

Project: Indiana Biofuels - Opportunities and Challenges

Client: Indiana Office of Energy Development

Term: Spring 2008

Faculty Mentors: Clinton V. Oster, Jr. and J.C. Randolph

Summary:

The Capstone report provided a thorough analysis of the state of Indiana's role in producing biofuels, within the larger context of the progression of biofuels as alternative sources of energy. The report considered the future of biofuels and the economic and environmental implications of embracing "first generation biofuels – like corn and ethanol and biodiesel as a stepping stone to those of second generation which depend on advanced methods to make use of non-seed, cellulosic components of crops." Policy recommendations were provided after researching popular and alternative crops, production techniques, engine technology, transportation and distribution options, site suitability, and the economic costs and benefits of Indiana's involvement.