



## What You Should Know Before Applying for Energy LEAP

The Energy Literacy, Engagement and Action Program (Energy LEAP) is a FREE, science enrichment program for high school students. The program will consist of a virtual summer institute as well as 3 additional two-hour sessions that will take place from the Fall of 2021 through the Spring of 2022. The dates for these Fall-Spring sessions have not yet been determined.

Energy LEAP is open to rising 9th – 12th graders who attend any school in Alamance, Chatham, Durham or Orange counties. Females and minorities under-represented in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) careers are especially encouraged to apply. Participants will receive a \$150 Visa Gift Card for completing the program. Space is limited, so all students who wish to attend must apply.

The ideal Energy LEAP participant meets the following criteria:

- Has a strong interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math)
- Shows an aptitude for science and an ability to learn the science concepts that are presented in the program
- Is able to work well with other LEAP participants, instructors and guest presenters during the program.
- Their participation in the LEAP program will be a unique experience for the student.

All applications which are completed by the **11:59 pm on Friday, May 7, 2021** will be considered as long as the applicant meets the criteria stated above. For an application to be considered complete, we must receive the following by the application deadline:

- 1) A complete student application
- 2) A complete teacher or mentor nomination form

Student applications and teacher nomination forms *must* be submitted online, and can be found at: [www.ie.unc.edu/energyleap/](http://www.ie.unc.edu/energyleap/)

We recommend that a student fill out their application form *before* a teacher or mentor fills out a nomination. However, interested students should reach out to potential teachers or mentors who would nominate them before filling out the student application. Students should get the email address of the teacher or mentor they wish to nominate them before beginning their application, as that information is needed on the student application.

The student application contains several open ended questions that have word limits and will require thoughtful answers. For this reason, it is **strongly recommended** that students compose their answers to these questions in a separate program ahead of time, and paste their answers into the fields provided on the online application.



These questions are:

- Please tell us why you are interested in participating in this science enrichment program. (200 Word Limit)
- Please tell us about one topic that you are particularly excited to learn about in this program and explain why. (200 Word Limit)
- Please tell us how you will bring a unique perspective to this program. You may consider any special interests, hobbies, or abilities that you could share with other participants. (200 word limit)
- Please describe any other science experiences you've previously had, including middle and high school classes, science camps, and extracurricular activities related to science. Prior experience is NOT REQUIRED to participate in Energy LEAP. (200 word limit)
- Please describe how Energy LEAP would be a unique experience for you. (200 word limit)

All applicants will be notified of their selection status on or before May 21, 2021.

Questions about the Energy LEAP program or the application process can be directed to:

Grant Parkins  
Energy LEAP Program Director  
UNC Institute for the Environment  
[parkins@unc.edu](mailto:parkins@unc.edu)