

International Living Future Institute (ILFI)

Executive Summary

Community Partner

Alex Co

Benson Gabler

Student Project Team

Shreyas Krishnaswamy

Arnav Jain

Karan Gugle

Manuel Lopez

Background

The International Living Future Institute (ILFI) is a non-profit organization working to advocate for better building and product standards shifting the focus from less harmful products to more environmentally regenerative ones. Headquartered in Seattle, the ILFI was founded in May of 2009 with the belief that “providing a compelling vision for the future is a fundamental requirement for reconciling humanity’s relationship with the natural world.”

Project Description

Project Opportunity

The requirements of the Living Product Challenge can all be found on a PDF document. While this document is well-made and visually quite aesthetic, it is lengthy and difficult to navigate. It can be overwhelming for first-time users who want to learn more. At the same time, it can also be difficult for these users to determine the appropriate starting point and how to get connected to the appropriate resources. A clear display of information and instruction pertaining to LPC certification can help lead to a change of heart amongst manufacturing companies after having their current status clarified. As a result, a more engaging solution can help ILFI reach its full potential as it pertains to recruitment into its certification pipeline.

Project Vision

Our goal is to build a portal that translates the contents in the document into an interactive web platform. A clearer, more interactive way to present the information in the PDF document can give manufacturers who seek ILFI certification a better understanding of the process and requirements they must follow. We hope that this solution can also give users an understanding of the Challenge and what it entails (without inundating them with information) and connect them to the appropriate resources to achieve their imperatives.

Project Outcomes

Upon learning more about the current technology employed within the client organization, the desired features for the solution, and the Living Product Challenge itself, our team quickly determined that WordPress was the most viable option to use to develop our project. In WordPress,

our team designed and created 18 new pages to represent all of the requirements for the Challenge. Our team also used the client's existing FormAssembly account to design and create 3 different diagnostic surveys – one for Product Designers, one for Sustainability Leaders, and one for General Users. Based on our designs and implementations, we expect our solution to give a much more direct, concise, and easy to follow introduction and overview of the Living Product Challenge and its requirements (imperatives). Additionally, we hope to give users a better understanding of where they may lie in the process of ILFI product certification. Based on this, we seek to ease some of the initial work that our clients have to do when engaging in individual consultation.

Project Deliverables

Our solution was created by us was a web portal that was integrated with the WordPress account that served as a staging website for the organization. Due to the custom nature of WordPress, as well as the need to use the Visual Composer plugin to ensure sustainability, all development and content creation was done directly in the staging website, with no external repository. The relevant solution overview and maintenance documentation has been included in Appendix A of the final report.

Recommendations

Our recommendations are centered around technology limitations we encountered as well as solution improvement. Due to the lack of a backend server and the lack of customization in WordPress, we recommend that student teams take a hard look at the flow of data in their application before they submit their proposal. Our recommendation for reducing content density would be for the LPC and ILFI teams to sift through the existing content, keeping only the main points through text and using other mediums such as infographics as well as videos to address the depth of content.

Student Project Team

Karan Gogle was the Technical Lead. Karan is a junior studying Information Systems with a minor in Computer Science. This summer, he will be interning as a Software Engineering Intern at Tesla and hopes to make a career in software development and architecture.

Arnav Jain was the User Experience Lead. Arnav is a junior studying Information Systems with minors in Economics and Business Administration. This summer, he will be interning with Pricewaterhouse Coopers in New York City as a Technology Consulting Intern. He is looking forward to a career in technology consulting or project management.

Shreyas Krishnaswamy served as the Project Manager. Shreyas is a junior exchange student from the Singapore Management University, School of Information Systems. He will be commencing graduate studies at CMU's Heinz College in Fall 2018, reading a Master's Degree in Information Systems Management. His career aspirations lie in the field of management consulting.

Manuel Lopez served as the Risk Management & Documentation Lead. Manuel is a junior studying Information Systems with a double major in Chinese Studies. He is looking forward to a career in project management.