department of Energy work force training and development grant administered by the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning. EPCE's association partners, APPA and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, are providing additional support for the program.

The other two courses will be developed and delivered over the remainder of the three-year DOE grant project, EPCE said. All the courses require approximately 10 to 12 hours of time, and students can access the online courses anytime, the coalition said.

The courses are being developed to provide work force preparedness training for employees of EPCE's DOE grant partners: Arizona Public Service; Commonwealth Edison; JEA, the municipal utility serving Jacksonville, Fla.; Northeast Utilities Service Co.; Oklahoma Gas and Electric; and PJM Interconnection. Several hundred EPCE partner company employees have already enrolled in the course, which is now available to any interested student for a fee, the coalition said.

[EPCE](#) is a coalition of energy employers, associations, contractors, labor organizations and education providers that work together to develop and implement online training for the energy industry. —[ROBERT VARELA](#)

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