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Location: Media Room, Burling

In the Vivero Digital Fellows Program, there are two student volunteers. The overall meeting lasts for around 30 minutes with them. One is a bio-chem major, who offers me some advice from the perspective of a user. The other one is a computer science major, who offered me suggestions from a technical perspective.

The first piece of advice that the advisor gives is about the aesthetic aspect. In my interactive app, I have a selection bar at the top of the website with four choices, “Total GHG Map”, “Line Plots”, “Comparison”, “About this site”. However, I am using the same standard module which is white for all of them. In the map it looks fine since it occupies the entire page. For other line plots and comparison, half of the webpage is blank. Therefore, the mentor suggests me to either choose different colors for the selection bar and the background, or I can add a user guide at the bottom of the page. In this way, the web page won't look that boring.

The second piece of advice comes from a 4th year CS major mentor. He has the same advice as the advice I have received during the initial presentation, that is to change my scale for color from a linear distribution into either a log or exponent distribution. He is quite satisfied at how other parts of my project is completed overall. The last suggestion that he made is to add a photo of mine in the “About this site” page for author. : )

In all, the Vivero Digital Fellows Program offers advice from the point of the users. As the developer of this app, we will often ignore user experiences and focus too much on technique

details of the app. With their assistance, we are able to grasp the ideas from the perspective of users to further improve the functionality of our app.