Summary

This course will provide a toolkit to students to understand and analyze sustainable energy systems. In addition, the main sustainable energy technologies will be introduced and their governing principles explained.

Content

1. Basics of energy analysis
   • Technical aspects of energy: Thermodynamics of energy conversion
   • Systems modeling

2. Global energy analysis
   • Energy: issues, definitions and resources
   • Energy economics

3. Sustainable energy technologies (the technologies covered will vary year to year depending on guest lecturers)
   • Energy Storage, management and distribution
   • Fossil energy and carbon sequestration
   • Geothermal energy
   • Hydropower
   • Wind energy
   • Solar energy
   • Biomass conversion and bioenergy

Learning Prerequisites
Required courses
Thermodynamics, General Chemistry

Recommended courses
Introduction to Chemical Engineering I and II

Learning Outcomes
By the end of the course, the student must be able to:
• Analyze a renewable energy system
• Describe the working principles of the principle sustainable energy technologies
• Describe the main issues pertaining to the global energy supply
• Analyze the thermodynamics of a sustainable energy system
• Perform a simple systems analysis of a renewable energy system
• Analyze the economics of a sustainable energy system

Teaching methods
Course with examples, case studies and exercises

Assessment methods
Continuous: one in-class exam and a project to be turned in.

Resources
Moodle Link
• https://go.epfl.ch/ChE-304