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# Fuel cell class charges up PCC students

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ClearEdge VP of Engineering Tom Previsch examines a Lab-Volt hydrogen fuel cell training system that will be used at PCC.

Portland Community College students will soon begin taking a one-of-a-kind class on a growing alternative energy form.

The Introduction to Fuel Cell Systems class is part of PCC's Electronic Engineering Technology program. The class, at the school's Sylvania Campus, begins April 4. PCC developed the curriculum working with experts from [Hillsboro's ClearEdge Power](#).

The class is the only course of its kind at an Oregon community college. It will explore fuel cell technologies used for distributed power generation, electronics, tools, performance evaluation, troubleshooting, codes and permitting, safety procedures and career planning.

Students can apply the course's credits toward Renewable Energy Systems certificates or two-year associate's degrees. The degrees help prepare students to work in the solar, wind, fuel cell and other renewable energy fields.

"The lab will be structured to give the students hands-on experience with as many different types of components used in actual fuel cell systems as possible," said instructor Tom Previsch, ClearEdge's vice president of engineering, in a release. "This class is going to be general enough that people can apply the skills they learn to work on a variety of clean energy technologies."

PCC actually uses [ClearEdge's fuel cells](#) to power its Sylvania Health Technology Building and heat its swimming pool.

The program purchased three Lab-Volt hydrogen fuel cell training systems for the class's labs using a \$98,000 grant from Sylvania's Green Fund. The bond-backed fund supports sustainability projects.