



Financing and Funding Opportunities

Big Ten Environmental Stewardship Group

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Core Challenge

Funding is a core challenge of realizing the iCAP goals. Fortunately, many GHG reduction strategies are no-cost, low-cost, or will pay back investment costs over time. New funding and tracking mechanisms are needed to verify cost savings and recycle a portion of those savings into other initiatives and projects.

The institutional culture needed to evaluate, fund, and verify the costs and GHG reductions for the actions in the iCAP is only partially in place. Achieving iCAP goals will require operational and accounting changes that affect all departments and units.



Options

- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)
- Energy Service Companies (ESCOs)
- Revolving Loan Fund
- Improved Fundraising efforts (U of I Foundation involvement)
- Academic Facilities Maintenance Fund Assessment (AFMFA)
- Student Sustainability Committee
- Energy Billing Savings
- Corporate Partnerships
- Public/Private Partnerships.



Possibilities

Create a revolving climate loan fund. A revolving loan fund is an effective way to initiate and sustain key components of the iCAP. A successful revolving loan fund will require initial capitalization, strategic loans, effective cost tracking, and verification to confirm projected cost savings and GHG reduction benefits are realized. The loan fund would provide capital for high-performance, energy efficient campus design, operations, maintenance, and occupant behavior projects.

Pursue grants that reduce GHG emissions. An area of specific interest is grant opportunities for implementing iCAP goals associated with building projects, and for reducing peak campus steam demand.

Faculty and staff green commitment. This fee would help the University achieve ambitious climate action goals and also give faculty and staff a sense of parity and shared commitment with students. Create an internal donations strategy and process for faculty and staff to contribute to the student green fee or centralized pool.



Possibilities

Develop an integrated donations strategy. Moving to a low GHG economy is swiftly emerging as the defining issue of this time. Donors will want to support iCAP efforts especially if they see the University taking a leadership role. Involving the U of I Foundation is essential to ensure clear messaging and a comprehensive, integrated approach. Furthermore, campus needs to establish a priority list of sustainability projects and assign a high-level liaison to support fundraising and implementation of such projects.

UI green marketing. Establishing the University as a leader in climate response and implementation has significant marketing value that should not be overlooked. Money follows good projects that are visible and easily understood. Sustainability is becoming a core value of the institution and continuing to build this reputation, supported by a good marketing program, is key to gaining financial support for this effort.



iCAP “Clean Energy” fund

Financing. The University will establish a dedicated, centrally coordinated funding pool for energy conservation projects within the next three years. This “clean energy” fund will allow for both internal (student fees, faculty contributions, staff contributions, energy savings reinvestment, capital programs), and external (programs, rebates, donations, outside investors) participation. It will be established as a capital infusion and coordination mechanism aimed at physical energy and energy cost reductions that also allows for the sustained maintenance of these investments.