

Energy Economics (10 credits)

It has often been said that the Severn Barrage will never be built (despite the possibility of meeting 5% to 10% of UK demand) because of the politics and economic risks of a project that would last 8 years.

Energy engineering students should understand the reality of economic pressures when considering alternative energy supplies. Beginning with a brief introduction to economic principles this module moves rapidly on to financial and customer markets, regulatory and financial issues and then considers the impact that privatisation can have on a service industry.

Critical comparisons of ways of presenting the data will be used to understand the relative costs of a range of energy sources. The point of view of a risk-averse investor or insurer will be used to tease out the real costs of alternatives to fossil fuels. Energy planning (planning for generation capacity expansion, hydropower planning, network and transmission planning, reliability)

The lecturer, Prof Richard Green leads the campus-based Institute of Energy Research and Policy and his research expertise fits well with the aims of this module.