

## State News for NSPE Members

### **Brown University Turning Away from Fossil Fuels, Embracing Sustainability**

Brown University leaders have pledged to reduce campus greenhouse gas emissions to [net-zero by 2040](#), with 75% of reductions happening by 2025, in an effort to help fight climate change. Also, the university's financial managers are selling off its investments in fossil fuels, selling and liquidating its entire exposure to companies that extract fossil fuels and applying environmental, social, and governance criteria in all of its investment decisions.

The institution also vows to support more sustainable campus operations, including reducing nutrient pollution, reducing water impacts, safeguarding human health and curbing biodiversity loss. In addition, Brown plans to expand education and research opportunities focused on sustainability.

NSPE's [Code of Ethics](#) states, "Engineers are encouraged to adhere to the principles of sustainable development in order to protect the environment for future generations."

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### **Warehouse Plans Meet Community Resistance**

A construction project in the early planning stages was met with community resistance in Warwick, due to concerns about damage to wetlands as well as increased traffic and general warehouse operations. The project would comprise a massive warehouse and distribution facility with 116 loading bays, 124 trailers, and 404 parking spots over 541,000 square feet.

The project has been proposed by NorthPoint, the second-largest industrial property in the US. Warwick community members voiced concerns over environmental repercussions at a recent meeting, according to [ecoRI.org](#). Some, including a former supervising engineer at the stormwater and wetlands division at the state's Department of Environmental Management, said the building footprint is too large for the site and doesn't allow for enough stormwater basin square

footage.

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

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## FAA safety engineer goes public to slam the agency's oversight of Boeing's 737 MAX

Haunted by the two deadly crashes of Boeing 737 MAX jets and his agency's role in approving the plane, veteran Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) safety engineer Joe Jacobsen is stepping forward publicly to give the victims' families "a firsthand account of what the truth is." In a detailed letter sent last month to a family that lost their daughter in the second MAX crash in Ethiopia two years ago this week, and in [interviews with The Seattle Times](#), Jacobsen gave the first personal account by an insider of the federal safety agency's response to the MAX crashes. Jacobsen should have been among the FAA specialists who reviewed the MAX's critical new flight control software during its original certification, which was largely controlled by Boeing. He's confident that he and other FAA engineers would have flagged its serious design flaws.

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## Wanted: 2021 NSPE Emerging Leaders



NSPE is fostering a new generation of engineers who can think strategically, build effective teams, and lead successfully through its [Emerging Leaders Program](#). This intensive seven-month, professionally facilitated, virtual program is now accepting applications until **May 31**.

Early-career professionals with 5-8 years of experience who are just beginning to lead and think strategically in the profession are encouraged to apply. The program graduated its [first class of diverse, super achieving professionals](#) in February.

Between August 2021 and February 2022 participants will learn how to be

successful at higher levels of leadership responsibility. Participants will engage in 90-minute leadership training sessions each month with learning discussions and mentoring on topics such as ownership, team development, communication skills, giving/receiving feedback, and presentation skills. There will also be ample networking opportunities with peers and national NSPE national leaders.

[Learn more and apply.](#)

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## Ethics Webinars for PEs and Those on the Licensure Path



Don't miss NSPE's upcoming ethics webinars on truthfulness and fidelity to employers and clients, with insight from Rebecca Bowman, P.E., Esq., NSPE's senior director for ethics and professional practice and NAFE executive director, and other NSPE ethics experts.

### April 7

#### [Engineering Ethics—Canon III—Truthfulness](#)

Learn from a variety of situations in which circumstances can tempt (and even encourage) engineers to dance around the edges of Canon III.

*Presenters: Hugh Veit, P.E., Susan Sprague, P.E., F.NSPE, and Rebecca Bowman, P.E., Esq.*

### May 5

#### [Engineering Ethics—Canon IV—Fidelity to Employers/Clients](#)

Examine the duties to employers and clients, and circumstances under which those duties can be pre-empted by higher duties, especially to the public health, safety, and welfare.

*Presenters: David Kish, Ph.D., P.E., Jeff Greenfield, Ph.D., P.E., F.NSPE, and Rebecca Bowman, P.E., Esq.*

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