

THE Core SAMPLE

Internal Newsletter of the School of Energy Resources

May | 2021

UW RECEIVES DOE FUNDING FOR CARBON ORE, RARE EARTH AND CRITICAL MINERALS INITIATIVES IN WYOMING



The University of Wyoming will receive nearly \$3 million from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for research focused on expanding and transforming the use of coal and coal-based resources to produce coal-based products, using carbon ore, rare earth elements (REE) and critical minerals (CM).

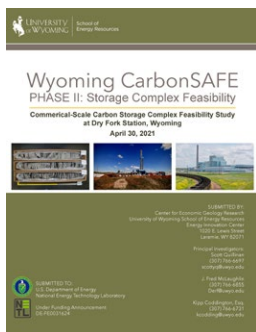
Two separate projects submitted by UW's School of Energy Resources (SER) Center for Economic Geology Research (CEGR) were selected by the DOE's Office of Fossil Energy and announced this week. The funds will cover research in the Powder River Basin (PRB) of Wyoming and Montana and the Greater Green River and Wind River basins (GGRB-WRB) of Wyoming and Colorado.

Serving as the principal investigators for the projects are SER's **Erin Phillips**, a senior research scientist, who will lead the collaborative team in the PRB, while **Davin Bagdonas**, an associate research scientist, will head up the efforts in the GGRB-WRB.

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CEGR SUBMITTED PHASE II WYOMING CARBONSAFE REPORT TO THE DOE

The Center for Economic Geology Research (CEGR) submitted the final report for Phase II of the Wyoming CarbonSAFE project to the Department of Energy (DOE). The 856 page report detailed the results and findings from Phase II activities including the geologic analysis, seismic data, subsurface modeling and risk assessment.



HIGHLIGHTS

Academic Program

- 9 students in the ERMD degree will graduate on May 14th!
- Students in the senior capstone course gave a presentation on their research project, "Rooftop Solar Leasing." Anyone interested in watching a recording of the presentation may do so. [Watch Here>>>](#)
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Research Centers of Excellence

- *CERPA* Director **Kipp Coddington** and *CEGR* Director **Scott Quillinan** are featured panelists at the 21st Century Energy Transition Symposium. For more information on the Symposium or to register for the event, visit their [website](#).
- *The Center for Carbon Capture and Conversion (CCCC)* recently migrated its solvent extraction pilot plant from the Energy Innovation Center (EIC) laboratory site location where it was commissioned, to a new dedicated off-campus location.
- *Center for Economic Geology Research (CEGR)* research scientists **Ying Yu** and **Heng Wang** have been working to renovate a lab in the EIC to focus on carbon storage. The lab is currently getting new flooring and will be operational with equipment in July.
- *The Enhanced Oil Recovery Institute (EORI)* published a report on Polymer Flooding for Oil Recovery.

[Read Study >>>](#)

To submit news and updates email: Christine.reed@uwyo.edu



School of Energy Resources

UW PROFESSOR RECEIVES FULBRIGHT AWARD FOR ENERGY RESEARCH IN FRANCE

Tara Righetti, a professor in the University of Wyoming's School of Energy Resources (SER) and College of Law, has received a Fulbright Scholarship to conduct research related to energy transitions. She will conduct research at the Centre de Recherche Droits et Perspectives du Droit — Center for Legal Research and Perspectives in Law — at the University of Lille College of Law in France.



During her 11-month sabbatical from UW, she will collaborate with researchers in Lille to formulate a comparative study of energy, industrial and workforce transition policies in Wyoming and France, with a focus on climate policies, sustainability and the circular economy.

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STUDENT PROFILE: MOLLY MURNANE

The Energy Resources Management and Development degree (ERDM) at the School of Energy Resources (SER) boasts the versatility to incorporate all areas of interest in the energy sector. While some students come with the humanities-based background in the hopes of pursuing a career in energy law, real estate, or business, others are drawn to the degree with a robust scientific background.



Sophomore **Molly Murnane** of Annapolis, Md., transferred into the ERMD program from the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences after her first semester at the University of Wyoming. Now a student in the Energy, Land, and water Management concentration, Murnane continues to cultivate her interest in math and science while exploring other related disciplines within the energy sector that make up the bulk of her coursework.

