
M E M O R A N D U M

TO: SINTANA VERGARA
FROM: VALERIE KEODY
SUBJECT: REVIEW OF THE SCHATZ ENERGY RESEARCH CENTER MEETING
DATE: NOVEMBER 13, 2020

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to review the content covered during the Schatz Energy Research Center meeting which took place on November 6, 2020 at 9 AM to 10 AM over Zoom. Information regarding employment at SERC, projects that have been completed and currently in the works, in addition to a review of the meeting will be included.

Discussion

The meeting was extremely informative considering that the COVID-19 crisis has unpredictably altered this academic year. However, a project that stood out was the Lighting Global project. The project consists of building and growing solar energy in remote locations. A direct benefit from this project is the distribution of solar powered flashlights. In other countries, this has been extremely impactful by giving others the opportunity to stay out later and make more money selling products because there is light available to use for women when they get home for other chores such as cooking. There is little environmental cost as long as the products distributed are safe and are a good quality to ensure a long product lifespan. Solar panels are also distributed and considering that the products are being tested by a quality verification test, the products will endure most natural occurrences which will reduce electrical waste in these off grid areas.

A project that is of personal interest would be the OAP Supported Biological Response project that is currently being down under the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. More research could be done regarding the environmental impact of ocean acidification on marine life. This is important because even if measures are taken to hinder greenhouse gas emissions, the effects of climate change and global warming will continue gradually. Combating climate change and ocean acidification isn't a matter that can be changed overnight. The different living conditions can be studied to try and increase survival for species that are more vulnerable to the changes since adaptation is a longer process and

the effects are occurring so abruptly that there isn't enough time for species to adjust or mutate favorable characteristics.

The most interesting part of the meeting was learning about the wide variety of projects that SERC is involved with. Especially that some of the projects are international. In terms of project discussion, Lighting Global was not only working with increasing access to electricity on off the grid locations but there was a quality standard in the works. This meant that establishments were being made in other countries such as India and China to help with testing the quality of products that are intended to help those with little to limited access to electricity. The fact that SERC was looking to hire a student with little experience is outstanding because it's an amazing opportunity for those interested in energy research while also allowing newer students to gain experience.

Conclusion

The Zoom meeting was very informational; however, the limited interaction between presenters and viewers made the experience rather boring. Although the projects that are being done are beneficial to the environment and society, it is not something of personal interest. After the meeting, I feel more educated and involved with the environment department. SERC is an amazing corporation and provides great opportunities for those with little experience to be involved in engineering without having lots of experience within the field.