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History

The EMS Energy Institute's history dates back to 1949 with the establishment of The combustion laboratory, within the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences. The laboratory was started with support from the Central Pennsylvania Coal Producers Association and the Western Pennsylvania Coal Operators Association, in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Mines.

From 1993 through 1997, the Combustion Laboratory, along with various labs and centers were consolidated into the EMS Energy Institute. In 2000, the Institute encompassed five research areas, including carbon materials, clean fuels and catalysis, natural gas and petroleum, sustainable energy, and electrochemical systems. Today the Institute has greatly expanded its variety of research and has ten distinctive focus areas.

In 2005 the EMS Energy Institute added the Office for Student Development and in 2006 an Outreach office was added. In 2007 the Institute became one of the Penn State Institutes of Energy and the Environment.

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