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COVID VACCINE INCENTIVE: VACCINATION APPRECIATION DAY

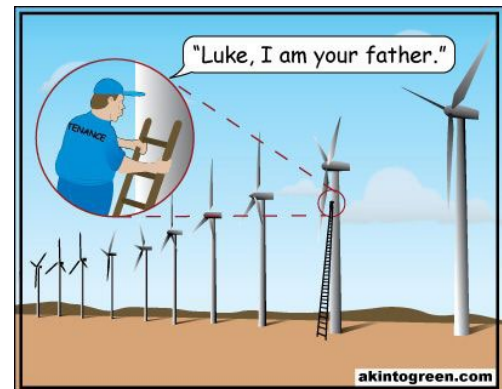
As an incentive for UW employees, those reporting that they've been fully vaccinated through UW's HCM will be eligible for a weekly drawing for a variety of prizes, and are eligible for a personal day off. **This vaccination appreciation day must be taken before Aug. 15.** Coordinate with your supervisor to use your free day off if you have received your full vaccination. Don't forget to enter your vaccination dates in the HCM System.

HIGHLIGHTS CONT.

General Announcements

- **Dr. Holly Krutka** and **Emma-Jane Alexander** competed in the 16th annual Two Fly Fishing tournament in Casper. The event is an annual oil and gas networking and fundraising opportunity.
- The School of Energy Resources is in the preliminary stages of fundraising for a new Center of Excellence, the *Hydrogen Energy Research Center*.
- Congratulations to the **Wyoming Energy Authority** (WEA) and **Membrane Technology and Research** (MTR) on a \$51 million award from the DOE to fund a post-combustion large-scale pilot carbon capture project. The project will be hosted at the Wyoming Integrated Test Center and has the potential to provide CO₂ for storage at the Wyoming CarbonSAFE site by 2023.

ENERGY JOKE *May the Fourth be with you!*



IMPORTANT DATES

- **21st Century Energy Transition Symposium**
May 4, 5 & 14, 2021
- **2021 Commencement Ceremony (SER)**
May 14, 2021 | 12:30 PM | Arena Auditorium
- **Begin Summer Hours (7:30am - 4:30pm)**
May 17, 2021
- **Next ERC Meeting**
June 17-18, 2021
- **Next All Staff Meeting**
June 22, 2021 | 9:00 am - 10:00 am

UW STUDENTS CONDUCT SOLAR ENERGY EXPERIMENT

Students in Professor Bruce Parkinson's Solar Energy Conversion class took advantage of a sunny spring day this semester to conduct a solar energy challenge as part of their course work.

The fun project is a highlight in the course where students are divided into teams, and venture out on a day with no clouds for a little friendly competition.

Armed only with four small solar panels, some cardboard, aluminum foil, and a trusty roll of duct tape, the students are challenged to configure their equipment however they wish in order to construct a solar concentrator to maximize the output of their solar cells. At the end of the experiment, the team producing the most power is the winner.

Most of the students in the class are chemists and engineers, but the interdisciplinary course is open to undergraduate and graduate students in energy-related fields, including students from the School of Energy Resources' (SER) Energy Resource Management and Development (ERMD) degree program.

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WOGCC HOSTS LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR UW PROFESSIONAL LAND MANAGEMENT STUDENTS

Each year, students from in the Professional Land Management (PLM) Concentration at the School of Energy Resources (SER) take a field trip to Casper to attend the monthly hearings before the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (WOGCC) and sit in examiner hearings. The day is wrapped up with a tour through the WOGCC offices to meet the staff and hear about their various roles with the agency.

Not surprisingly, due to COVID-19, this was not feasible this year. Nevertheless, instead of canceling it, **Professor Tara Righetti** of the University of Wyoming College of Law and School of Energy Resources came up with the idea for a remote class and asked the WOGCC to facilitate it.

During March, students in her Advanced Oil and Gas Law class were able to sit in on an examiner hearing that was conducted via conference call while following along to exhibits provided by the parties on the docket.

The students listened in on a hearing with Examiner Frank Ingram about an application for a force pooling application from Vermillion Energy. Present in the hearing was an attorney as well as a landman and a geologist. Students were able to hear first-hand the role the landman played in the hearing and the importance of the work he provided in supporting the application.

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