

## **Impact Allies Hosts Professional Development Training on SCADA at FAU Harbor Branch**

In early September, Impact Allies' Energy and Environmental Open-Source Ecosystem initiative partnered with the CREATE and EARTH Centers to deliver a two-day professional development event for 14 high school teachers representing 10 schools across the region. Educators came from diverse disciplines including environmental science, construction, and engineering and gained hands-on training in Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems and their applications in the energy and environmental sectors.

The program blended classroom instruction with field experience. On the first day, teachers explored the fundamentals of SCADA and how it ties together energy storage, renewable resources, and other assets into a functioning distributed generation system. On the second day, they toured the Indian River Lagoon with FAU Harbor Branch scientists, observing solar powered remote sensors that feed real-time environmental data into a centralized SCADA system, providing critical insights into the health and dynamics of the lagoon.

Each participant also left with a \$2,000 standalone SCADA training unit that is easy to implement without IT support and can be used directly in their classrooms. This equipment will give students direct exposure to the same tools professionals use in the field, helping them understand both the components of renewable energy systems and the role of SCADA in managing them.

The training was made possible through a unique collaboration between IA, the CREATE Center, the EARTH Center, and Florida Power & Light and NextEra Energy. Hosted at FAU Harbor Branch and supported by Indian River State College, the event exemplified how cross-sector partnerships can strengthen workforce pipelines in energy and environmental technology.





