

Other
Energy Sustainable Florida Communities

PI: Richard Fieock, **Co-PIs:** Ivonne Audirac, Keith Ihlanfeldt
Student: Christy Smith, PhD in Public Administration

Description: The objective of NESC is to stimulate innovation and energy investments that will accelerate energy savings by local governments by sharing best practices and organizing and managing large scale collaboration and bulk buying projects.

Florida State University has been working with U.S. DOE contributing surveys, research and outreach assistance to assist in efforts to promote investment, collaboration, and bulk purchasing by local governments that will achieve significant cost savings. This includes organizing NESC conference calls co-hosted by hosted by FSU and DOE, conducting several surveys, and hosting a meeting of Florida local government EECBG sub-awardees.

These initial research efforts and conference calls have been successful in identifying broad interest in collaboration and bulk buying. They also revealed significant barriers to collaboration that need to be addressed including issues related to coordination within governments, among governments and with other organizations.

We are now undertaking activities to address these barriers to collaboration at three levels: First we are conducting focused regional workshops throughout the state. By bringing interested governments in each region together with experts in collaboration, governance, finance, and purchasing we will identify specific projects and design the mechanisms to put the projects in place. Second, are expanding our statewide dialogue on a more systematic basis and share the insights and successes of our regional workshops. Third, we are working with universities and other partners throughout the U.S. to share strategies and insights and help replicate our successes in other states. By expanding our efforts and formalizing the network we will make large scale energy savings a reality.

Budget: \$125,424
University: FSU

Executive Summary

We sent out monthly activity updates to our members, held a regional workshop in Palm Beach County, and co-hosted with FCCMA an Energy Efficiency and Sustainability symposium in Tallahassee. We held our second regional workshop scheduled for the Jacksonville area on March 15, 2011, and have tentative plans to hold workshops in central Florida as well as the western Panhandle area. In addition to our outreach efforts related to local governments in the state via the workshops and symposium, we are also networking with sustainability directors at Arizona State, Washington State, Notre Dame, and Michigan to share best practices. Christy Smith organized our first conference call and Julia Parzen of the network coordinator for the Urban Sustainability Directors Network, a national sustainability network, joined the call. We have also developed relationships with the State Energy Office, Johnson Controls, Inc., GE, and Metal Essence, the only LED manufacturing company in the state. We are hoping to continue to develop these relationships to facilitate our outreach efforts as well as to jump-start the bulk purchasing aspect of our mission. We have also developed a website that provides resources to local governments looking for information on using the state term contract, performance contracts, and the EECBG program in general.

This project has been completed.