FESC REDESIGN

Overview and General Approach

The site itself is a fair representation of the consortium as a whole, striving to do to much and lacking in coordination between the separate parts. A truly effective redesign would necessitate the engagement of a content management specialist, but that particular reorganization is beyond the scope of this project. Here, a high-level restructuring of the layout as a guide for future development is more in line with what is being attempted.

An earlier site review revealed that the current design was lacking in responsiveness, overburdened in information and difficult to navigate. Any redesign would at the very least need to address these key issues. When surveying for solutions, I searched for best-in-category sites amongst universities, engineering/technology consortiums (particularly in renewable energy), and science-oriented community outreach groups. The idea here was that these organizations would share a similar structure and have had to address similar content and design issues along the way.

References


BIG HISTORY PROJECT
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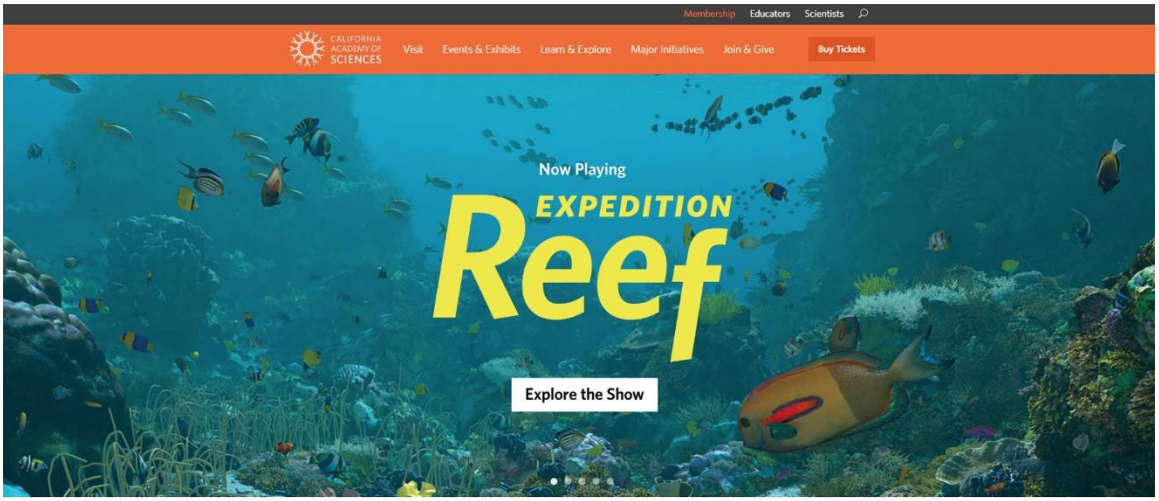
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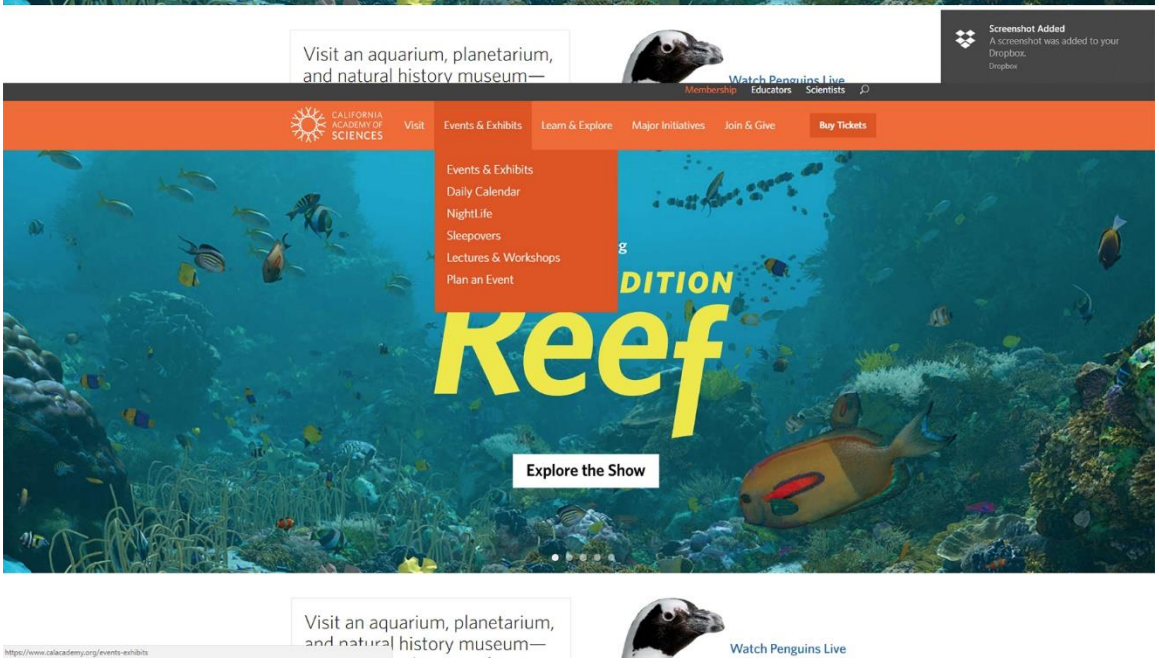
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Develop renewable energy products and technologies for rapid transfer to the marketplace
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Coming Up
Monthly Densified Biomass Fuel Report ›
Monthly Energy Review ›
State Energy Data System - Petroleum and fuel ethanol; Hydrocarbon gas liquids consumption, prices, and expenditures ›
More ›
Today in Energy
Posted April 25, 2018
Federal financial interventions and subsidies in U.S. energy markets declined since 2013 ›
EIA has updated its report on federal financial interventions and subsidies in energy markets, covering the 2016 U.S. government fiscal year (FY). Subsidies for many energy categories have declined since FY 2013, when spending related to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was at or near its highest levels.
More ›
Federal energy subsidies and support (fiscal years 2013 and 2016)
FY 2016
FY 2013
billion dollars (2016$)
Source: EIA, Direct Federal Financial Interventions and Subsidies in Energy in Fiscal Year 2016
Data Highlights
WTI crude oil futures price
4/24/2018: $67.70/barrel
Natural gas futures price
4/24/2018: $2.781/MMBtu
Retail gasoline price
4/23/2018: $2.798/gal
Crude oil inventories
4/20/2018: 429.7 million barrels
Weekly coal production
4/14/2018: 13.272 million tons

