

Shifting Energy Culture Series



Energy Wise: Citizen Scientists and Open Data

This session focuses on the efforts of citizen science groups and how stakeholders engage with local and regional energy issues. Our panelists' research addresses the natural gas and petrochemical industries, and their presentations will describe environmental monitoring projects they have been involved with. Presentations and discussion will highlight how citizen science projects 1) leverage digital platforms for data collection and public communication, 2) how citizen scientists work with universities or academic researchers, and 3) how these projects shift public thinking about energy use writ large. Our panelists will also speak to the challenges and limitations of citizen science within the context of "energy culture."

Session Speakers:

Gwen Ottinger, Drexel University

Kirk Jalbert, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Nick Shapiro, Chemical Heritage Foundation

Sara Wyle, Northeastern University

Wednesday, May 27, 2015, 12:00 PM-2:00 PM

Behrakis Grand Hall, Creese Student Center
3210 Chestnut St., Philadelphia PA 19104

Sponsors Include:

Institute for Energy and the Environment
Center for Science, Technology and Society
Center for Mobilities Research and Policy
Center for Electric Power Engineering
College of Engineering
College of Arts and Sciences



Lunch will be provided.

For more information:

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RSVP: sec2015-may.eventbrite.com

About the Shifting Energy Culture Project

The Shifting Energy Cultures Series is part of a multi-disciplinary research project funded by the Institute for Energy and the Environment that explores the social ordering of choices, problems and practices that shape “energy cultures” in campus environments. We will use Drexel’s “smart grid” building system as a case study and living lab.

The Talk Series:

This series of talks invites students and others on campus to look more closely at our electricity systems, power usage, and how “smart” technologies are helping us to understand campus energy usage better. A group of invited speakers will help us to bring energy issues to the foreground, engaging in discussions of energy efficiency and informing us about what resources exist to manage energy demand on campus, locally in our city, in our region and beyond.

The Survey:

We will be conducting a short survey in the lobbies of five Drexel buildings (Hagerty Library, Pearlstein, Bossone, Main, and Creese). The survey takes approximately 5-10 minutes and is being recorded by a team of Drexel graduate students.

The survey aims to understand how students, faculty, and staff interact with Drexel energy systems, how they understand energy technology (such as smart grids) and the energy market, and how energy efficient behaviors can be extended through improved interfaces and processes.

Next steps and additional information:

The results from this project will be incorporated into a curated website that collects videos of each talk and related information and resources. We hope that this educational resource will help the campus community better understand their energy use practices and efforts to reduce demand. This website, its resources, and the results of this study will be available at:

<http://www.envirohealthsense.org/project/shifting-energy-cultures-drexel/shifting-energy-culture-survey/>.

Any questions about the study can be directed to envirohealthsense@gmail.com.