

Energy Education Grant

Energy and the Future

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ABSTRACT.

Alternative energy has become an increasingly prominent public policy issue in recent years, yet for the public at large, alternative energy remains a complex and difficult to understand issue. The University of Nebraska Public Policy Center (PPC) and University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Journalism and Mass Communications (COJMC) will develop a new partnership to foster education and understanding about alternative energy in Nebraska in a variety of novel ways. The COJMC will create a one-hour video program about the current and future use of alternative energy in Nebraska. The PPC will create accompanying written materials. These materials will provide an objective and accessible overview of the costs and benefits of alternative energy in Nebraska, and implications for the environment, conservation, the state's economy, and public policy choices and challenges. DVD versions of the program and written materials will serve as an educational package that will be distributed free of charge to 200 public entities across the state, including government bodies, public libraries, and school systems. The PPC will also convene a deliberative discussion of alternative energy at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln — a forum that will allow participants to learn about and discuss thoughts and opinions about alternative energy with each other and area experts. The PPC will also convene a related educational seminar as part of its annual Thomas C. Sorensen Policy Seminar Series. Completion of this project will coincide with the 2008 political season, and serve as a civic resource as Nebraskans consider policy positions related to alternative energy.