

## State News for NSPE Members

### Vermont Legislators Advance Renewable Energy Standard

Vermont lawmakers have advanced a bill to source more of the state's energy from renewable resources, [wcax.com reports](https://www.wcax.com/news/vermont-legislators-advance-renewable-energy-standard/). State utilities are currently required to source 75% of their energy from renewable resources by 2032. This includes solar, wind, hydroelectric, and biomass energy. A key committee advanced the renewable energy standard which, requires utilities to source all of their power from renewables.

State lawmakers say the bill also helps develop more renewable resources in the state. "Part of that is having climate resilience and resiliency is redundancy. So, we have energy sources from all over and local generation when the grid goes wonky or goes down," said Rep. Amy Sheldon, D-Middlebury. State lawmakers say they are still determining the exact impact on what ratepayers will pay.

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### UVM's Electrical and Computer Engineering Program Debuts Its New Name

[The University of Vermont reports](#) that the faculty of the former Electrical Engineering (EE) program in the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences (CEMS) has recently voted to adopt a new name—the Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) Program—that better reflects the scope and breadth of the undergraduate curriculum and highlights the importance of computer engineering as a core research and hands-on learning opportunity for students studying to become electrical engineers.

"Our faculty recognizes that computer engineering—which blends aspects of electrical engineering with computer science—is a highly sought-after combination of skills for which there is a critical need in the modern workforce," said Marilyn J. Cipolla, Chair of the Electrical and Biomedical Engineering Department (EBE) where the program will continue to be housed. Cipolla added that the faculty within the Electrical and Computer Engineering program are internationally recognized for their research in areas that heavily involve computer engineering, but that this

expertise was not well-reflected in the program's existing name.

The Electrical and Computer Engineering program allows students to select a specific area of concentration if they choose to. They can collaborate with faculty on research and take courses within specific areas of expertise in the department. [Read more.](#)

*Stay up to date on legislative issues through the [NSPE Advocacy Center](#) .*

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## **NCEES Seeks PE Expertise to Update Exams**

NCEES is currently seeking licensed professional engineers to participate in a professional activities and knowledge study, or PAKS, to update specifications for the PE Architectural Engineering Exam and the PE Environmental Exam.

### **Architectural Engineering**

NCEES requires a cross section of PEs practicing architectural engineering (including those working in industry, consulting, the public sector, and academia) to complete an online survey about the tasks and knowledge required of a licensed architectural engineer with four to six years of experience to practice in a manner that safeguards the public. Access the survey [here](#) and participate by April 24.

### **Environmental Engineering**

NCEES requires a cross section of PEs practicing environmental engineering (including those working in industry, consulting, the public sector, and academia) to complete an online survey about the tasks and knowledge required of a licensed environmental engineer with four to six years of experience to practice in a manner that safeguards the public. Access the survey [here](#) and participate by May 5.

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## **The 2024 Scholarship Season Opens**

The NSPE Education Foundation is [now accepting applications](#) for the 2024 scholarship season through an online submission platform. The application deadline is April 1.

### **High School**

The [Maureen L. and Howard N. Blitman, P.E., Scholarship to Promote Diversity in Engineering](#) is awarded annually to a high school senior from an ethnic minority who has been accepted into an ABET-accredited engineering program at a four-year college or university. The award is for \$5,000.

### **Undergraduate**

The [Steinman Scholarship](#) is awarded annually to undergraduates entering or

continuing their junior year in a four-year ABET-accredited engineering program. The award is for \$5,000.

The [William R. Kimel, P.E., Engineering Scholarship](#) is awarded to an undergraduate student who is a resident of either Kansas or Missouri, enrolled as a junior in an ABET-accredited engineering program in a college or university in either Kansas or Missouri. The award is for \$2,500.

### **Graduate**

The [George B. Hightower, P.E. Fellowship](#) is awarded annually to a current engineering undergraduate or graduate student who is enrolled in, or graduated from, an ABET-accredited engineering program. The award is for \$3,000.

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## **PE Institute – 15 Free Webinar Package**

NSPE has moved 15 on-demand webinars out from behind the paywall for viewing by members from the comfort of home or the office. Members can [add the webinar package to their account now](#). Once added, the webinars can be viewed through January 15, 2025.

Since 2022, NSPE has offered all PE Institute webinars free of charge to members. Past webinars are also available for viewing in the [On-Demand Webinars](#) section of the PE Institute website.

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22314**