



# Engineers for a Sustainable World

DESIGN • EDUCATE • BUILD

## For Immediate Release:

Contact: Andrew W. Chung, Communications Director  
Phone: 203.722.0273  
Email: [info@eswusa.org](mailto:info@eswusa.org)  
Website: <http://eswusa.org>

## Call for Participation: WPSE 2014

**Pittsburgh, PA — (November 6, 2013)** — Engineers for a Sustainable World (ESW) invites new college and university participation for its Wicked Problems in Sustainable Engineering (WPSE) course initiative. Started in 2012 and piloted in the fall of 2013, WPSE links multidisciplinary technical courses together around an annual ‘wicked problem’ in an effort to expose more students to the complex challenges they will be facing during their careers.

Wicked problems are defined as being hard to define, with no clear ‘solution’, leading instead to better or worse responses depending on the stakeholders and values involved. While difficult to affect, they also represent many of the challenges humanity faces today - climate change, transportation infrastructure, homelessness, and more. Exposure to dealing with these problems in a technical education is both critical and difficult.

Schools involved in WPSE will have the opportunity to help choose the specific problem for the fall of 2014, with ESW providing access to external professionals for background lectures and project mentors. Schools’ local courses can use two existing syllabi or adapt an existing project-centric course. Students at all participating institutions are encouraged to share information as they address different aspects of the larger problem. Examples of problem topics include the roots of air pollution, sustainable transportation of manufactured goods, and zero-carbon cities.

WPSE is currently being piloted at the University of Pittsburgh and Rochester Institute of Technology. For the fall of 2014, ESW anticipates 4-7 schools to participate, with a wide range of size, seniority, and disciplines. ESW encourages institutions and faculty members interested in adding WPSE to their technical course offerings to contact Education Director Justin Hess at [jhess@eswusa.org](mailto:jhess@eswusa.org) or visit <http://www.eswusa.org/wpse> for more information.

## About Engineers for a Sustainable World (ESW)

Engineers for a Sustainable World (ESW) is a chapter-based organization with more than 1,000 members, and 2,500 alumni based throughout North America. As technically-minded students and professionals, ESW works on forging lasting solutions to sustainability challenges through technical design projects and educational initiatives. Through a combination of chapter-based service learning projects, education on sustainability principles and design techniques, training on leadership and sustainable engineering skills, and a national community, ESW is helping to create the next generation of technical leaders for a more sustainable world. For more information, visit [www.eswusa.org](http://www.eswusa.org) or email [info@eswusa.org](mailto:info@eswusa.org).