NC STATE Precision Engineering Consortium

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

Welcome to Precision Engineering Consortium

Research

Research at the Precision Engineering Consortium

The goals of the Precision Engineering Consortium are: 1) to improve the understanding and capability of precision metrology, actuation, manufacturing and assembly processes; and 2) to train a new generation of engineers and scientists with the background and experience to transfer this new knowledge to industry. Because the problems related to precision engineering originate from a variety of sources, significant progress can only be achieved by applying a multidisciplinary approach; one in which the faculty, students, staff and sponsors work together to identify important research issues and find the optimum solutions. Teamwork and group interactions are a hallmark of research at the PEC and this contributes to both the quality of the research as well as the training of the graduates.

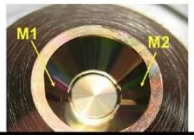
The individual projects that follow are arranged into four focus areas: actuation, control, fabrication and metrology.

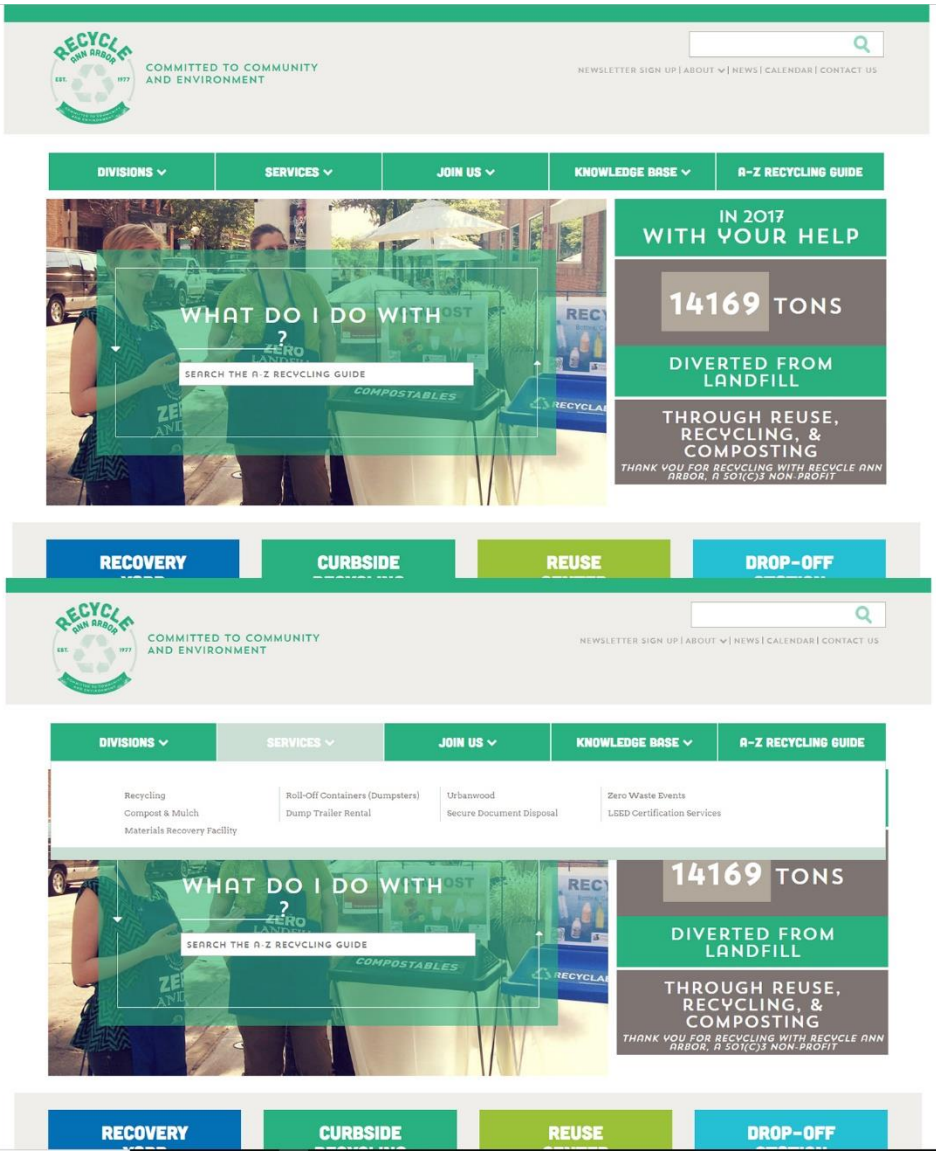
Optics

Improved actuators for repeatable, accurate response in demanding environments has become a recent focus of PEC research.

Current Projects in Optics

› Diamond Turning of Polymer Optics

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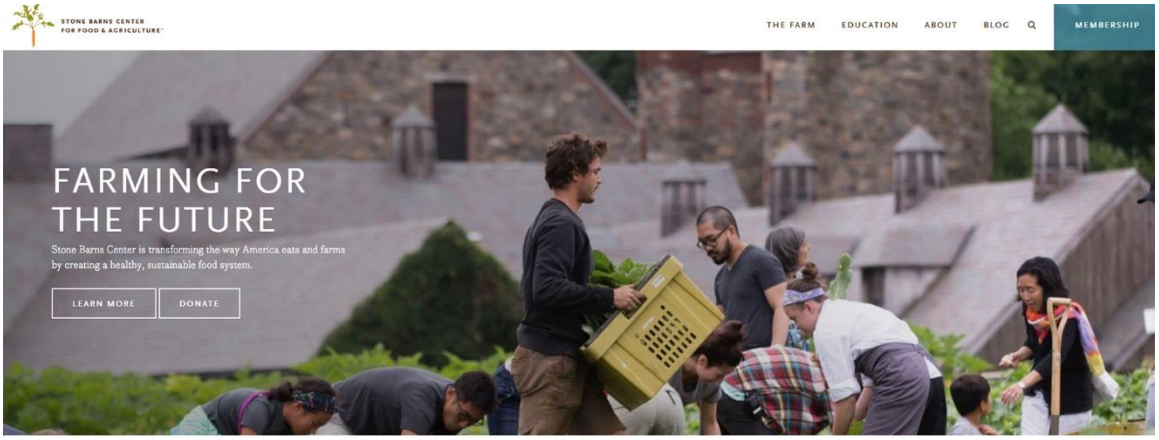

