



The Patel College of Global Sustainability at the University of South Florida specializes in applied research in energy, water, and food, and is committed to the dissemination of research findings in the private and public sectors. We are conducting applied research and technology development towards commercialization for the following Green Initiative:

Food Resource App aka “Food Friend”

- **The Project:** An interdisciplinary team of USF faculty and students will utilize information technology to research and develop a smart, web-based, mobile phone application that focuses on consumer driven food waste management and cost reduction solutions. This project, is under the direction of Dr. Joseph Dorsey, Adjunct Professor, Director of Food Sustainability and Security, and Principal Investigator (PI).
- **Functions:** The App will (1) keep inventory of household food purchases (includes family size and pets); (2) track food product shelf life and alert customer when it is nearing expiration; (3) provide adaptive recipes and nutritionally balance menus based on inventory and monthly income; (4) chart, measure and score household food reduction efforts and cost savings over time (using SFPI platform); (5) link into food banks and hunger reduction networks to determine when and where to donate uneaten food waste; and (6) allow users to interface with other users through blogs, videos, and/or a social network to exchange information, recipes, and food events.
- **Platform:** The food resource metrics and measurement platform is called “The Sustainability Food Print Index” (SFPI). The “SFPI” will measure the impact of food waste on the environment, chart the accumulation and distribution of food costs at different population scales, determine viable food resource approaches, waste reduction tools and costs savings for individual consumers, and develop more efficient and sustainable food resource systems.
- **Other Personnel:** Sharon Hanna-West, J.D. (*College of Business*); Margaret Rodriguez Vazquez, B.A. Humanities, A.A. Culinary Arts (*Food Concentration*); Washma Abid, B.S. Computer Sciences (*Entrepreneurship in Applied Technology*); Anthony Peer, Computer Sciences (*Engineering*)
- **Costs:** We currently estimate a \$60,000 budget for the 2017-2018 academic year. Budget includes salaries, benefits, tuition waivers, travel, equipment, supplies, software, publications, and copyright and patent fees.
- **Time Frame:** Three members of the project team participated in the USF NSF I-Corps Program during summer 2017 and was awarded \$4,000 for initial start-up. Additional funding will allow us to expand the project and financially compensate team members and research assistants. Project can be completed in two semesters (8 months).