

student sustainability committee

university of illinois at urbana-champaign



Funding Award and Acceptance Letter

December 12, 2012

Project Leader: Eric Benson

Project Team: Jeff Poss, Zack Grant, Steve Kostell, Gale Fulton

Project: Fresh Press "Dotting the I's and Crossing the T's: Moving Toward a Greener Agri-Fiber Paper Lab on an Off-Grid Sustainable Farm"

Re: Sustainable Campus Environment Fee – Award Recommendation

Dear Professor Benson:

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 Sustainable Campus Environment Fee to implement a project that improves the sustainability of our campus.

SSC is pleased to inform you that we are recommending to the Office of Sustainability that Fresh Press' "Dotting the I's and Crossing the T's: Moving Toward a Greener Agri-Fiber Paper Lab on an Off-Grid Sustainable Farm" project receive \$68,416 in grant funding for everything in the application except for the grid inter-tied photovoltaic system.

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

1. All funds must be spent by December 31, 2013.
2. A final report of all work completed should be provided by January 30, 2014.
3. Project status updates and detailed account statements must be provided at the end of each semester until the project is completed.
4. Any substantial modifications to project scope, budget, or timeline must first be approved by SSC.
5. All projects will be expected to follow campus policies and procedures as well as any applicable State and Federal laws.
6. SSC reserves the right to revoke funding if the project does not comply with the terms and conditions outlined in this letter.

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 SSC Program Advisor, McKenzie Beverage, at mbeverag@illinois.edu. You will be notified when the Office of Sustainability 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

12/12/12

Marika Nell
Chair, Student Sustainability Committee

12/12/12

Kathryn Kinley
Treasurer, Student Sustainability Committee

Awardee Signatory

Eric Benson, Assistant Professor
Art & Design

Office of Sustainability Signatory

Pradeep Khanna, Associate Chancellor
Acting Director, Office of Sustainability



Project Information

Project: Fresh Press “Dotting the I’s and Crossing the T’s: Moving Toward a Greener Agri-Fiber Paper Lab on an Off-Grid Sustainable Farm”

Funding Source: Sustainable Campus Environment Fee

Funding Amount: \$68,416

Award Code: 1-303692-526000-526215-526FPS

Receiving Campus Unit: Art + Design

Unit Financial Contact: Sheryl Netherton

E-mail: nertherto@illinois.edu **Phone:** (217) 244-4249

Primary Contact Person: Eric Benson

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Secondary Contact Person: Steve Kostell

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Project Description:

Fresh Press (FP) is an interdisciplinary faculty and student research studio that explores the potential for sustainable paper production. Our goal is to develop entrepreneurial markets for paper product originating from locally produced agri-fiber and indigenous plant material. This research involves developing new models, methods, and applications for the integration of agri-fiber paper as a viable alternative to wood pulp product. Fresh Press seeks to shape and educate industry, steward the land we use, and investigate indigenous plant and agricultural fiber plots. By moving towards self-sufficiency, Fresh Press will become the model for small-scale sustainable papermaking, which can also be applied to a larger industrial practice.

The Sustainable Student Farm (SSF) has been a vital partner by providing the land to grow plant fibers, harvesting, and access to the newly constructed “wash/pack pavilion”. This was built by the Small Studio (SS), a graduate-level studio instructed by Architecture Professor Jeff Poss which tackles small-scale structure projects on-campus with a focus on sustainable materials and systems. The wash/pack pavilion was designed for vegetable cleaning and crating. Through this low-impact temporary structure, the SSF continues to support Fresh Press by providing space for cooking, storage, and drying of agricultural fibers.

As this research partnership grows, so does the desire to move towards a more sustainable system design. From production to consumption, we have identified three sustainability targets (land, energy, and water) to minimize environmental impact and also to implement environmental building improvements.

The relationships between FP, SSF and the SS have been successful at developing and implementing interdisciplinary collaborations with a strong focus on student involvement and sustainable awareness. This relationship has utilized student volunteers from SSF, graduate Architecture students, and sophomore-level graphic design students. It provides cross-disciplinary pathways for students/faculty/staff, continuing to enrich the educational/research experience that exemplifies the mission of a land grant institution.

This proposal asks the SSC for funding to establish experimental indigenous fiber plots, develop small-scale energy independence, equipment for rainwater filtration, and complete the “wash/pack pavilion which will include an equipment storage shed.