

*RESILIENCE ICAP
TEAM 2022-2023
END-OF-YEAR REPORT*

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Table of Contents

<i>Resilience iCAP Team Recommendations Proposed Over the Year.....</i>	2
Coordinated Rainwater Management Plan Recommendation	2
Sustainability Economics Analysis Recommendation	2
Carbon Offset Statement.....	3
<i>Recommended Priority Topics for Future Team Discussions.....</i>	5
Carbon Offset Statement/Recommendation In Progress	5
Revisiting The Community Resilience Issues.....	5
Tracking The Ongoing Resilience Projects	5
Urban Biodiversity Master Plan.....	6
Green infrastructure locations and mapping project.....	6
Coordinated Rainwater Management Plan	6
Sustainability Economic Analysis Project.....	6
Resilience iCAP Objectives to Focus On.....	6
<i>Some Advice for Future Clerks 😊.....</i>	8

Resilience iCAP Team Recommendations Proposed Over the Year

During the 2022-2023 school year, the Resilience iCAP Team has focused on preparing recommendations regarding the resilience issues of the Savoy, Champaign, and Urbana communities. After engaging in deep and informative discussions with the community leaders about pressing resilience issues, the team proposed two recommendations that got approved by iWG.

Coordinated Rainwater Management Plan Recommendation

This [recommendation](#) asks for Student Sustainability Council (SSC) funding for an intern to assist communities with green infrastructure research and planning. The recommendation was prepared by Asli Topuzlu and Stacy Gloss. The entire team participated on the editing process.

Currently, our U of I Extension team member, Lisa Merrifield, has recruited and working with a master's student intern, Linda Derhak, on this project. So far, no issues have been encountered. For the next steps, Linda Derhak and Lisa Merrifield will continue to work on this plan and report their progress to the Resilience iCAP Team at the beginning of the school year. Linda also hopes to meet with the community representatives of the team to share her research so far and get their feedback.

Resilience team meetings that involve this rec discussion: [December](#), [February](#) (a little)

Sustainability Economics Analysis Recommendation

This [recommendation](#) asks for funds to support undergraduate (or graduate) students to conduct research and report on financial and economic sides of targeted sustainability-related projects requested by community partners such as of the Cities Urbana or Champaign, or the Village of Savoy.

The initial thought for this project was to hire interns that would work with the communities on their sustainability-projects. However, due to funding being an issue for iSEE, Resilience iCAP Team decided to partner with the Education iCAP Team to identify potential online and on-campus degree programs with capstone courses that align with the project scope. In this way, students will be able to connect with the communities, engage in sustainability projects, and earn credit through their capstone courses.

Currently, the Resilience Team chair Stacy Gloss met with Education iCAP Team member Anna Mehl to discuss the project. They would begin to communicate with various departments and learn more about their capstone class programs and faculty interest in experiential learning.

Upcoming Fall 2023 students taking Eric Green's ENVS 492 capstone class will start working with a community member (most probably Scott Tess from Urbana) on a sustainability-related finance or economic project. Additionally, Anna Mehl and Eric Green from Education iCAP Team will continue to meet with department stakeholders over the summer. They will introduce this effort and get to know more about the department's capstone opportunities.

Resilience team meetings that involve this recommendation discussion: [December](#), [February](#)

Carbon Offset Statement

Apart from these on-going projects, toward the end of the school year, the Resilience Team had productive conversations on carbon offset purchasing needs of the University. Annie Cebulski, Warren Lavey and Morgan White thoroughly helped the team to understand the current carbon offsetting practices and needed actions for the University. Based on these discussions, Stacy Gloss prepared a [Carbon Offset Statement](#) to be sent to the Chancellor.

This statement supports two recommendations:

1. Require iSEE to reinstate carbon offset purchases to fulfil the requirements of the MOU immediately.
2. Have F&S and iSEE jointly manage a local carbon offset fund to support local renewable energy and environmental projects for the community.

