A New Beginning
We are rebuilding Rice University’s energy initiative with a renewed commitment to focus on the needs of the community. Read more below about the launch of Rice’s Energy and Natural Resources Initiative (Rice ENRI).

The Energy Dialogues Series
RENRI will host guest speakers from the broader energy industry to engage with the Rice community at-large to discuss varied topics that impact the energy transition. More details on page 3.

Subsea Systems Institute (SSI)
An update on Rice’s involvement with SSI and upcoming plans for projects are outlined further on page 3.
It starts with a new name...

A new name is an obvious way of signaling the new direction for the Initiative. The new Rice Energy and Natural Resources Initiative (Rice ENRI) is the joint collaboration of the Office of Research and the Engineering and Natural Science Schools. The new name better defines our focus on sustainable energy and on the use and conservation of natural resources, such as water, air, land, and minerals.

Website (still under construction)

A new beginning.

Since the beginning of the year we have engaged the energy and environment stakeholders at Rice and elsewhere to help bring a new focus and renewed commitment to the Energy and Environment Initiative. It became clear that a new direction was needed, as EEi was falling short in serving the needs of its community. In particular, it seems that a sharper focus on the energy transition was both desirable and possible.

The threats posed by climate change to the world, our nation, and our region are increasingly recognized as a present and urgent challenge. The energy industry largely accepted its role in ensuring sustainability of the energy matrix while providing the means to bring 1/3 of the world’s population out of energy poverty. A very robust debate is ongoing in industry, government, academia, and society as a whole, which will determine the direction that we will take to address the multiple facets of the energy/climate/environment nexus. Rice University and the Energy and Environment Initiative can and should become major players in this debate. Hence, this new beginning!

Vision

ENRI will be a dynamic engine for change, which will focus the scientific, technology, and intellectual resources of Rice to help navigate the energy transition. The Initiative will be funded mainly through industry contributions.

Mission

To focus the vast academic, human, and technical resources of Rice to make a positive and lasting impact on the future of energy on a regional, national, and global level, based on positive stewardship of natural resources.

ENRI themes.

- Faculty and student engagement – creating a strong basis of support within the Rice campus through coalition building
- Education – energy transition, energy, and climate challenges; community outreach to community colleges and high school through Rice STEM.
- Research and development and innovation – energy transition and integration of renewables with the existing sources; carbon sequestration and utilization; minerals and materials for the future energy system; natural sequestration of CO2.
- Industry and community outreach – robust participation in the energy transition debate through publications, research, industry engagements, and participation in private-public coalitions.

We will be rolling out the plans and activities to drive towards our stated mission. During this transition period, you might still find the EEi name, for instance on our website, until the conversion is completed. We would love to hear your comments: does the direction, themes, mission, and vision of the initiative meet your expectations? Any contribution to sharpening our message and focus will be appreciate. Contact us!
**Subsea Systems Institute (SSI).**

SSI is a joint collaboration between Rice, The University of Houston and NASA Johnson Space Center. It was created and funded by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) as part of the RESTORE program. SSI pursues applied and engineering technology development for hydrocarbon development of deep and ultra-deep-water assets in the Gulf of Mexico and other regions. One specific focus of SSI is on safety of operations.

Some of the topics and initiatives that SSI will be developing in the next year include life extension of offshore assets, offshore asset integrity, materials for HPHT risers, spill detection, and continuing developments in robotics and automation with a vision of nominally unmanned facilities.

Interested in learning more or contributing to SSI’s mission? [Contact us](#)!  

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**The Energy Dialogues Series.**

The new energy world today is much broader than oil and gas. What will the future energy system look like in 10, 20, or 30 years? How can we contribute to this future? The Energy Dialogues series brings high-profile executives from the broader energy industry to engage with Rice faculty and students on topics such as: the energy transition, the growth of renewables, carbon capture and utilization, greener energy, minerals and materials use for the future of energy, workforce, and diversity, etc.

