

Maggie Winslow
Professor and Director, MS in Energy Systems Management
University of San Francisco

Action statement

The energy transition is happening. Wind and solar prices have dropped to the point where renewables are the new energy resource of choice and soon it will be financially efficient to replace existing fossil fuel generation with renewables. Balancing the grid will remain a challenge but the price of storage is also dropping by half every few years, and adding electric vehicles to the grid, along with smart technologies to help manage loads, will allow for a 100% carbon free grid sooner than even the most optimistic experts predicted ten years ago.

Presentation Summary

The rapid transition to a renewable energy economy has created a plethora of jobs related to renewable energy. Along with this job growth comes a need for workers educated to work in this sector, and who understand the interplay between technological innovation, policy, and economics. The University of San Francisco has created an innovative interdisciplinary graduate program called the Master of Science in Energy Systems Management. It teaches the skills and knowledge needed to be a leader in the energy transition. It includes course on renewable energy policy and law, renewable energy technologies, the power system and grid, energy finance, and renewable energy economics. The first cohort started this fall and they are thriving in the program. We hope that are graduate students will have successful careers and support the rapid transition to the no-carbon grid.