

Student Green Energy Fund

Final Project Report



Date: 03/07/2017

Project Name and completion date: REC and Carbon Offset Purchase Project

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Project summary, highlights and lessons learned:

The allocation of the \$50,000 for Renewable Energy Credentials (REC) and Carbon Offsets (C/O) provided 6 LEED Points for the MSC and 3 LEED Points to the Health Student Center. Campus-wide, the overall carbon emission reduction was 26.1% (based off the Facilities baseline of 257,565.8 MTCO_{2e}) or 36.2% (based off the Second Nature baseline of 185,534 MTCO_{2e})*. Either way, we by far exceeded our 2017 goal with competitive REC and Carbon Offset pricing. Because of this reduction, for the first time, we will be ranked on the EPA Green Power Partnership Top 30 College & University list. By April 24th, we expect to be ranked between #15 to #13. With the support from the students and the Student Green Energy Fund, we were able to achieve our goal and receive national recognition.

*There is a discrepancy in the baseline data. We are currently researching this matter to ensure that the correct data is used in the future.

Measurable Outcomes:

For 2016 and 2017, a total of 94,508 MWh have been offset with the purchase of Renewable Energy Credits and Carbon Offsets. Overall, the RECs and Carbon Offsets helped 2 buildings achieve LEED Silver Certification. In 2016, 62,801 MWh were purchased toward our STARS goal, in 2016 and 2017, 15,640 MWhs were allocated to the Marshall Student Center, and in 2016 and 2017, 213.50 MWh were purchased for USF Health. Without this project, neither building would have been able to qualify for LEED Silver and would have received the LEED Certification instead.

Detail how funds were utilized including rebates (if any) and cost sharing (cash or in-kind contributions):

How are the project benefits being communicated to the USF community?

Expected project spin-off or up scaling:

This project has brought to my attention that it would be beneficial to allow for USF community-wide efforts and participation from faculty and staff to offset carbon emissions. I am asking for your support in a

new way of collecting funding for future Carbon Offset and Renewable Energy Certificates. According to the EPA, the average vehicle that drives 11,400 miles a year at 29 miles per gallon emits 4.7 MTCO₂e. According to USF's Greenhouse Gas Inventory, our carbon dioxide emissions from commuting fluctuates between 20% to 55% depending on the data collected from the CUTR survey every year.

I have read 13 Climate Action Plans published within the state of Florida, and not one school has a viable plan for addressing the reduction of carbon from students, faculty, and staff commuting to campus. Ideas range from prohibiting freshmen vehicles, valet parking cars to avoid circling the parking lot for 30 minutes, depending on automated automobiles, improved public transportation, people driving more electric vehicles, and increased bicycling and walking. Some of these ideas are so far out, I'm surprised no one mentioned teleporting. Although all of these ideas are valid, I feel the best way for USF to immediately reduce carbon emissions would be to add a \$5 voluntary donation when purchasing a parking permit. I am asking for the Student Green Energy Fund Council to support this initiative in order to go forward with this carbon reduction strategy.

Include photos of the project

Questions? Contact Gidi Hendrix SGEF_Council@usf.edu 813-974-8611