

Project: Assessing & Influencing Energy Conservation Attitudes & Behavior at IU

Client: Indiana University Bloomington's Department of Physical Plant and Office of Sustainability

Term: Spring 2013

Faculty Mentor: Diane Henshel

Summary:

The Capstone group sought solutions for reducing energy consumption associated with individual behaviors at Indiana University. The high costs of energy and the clear energy reduction mandates set by President McRobbie and the IU Board of Trustees through the 2010 Indiana University Bloomington Master Plan and the 2012 Integrated Energy Master Plan initiated the client's involvement with the SPEA Capstone course. The Capstone group divided into two distinct teams that performed separate tasks. The first team created a comprehensive survey that assessed students' understanding of energy use and conservation. The second team developed a campus energy dashboard to increase students' participation in energy conservation actions. Collectively the teams concluded that a permanent energy dashboard is a useful and worthwhile tool for stimulating conservation behavior.