

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

The Illini Union  
1401 West Green Street  
Urbana, IL 61801



November 24, 2009

Dear Committee members:

The Illini Union is pleased to submit this letter of inquiry to the Student Sustainability Committee to be considered for funding. This is one of three projects The Illini Union is submitting and it is our understanding that the cost for completing these projects will be shared at a 60/40 ratio and the Committee potentially will be responsible for 60% of the project cost. Your communication also indicates there is an additional funding option of an interest-free loan that we may be able to access. The Illini Union expresses an interest in this funding mechanism to finance our portion of the partially funded project.

We believe the project we are submitting for your consideration is aligned with the broader mission of your committee to "secure a better cleaner, safer, lasting and sustainable environment to the University of Illinois."

The Illini Union offers a unique opportunity for the University of Illinois to educate and showcase sustainability initiatives while truly achieving important improvements in reduction, reuse and recycling. Due, largely to its centralized location and campus-wide function, the Union offers high visibility to the University's effort to project its efforts in the area of sustainability and we strongly believe this project accomplishes that.

If additional information or clarification is required from the committee or an individual member, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mulu Ferede".

Mulu Ferede  
Associate Director

Enclosure

cc: Ed Slazinik, Director

LETTER OF INQUIRY  
STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
CALL FOR PROPOSALS DUE NOV 27, 2009

ILLINI UNION PROPOSAL FOR LIGHTING/ENERGY USAGE REDUCTION

The Illini Union offers a unique opportunity for the University of Illinois to educate and showcase sustainability initiatives while truly achieving important improvements in reduction, reuse and recycling. Due largely to its centralized location and campus-wide function, the Union averages approximately 15,000 visitors per day. And since it is an older facility – the original construction began in 1939 – much of the Union’s infrastructure is outdated and energy-inefficient.

The Illini Union facilities staff has worked closely with F&S Engineers to develop a number of projects that would significantly impact sustainability. One such project that was highly recommended by the F&S staff involves the installation of occupancy sensors to control lighting in various areas throughout the facility. This project has already been formally estimated by F&S in four components, as follows:

1) Install lighting occupancy sensors in Food Service preparation areas	\$27,500.00
2) Install lighting occupancy sensors in Restrooms	\$17,600.00
3) Install lighting occupancy sensors in Office areas	\$12,650.00
4) Install lighting occupancy sensors in Meeting Rooms	<u>\$ 5,940.00</u>
Total Estimated Cost (for all four components)	\$63,690.00

This project, when completed, is estimated to reduce approximately 130,700 Kilowatt Hours in electrical energy usage annually. At current utility rates, this would result in annual savings totaling approximately \$9,670.00. The resulting reduction in greenhouse gas emissions would further total approximately 218,530 pounds of carbon dioxide annually.

Using the 60/40 grant offered by the SSC from the Sustainability Fee fund, if approved, the Illini Union would provide funding in the amount of \$25,476.00 while the SSC would provide funding in the amount of \$38,214. The project can be completed within three months and can commence at any time following the arrangement of funding. Occupancy sensors generally have a life-expectancy of approximately 10 years.

By installing occupancy sensors students can become more aware of the impact lighting conservation has on energy reduction and the savings that will occur as a result of it. The thousands of students who pass through the Illini Union daily will see and experience the sensors, reinforcing the importance of using energy efficiently and turning off lights when not in-use. The Illini Union Marketing Department will also provide information on the project and the Sustainability Committee on the ‘*Under GREENstruction*’ signs outside of the rooms while the sensors are being installed. We will also provide information regarding the Sustainability Committee on our website.