We intend this series to include quarterly invited speakers and workshops to dive into the details of the energy world and its impact on our communities. Future speakers include the Chief Technology Officer of NOV (National Oilwell Varco), a large supplier to the energy industry, and the Chief Technology Officer of Formula-E, the all-electric motor sport. Stay tuned to our [website](#) for the upcoming event dates for these speakers.

Rice ENRI also intends to help drive attendance to other energy-related speakers and topics happening on campus by advertising events planned by other schools and organizations. On November 7, Rice University will be hosting Royal Dutch Shell executive Harry Brekelmans, Projects &Technology Director, for a discussion about innovation and exploring the transformation of the energy industry, which is in line with Rice ENRI’s goals to help create a sharper focus on the energy transition (information is under the Upcoming Events section below).

Dr. Sergio Kapusta, Rice ENRI's executive director, recently attended the NAGF in Washington, DC. It is a large gathering of the US gas industry with a clear focus on LNG and gas exports from the U.S. Other participants such as Scott Tinker of BEG at UT Austin, former Secretary of Energy Ernie Moniz, and Mark Braunstein of the Environment Defense Fund, provided a diverse scope of opinions. You can read details of the Forum at https://energy-dialogues.com/nagf/

North American gas producers are very focused on exporting LNG. They see environmental concerns as a major risk to their business. Therefore, they are very interested in working with NGO's and academia to address the environmental issues and sharpen the message of gas as a cleaner transition fuel. Rice can be an excellent partner of the gas producers and the NGO’s, for instance on natural sequestration of CO2 and on energy education at the high school and community levels. Follow up meetings with the Forum participants are being planned. Interested? Let’s talk!

Upcoming Events

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<tr>
<th>November 11-14, 2019</th>
<th>November 12, 2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADIPEC, Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference</td>
<td>A Bold New Era of American Science and Technology</td>
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<td>Abu Dhabi, UAE</td>
<td>Baker Institute for Public Policy, Rice University</td>
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<td>November 12-14, 2019</td>
<td>November 19, 2019</td>
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<td>BSR, Business for Social Responsibility Conference 2019, Renewable Energies</td>
<td>Energy in Central Europe</td>
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<td>San Jose, CA</td>
<td>Baker Institute for Public Policy</td>
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<td>December 4, 2019</td>
<td>December 12-13, 2019</td>
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<td>Industry Perspectives on Needs and Opportunities for Resilient Coastal Infrastructure</td>
<td>Engineering Sustainable Development 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Center of Excellence for Resilience of Industrial and Energy Infrastructure (CERISE)</td>
<td>Korea University, Seoul, South Korea</td>
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<td>Rice University, Houston, TX</td>
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<td>February 17-19, 2020</td>
<td>March 9-13, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th Fossil and Renewable Energy Conference</td>
<td>CERAWeek by IHS Markit</td>
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<td>Houston, Texas</td>
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<td>March 24-27, 2020</td>
<td>April 28-29, 2020</td>
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<td>World Petrochemical Conference, IHS Markit</td>
<td>Mexican Energy Forum</td>
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<td>New Orleans, LA</td>
<td>Mexico City, MX</td>
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<td>May 4-7, 2020</td>
<td>June 15-16, 2020</td>
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<td>Offshore Technology Conference (OTC)</td>
<td>8th World Congress and Expo on Green Energy</td>
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<td>Houston, TX</td>
<td>London, UK</td>
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<td>June 28 – July 3, 2020</td>
<td>June 29-July 1, 2020</td>
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<td>39th International Conference on Ocean, Offshore &amp; Arctic Engineering</td>
<td>TechConnect World Innovation Conference</td>
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<td>Fort Lauderdale, FL</td>
<td>(Jointly with NanoTech 2020 and AITechConnect 2020)</td>
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<td>National Harbor, MD – Washington DC area</td>
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<td>December 6-10, 2020</td>
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<td>23rd World Petroleum Congress</td>
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<td>World Petroleum Council</td>
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<td>Houston, TX</td>
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The Rice ENRI team.

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