The Resilience Team intends to finish editing the statement towards the end of the 2022-2023 school year. Jennifer Fraterrigo (iSEE Associate Director) and Madhu Kanna (iSEE Director) suggest not to send the letter to the Chancellor or Provost right away but instead the team should send this to the iCAP Working Group (iWG) as a recommendation for policy change. iWG can route this statement through iSEE and F&S, who can then bring this document to campus leadership. This Sustainability Council may also discuss the carbon credits and the history around this issue in their Spring meeting, which will be a great opportunity to bring a better visibility to this statement. The email of Jennifer Fraterrigo outlining this suggestion is included below.

Resilience team meetings that involve this recommendation discussion: [March](#), [April](#), [May](#)

4/28/2023

From: icap-resilience-request@lists.illinois.edu <icap-resilience-request@lists.illinois.edu> on behalf of Fraterrigo, Jennifer M <jmf@illinois.edu>

Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 6:46:05 PM

To: icap-resilience@lists.illinois.edu <icap-resilience@lists.illinois.edu>

Subject: RE: [icap-resilience] Resilience Team May Meeting

Hi all,

I discussed the letter with Madhu Khanna, iSEE Director, this afternoon. She feels that it would be better not to send the letter to the Chancellor or Provost at this time and instead suggested sending it to the iWG as a recommendation for policy change. It is unlikely that the Chancellor or Provost would act on it without consulting with iSEE and F&S, so it makes sense to route through iWG to iSEE and F&S, who could then bring it to campus leadership. As I mentioned earlier, we will be discussing carbon credits and the history around this issue in the coming months, so it is a good opportunity to bring greater visibility to the letter and policy recommendations.

Let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks,
Jen

Recommended Priority Topics for Future Team Discussions

Over the course of 2022-2023 school year. Resilience team had constant discussions with its Champaign, Urbana, Savoy, and UofI campus community members to understand the ongoing resilience challenges. So far, Resilience Team is doing a fantastic job at recommending action items and projects regarding the iCAP Resilience objectives. For the 2023-2024, the team can consider discussing the below recommended priority topics to further develop the community resiliency and develop Resilience iCAP goals.

Carbon Offset Statement/Recommendation In Progress

In Fall 2023, after thoroughly editing the recommendation and getting teammate supports, the team should plan to immediately send this to iWG by October 2023. The team also needs to keep track of the iSEE and F&S discussions on this statement to make further necessary edits and gather more necessary information about the past and present carbon offsetting at the University.

After getting iWG, iSEE, and F&S approval on this, the team should send this statement to Chancellor's Office within Fall 2023 semester.

Revisiting The Community Resilience Issues

Throughout this school year, the community representatives of the team have shared the resilience issues that their communities are facing. In this sense, for the future discussions and meetings, I recommend all team members to review the meeting notes and revisit the presentation slides (Urbana and Savoy) that community members created regarding the resilience issues that they would like this team to consider. Afterwards, the team should discuss further recommendation ideas to help campus and the greater community to develop its resiliency against climate issues.

The presentation slides and the detailed meeting notes can be found at the [November meeting](#) of the team.

Tracking The Ongoing Resilience Projects

Currently, there are various ongoing projects that the team recommended that should be tracked by team members. In this sense, another priority of the team for 2023-2024 school year is to keep track of the progress of existing Resilience projects.

Some of the ongoing Resilience projects, their descriptions, and the team meetings that involve these project updates and discussions are listed below:

Urban Biodiversity Master Plan

- **Description:** Lisa Merrifield and her intern Gabriel Harpen-Hagen are working on developing an urban biodiversity master plan for local urbanized area of Urbana, Champaign, and Savoy.
- Gabe intends to submit the final draft of the report on May 2023. In this sense, at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year, Resilience Team should review the plan Gabe put together and receive any new updates from Lisa Merrifield. Following this, the team should discuss the next steps for this project.
 - This discussion should include the progress of the development of two iNaturalist surveys for this projects and student involvement. [Details can be found here.](#)
- Team meetings: [October](#), [January](#)

