



STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Funding Award and Acceptance Letter

May 9, 2014

Project Leader: Dr. Ben McCall

Project Team: Nandakishore Rajagopalan, Collin Reeser, Todd Rusk, Gary Letterly

Project: Field to Fuel-Biomass Heating on Campus

Re: Cleaner Energy Technologies Fee – Award Recommendation

Dear Dr. McCall:

On behalf of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Student Sustainability Committee (SSC), I would like to thank you for considering the funds raised by the Cleaner Energy Technologies Fee to implement a project that improves the sustainability of our campus. SSC is pleased to inform you that we are recommending to the Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment (iSEE) that the Field to Fuel-Biomass Heating on Campus project **receives \$100,000 in grant funding**. However, this funding cannot be used for the line items under the "Personnel and Wages" section of your application. It should be noted that iSEE is signing this agreement to secure the funding while the logistics of the sponsoring unit are sorted out. If the project changes location, or sponsoring unit, it will require approval from SSC.

In order to remain eligible for this award, you must agree to the following conditions:

1. A final report of all work completed should be provided to the SSC Program Advisor by June 30, 2016.
2. Project status updates and detailed account statements must be provided at the end of each semester until the project is completed.
3. Any substantial modifications to project scope, budget, or timeline must first be approved by SSC. These requests must be submitted in a formal letter to the Chair and Program Advisor.
4. All projects will be expected to follow campus policies and procedures as well as any applicable State and Federal laws.
5. SSC reserves the right to revoke funding if the project does not comply with the terms and conditions outlined in this letter.
6. Upon implementation, signage must educate the public about the project and its impact on campus.
7. Any signage involving the project or events surrounding this project should include SSC's logo and/or a statement of which fee funded the project.
8. Any press releases or educational/promotional materials involving the project should acknowledge SSC funding. Projects must communicate with the SSC's External Vice Chair to come up with appropriate marketing for the project.
9. Projects must participate in the Campus Sustainability Symposium at least once before June 30, 2017.



**STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE**

If you agree to the terms and conditions for the funding, please sign on the designated line at the bottom of this letter. If you have any questions regarding these requirements please contact the Chair, Marika Nell, at [nell2@illinois.edu](mailto:nell2@illinois.edu) or the Interim SSC Program Advisor & Student Programs & Activities Assistant Director, Dementro Powell, at [dementro@illinois.edu](mailto:dementro@illinois.edu). You will be notified when the Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment officially approves this project. Again, thank you for your interest in improving the sustainability of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. We look forward to working with you in the future.

**SSC Signatories**

Marika Nell 5/16/14  
Marika Nell  
Chair, Student Sustainability Committee

Kathryn Kinley 5/16/14  
Kathryn Kinley  
Treasurer, Student Sustainability Committee

**Awardee Signatory**

Ben McCall 5/13/14  
Dr. Ben McCall  
Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment

**iSEE Signatory**

Evan DeLucia  
Dr. Evan DeLucia, Director  
Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment



STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

**Project Information**

**Project:** Field to Fuel-Biomass Heating on Campus

**Funding Source:** Cleaner Energy Technology Fee

**Funding Amount:** \$100,000

**Award Code:** To Be Determined

**Receiving Campus Unit:** To Be Determined

**Unit Financial Contact:** Jenny Kokini, Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment

**E-mail:** [jkokini@illinois.edu](mailto:jkokini@illinois.edu) **Phone:** (217) 333-5357

**Primary Contact:** Dr. Ben McCall, Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment

**E-mail:** [campus-sustainability@illinois.edu](mailto:campus-sustainability@illinois.edu) **Phone:** (217) 244-0230

**Project Description:**

This project aims to install and operate a 250 kW state-of-the-art biomass boiler plant, associated hot water distribution, and necessary heat exchangers that will satisfy the total heat requirements of the research greenhouse at the Energy Farm. In addition, the budget includes installation of instrumentation and student support to monitor performance and emissions from the system. Biomass for the boiler would be supplied by the Energy Farm at market cost. The plant will be used to:

- (a) Demonstrate the feasibility of using non-densified energy grasses as a source for renewable energy generation on campus
- (b) Engage and familiarize F&S personnel with the design, installation, and operation of such systems with a view to accelerate the adoption of renewable energy production on campus
- (c) Support the education and training of students
- (d) Create awareness in the larger community

The long-term vision of this project is that it lays the foundation for larger biomass projects that could directly supply renewable low carbon energy to the UIUC campus through Abbott power plant or other plants that feed energy to campus. At the current time, the energy farm produces over 500 tons of biomass each year without easily accessible energy market outlets. If campus were to become a viable market, expansion of the biomass crops grown could easily top 1000 tons per year, displacing 650 tons of coal currently used on campus. While that decrease would only equate to 1% of current annual coal usage, it would pave the path for future expansion into renewable biomass.