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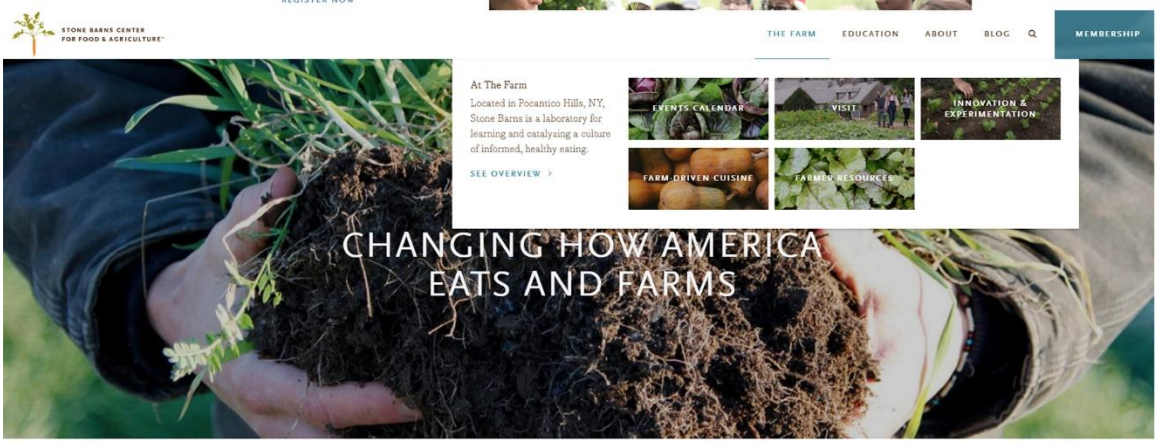
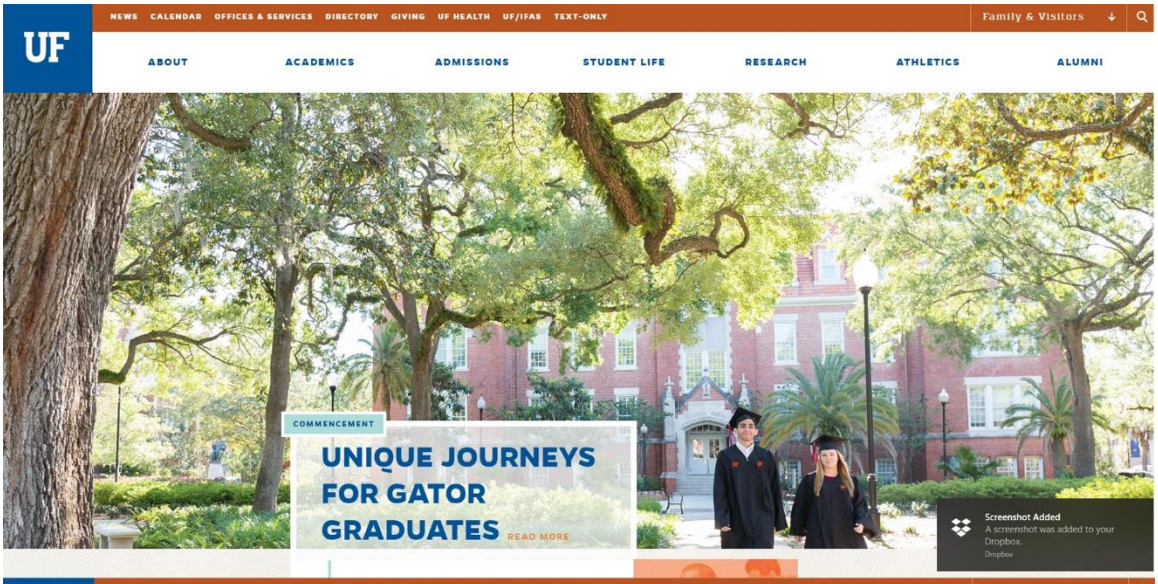


