

Florida State University

Development of a Renewable Energy Research Web Portal

PI: Charles R. McClure, **Co-PIs:** Ian Douglas, Chris Hinnant

Students: Bradley Wade Bishop (MA Information Institute), Nicole D. Alemanne (MS Information Institute), Karen Doster, MS, Jiangna Han (MS Learning Systems Institute), Mike Falcon (B.A Information Institute)

Description: This one-year project will identify, organize, and make available via a web portal, research generated as part of the FESC effort as well as other selected related information resources and tools as identified by FESC participants. The goal of this project is to provide IESES, FESC, researchers, and others in the state of Florida with the research information they need to accomplish statewide energy goals. An initial product from this project will be an operational web portal that identifies, organizes, and provides access to a range of FESC and research related to renewable and alternative energy information. A second product will be research results on extending technologies that allow users to share information and grow/sustain the web portal through a range of social networking techniques. This research will position FSU to seek additional external funding related to interactive databases and web portals. Expected outcomes resulting from the project include increased IESES and FESC researcher productivity; increased leverage and collaboration of FESC resources and funding; and improved policy and decision making regarding the future uses and development of renewable and alternative energy in Florida.

Budget: \$194,543

University: FSU

Progress Summary



Chuck McClure



Chris Hinnant



Ian Douglas

The project team designed the study to include five tasks: 1) gather background information pertaining to renewable energy research, 2) conduct a needs assessment, 3) design and develop the renewable energy web portal, 4) evaluate the renewable energy web portal, and 5) disseminate and publicize the renewable energy web portal. In the first six months of the project the team completed the first task and began to work on tasks 2 and 3. Tasks 2 and 3 were completed and tasks 4 and 5 initiated by the project team during the next six-month period as the portal itself was developed and improved. The project team continued to refine the portal, evaluate its usage, and disseminate and publicize the portal to the renewable energy research community. Furthermore, the project team also attempted to explore additional means of pursuing funding opportunities from several research foundations, as well as government agencies.

During the project period, the project team developed, launched, evaluated, and improved the renewable energy research web portal. Furthermore, the project team publicized the portal and its features to the broader renewable energy community. During the no-cost extensions, the project team also pursued additional sources of external funding from private foundations and government agencies. The project team will continue to pursue funding as future opportunities arise. The portal is currently available to the renewable energy research community and the public at the following URL: <http://energyportal.cci.fsu.edu/>.

Funds Leveraged/New Partnerships:

The project team will continue to pursue funding as future opportunities arise.

