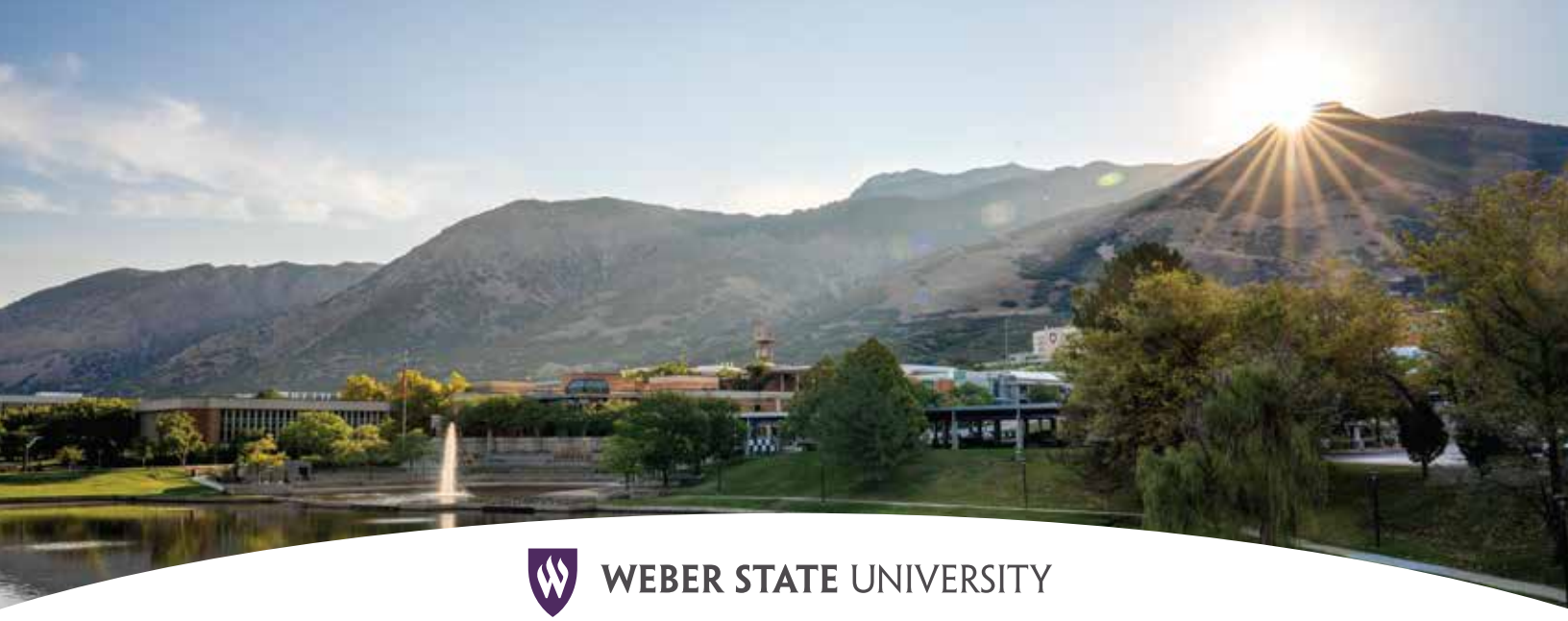

WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY

Earth Science & Society
Nuclear Energy

Department of Earth & Environmental Sciences Presents:

With the launch of Utah's "Operation Gigawatt" and the proposed "Nuclear Ecosystem" in Brigham City, our region stands at a pivotal energy crossroads. Nuclear energy is lauded as a carbon-free solution to skyrocketing energy demands, with the ability to provide massive amounts of 24/7 energy with a small footprint. New technologies, including small modular reactors (SMRs), promise safer, more cost-effective nuclear power.

However, concerns remain. The transport and long-term storage of radioactive material present persistent technical and political challenges. The complex legacy of uranium mining in Utah is a sober reminder of the environmental and social costs associated with the nuclear fuel cycle. Water consumption and thermal pollution can disrupt ecosystems, with potential consequences for the sensitive Bear River and Great Salt Lake watersheds. Brigham City also sits on the active and dangerous Wasatch Fault. Any future nuclear facilities must navigate these issues in order to gain regulatory (and public) approval.

Join us this spring as we explore the future of nuclear energy in the Intermountain west through the lens of earth science and society. We will dive into the science alongside industry experts and policy researchers, guided by the belief that an informed perspective is our most valuable resource in navigating Utah's energy transition.

Open to students, faculty, staff, and the community.

Public lectures on Fridays at 11:00–12:00 p.m.
Tracy Hall Science Center, TY426

3848 Harrison Blvd, Ogden, UT.

Student workshop & discussion, 1:30–2:10 p.m.

Speakers and topics will be posted as they are confirmed, and are subject to change due to cancellations or other rescheduling needs.

To learn more, visit:
weber.edu/geoscienceandsociety/

Earth Science and Society
Spring 2026 Seminar Series

Nuclear Energy and Utah's Future