HOW WE FARM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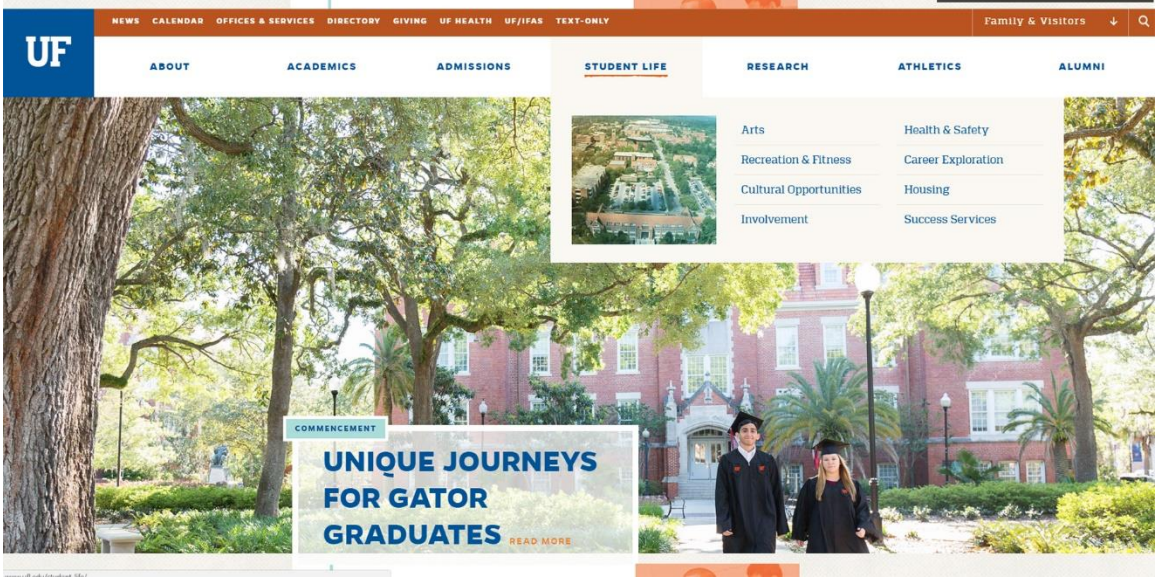
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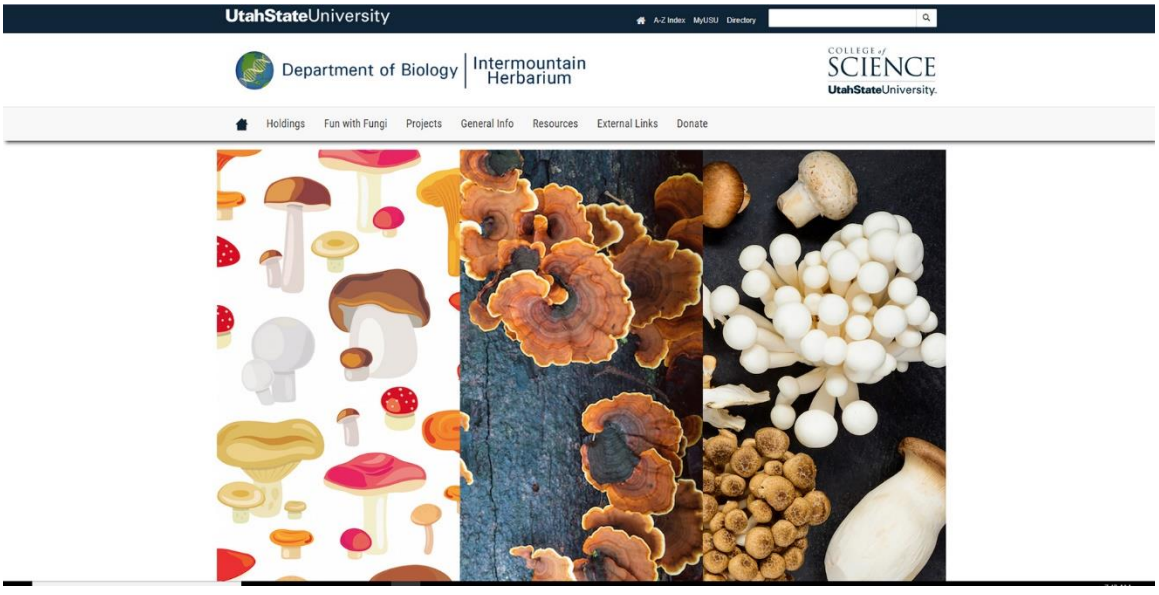
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Design Approach

After reviewing the above reference sites, I decided to explore the FESC home institution as well since it shared the same domain name. The University of Florida shared many of the same aspects as the other sites, but it would also provide an additional key ingredient: a sense of design continuity. While FESC is a consortium of various institutions, it is still housed at the University of Florida, and building off of the design aesthetic of the UF main site would give the updated site a sense of familiarity while providing some of its own distinctiveness.

The UF site (like many of the others) features a responsive layout with a sticky top nav, on-hover drop-down menus, large hero images and numerous additional images and text below the fold. Not unsurprisingly, the color theme plays off the school colors of orange and blue, so these will form the basis of the FESC palette as well. The FESC logo also contains other colors (red, yellow and green), so there is opportunity to include these color for emphasis and/or distinctiveness.

The University of Florida also makes use of a set of commercial fonts, Quadon and Gentona, but I was able to find similar, free fonts using ffonts.com. Gentona is the main site font, used for the body text as well as the nav headings. Quadon is used primarily in nav drop-down links and image/section captions. Georgia is used for list items and footer links.