Green infrastructure locations and mapping project

- **Description:** This is a state-wide effort to map green infrastructure projects funded by Illinois EPA. The main role of the iCAP team in this project is to map green infrastructure assets on natural reasons. For this, a searchable and public map will be developed, showing what the assets are in this area. The intention for this map is to show enough data and details so we can do enough analysis on how urban green infrastructure is impacting nutrient load reduction.
- For the 2023-2024 school year, Lisa Merrifield should keep the team updated about the progression of this map and team should support this progression in feasible ways.
- Team meetings: [March](#)

Coordinated Rainwater Management Plan

- Please check the *Coordinated Rainwater Management Recommendation* section above for details

Sustainability Economic Analysis Project

- Please check the *Sustainability Economic Analysis Recommendation* section above for details

Resilience iCAP Objectives to Focus On

Throughout the 2022-2023 school year, Resilience iCAP Team primarily focused on Objective 8.1 Urban Biodiversity Master Plan, Objective 8.2 Coordinated Rainwater Management, and Objective 8.7 Local Offsets Program. For the new school year, I suggest Resilience Team to discuss new recommendation ideas for the objectives that were not thoroughly discussed.

I suggest three objectives for Resilience Team to focus more on at the 2023-2024 school year:

- [Objective 8.7: Local Offsets Program \(Priority\)](#)
 - The team needs to prioritize getting iWG, iSEE, and F&S approvals for the Carbon Offset Statement and sending the statement to the Chancellor's Office within the Fall 2023 semester.
- [Objective 8.3: Environmental Justice Plan](#)
 - Even though the Resilience Team has not discussed this objective throughout the year, [Tyler Swanson has made comprehensive research on environmental justice resources on campus](#). Taking this as a base, the team can discuss recommendation ideas to strengthen the environmental justice resources at campus and the wider community.
- [Objective 8.4: Local Sustainability Issues](#)
 - For this objective, the team members can discuss what “taking leadership on addressing sustainability challenges at the campus and greater community” can look like. This is also a great opportunity for recommendation ideas!
- [Objective 8.5: Inventory Green Jobs](#)
 - iSEE already has a list of green certifications that can be associated with green jobs at its [website under Education Portal](#)
 - It is crucial to update the Certification tabs and check if everything is up to date at this page

Some Advice for Future Clerks 😊

Being a clerk for this team is very rewarding and a great leadership experience. I suggest all the upcoming clerks for this team to make the most of this experience by interacting with their teammates and stay at the top of every project, recommendation, and idea that is being discussed.

Here are my tips that will help the clerks to efficiently adjust to this role and the team:

- Before the start of the school year, please review the Resilience chapter of iCAP and familiarize yourself with the [BOX](#).
 - o Clerks need to know the [Resilience iCAP objectives](#), because all our team discussions, projects, and recommendations revolve around these objectives.
 - o BOX is a secure platform where [meeting notes](#), [meeting recordings](#), [recommendation drafts](#), and all other team-related documents are uploaded.
- Familiarize yourself with the [iCAP Portal](#).
 - o iCAP Portal is a platform where you will be uploading meeting notes and any kind of updates from projects/recommendations.
- Review the submitted and in-progress recommendations
 - o [Urban Biodiversity Master Plan](#)
 - o [Coordinated Rainwater Management Plan](#)
 - o [Sustainability Economics Analysis Recommendation](#)
 - o [Carbon Offset Statement](#)
- Take a look at the recommendation template
- Review last year's meeting notes (for each project, I highlighted the most useful and detailed meeting(s) in **yellow**)
- Make sure that you can create and send Zoom meeting invites to the email groups
- Try to stick to the team agenda (you will create with the team chair and vice-chair) as much as you can and facilitate team discussions accordingly
- When necessary, coordinate with other teams
- **Don't be afraid to ask questions!**
- **HAVE FUN!!!**