




MEMORANDUM

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Elizabeth S. Chilton, Provost and Executive Vice President 

SUBJECT: Create a Master's of Energy Conscious Construction

DATE: July 3, 2023

The attached proposal to create a Master's of Energy Conscious Construction (MECC) degree for the WSU Pullman and Global campuses has been reviewed by the Provost's Office, and we support the proposal.

The MECC program provides a comprehensive foundation in building science, focused on high-performing energy-efficient residential building design and construction in the state of Washington. It covers all phases of the design process from pre-design through construction and post-occupancy evaluation. This interdisciplinary program is developed as a collaboration between the School of Design and Construction, the School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering, and Washington State University's nationally recognized Extension Energy Program.

This program aligns WSU with Washington State's initiatives to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from buildings through the Climate Commitment Act. More than half of residential buildings in WA were built before 1980 and residential buildings consume 23% of all energy. Washington State's residential energy code (WSEC-R) is one of the most advanced in the nation, but for effective implementation by a trained workforce, it must be coupled with accessible education focused on energy-efficient buildings. No comprehensive emphasis in this area is currently offered by colleges and universities in the state.

The innovative MECC program helps advance the WSU mission as a land-grant university in service to society through extending knowledge that will create future leaders in energy-efficient buildings and application of knowledge that will enhance the quality of life and the economy of the state, nation, and world.

We judge the proposal ready for the Senate review process.