The site footer contains secondary links to resources, contact information and social media sites.

A similar approach will be used for the FESC redesign.

Header/Navigation

The navigation area of the page will likewise be sticky and feature on-hover drop-down menus. The layout will literally mirror the UF main page by moving the UF logo to the right-hand side of the page, providing continuity (and a link back to the UF main site). The FESC logo will take the place of prominence at the left-hand side of the page. For the FESC site, the secondary University nav will be dropped. The search icon will be retained however.

The drop-down menu will also feature a representative image and a series of sub-category links.

Body

Large hero image with caption above the fold.

Smaller images with captions and text below the fold.

Footer

Secondary links to resources, contact information and social media sites.

The main page will also contain logos/links of consortium member institutions.

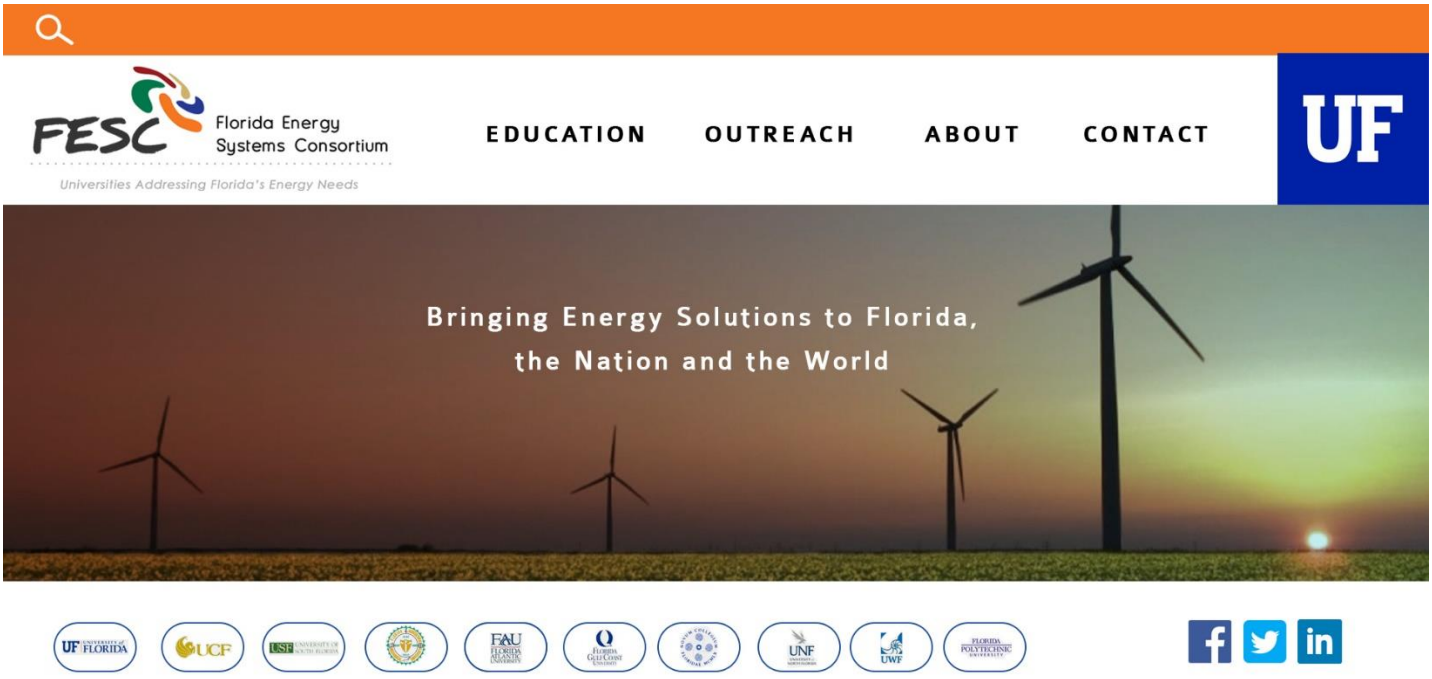
Style

Fonts: Quadon (nav pull down and captions), Gentona (nav headings and body text), and Georgia (Google Fonts)
Alternate free fonts: Enriqueta (for *Quadon*) and Bitter or Colaborate (for *Gentona*)

Colors: orange – #FA4616; blue – #0021A5.

Images: Slightly de-saturated with a light blue-to-orange overlay gradient

Mock Up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