

**NEW YORK
ENERGY POLICY
INSTITUTE**



Dr. Elizabeth Hewitt

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The New York Energy Policy Institute (NYEPI) is an interdisciplinary research center housed in the Department of Technology and Society in Stony Brook University's College of Engineering and Applied Sciences (CEAS).

While remaining focused on energy, NYEPI has begun to align its approach to address the new challenges and opportunities associated with cutting-edge opportunities that are emerging out of big data, artificial intelligence research, and ethics.

Specifically, NYEPI supports the current strategic alignment of its home department of Technology and Society, an interdisciplinary department that merges technical and quantitative skills with social science and policy expertise to support the core mission of the department: Smart engineering education.

Under that umbrella, NYEPI builds on the department's alignment with smart development, smart communities, and smart ethics, all of which have clear connections to energy:

- **Smart Development:** The grand challenge of development stems from the fact that modern civilization arose using energy resources, largely fossil fuels, with increasingly obvious negative environmental consequences. Going forward smart development will be needed to help the rest of the world develop without locking in undesirable consequences.

- **Smart Communities:** Increasing urbanization and societal complexity is creating a great new set of opportunities for how people live together and consume energy and resources. The litany of smart buildings, smart grid, smart transportation and their interconnections frame the importance of big data and the internet of things to the future of human habitation.
- **Smart Ethics:** The temptation to, and perhaps the necessity of, allowing our systems to operate with increasing autonomy and diminished human intervention raises important ethical considerations. Issues ranging from energy poverty to the establishment of the roles and limits of robotics and artificial intelligence in society only scratch the surface of the ethical and moral dilemmas that lie ahead.

NYEPI's executive director is Dr. Elizabeth Hewitt, one of the core faculty members in the Department of Technology and Society. Dr. Hewitt is trained as an urban planner and social scientist, and her work explores energy and resilience in buildings and cities. NYEPI's president and founder is Dr. Gerald Stokes, SUNY Korea's chair of the Department of Technology & Society. NYEPI also benefits from the expertise and partnership of other faculty members and researchers.

NYEPI began in 2010 as a consortium of New York universities and Brookhaven National Laboratory. Initial funding for the institute came from NYSERDA. Under that support, the staff provided analysis of policy options, maintained a database of energy experts and conducted workshops.

In the coming year, NYEPI will emphasize the development of strategic partnerships, new funding sources, and targeted outreach.