

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 WATER 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 And since it is an older facility – the original construction began in 1939 – much of the Union’s infrastructure is outdated and energy-inefficient.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 replacement of existing plumbing fixtures and components to reduce water usage. This project has already been formally estimated by F&S in four components, as follows:

1) Replace 165 toilets with “low-flow” commodes & matched flush-valves	\$ 162,525.00
2) Replace 33 urinals with “low-flow” fixtures & matched flush-valves	\$ 33,495.00
3) Install “low-flow” shower heads in 78 hotel baths and locker rooms	\$ 7,722.00
4) Install “low-flow” aerators on 175 lavatory faucets	\$ <u>3,318.00</u>
Total Estimated Cost (for all four components)	\$ 207,060.00

Each “low-flow” water closet (commode) is projected to yield a water-usage savings of approximately 2.3 gallons per flush; the new technology uses only 1.2 gallons compared with 3.5 gallons per flush with existing units. The estimated usage for a year would thus result in a savings of approximately 1.9 million gallons of water annually.

Each “low-flow” urinal is projected to yield a water-usage savings of approximately 0.88 gallons per flush; the new technology uses only 0.12 gallons compared with 1.00 gallons per flush with existing units. The estimated usage for a year would thus result in a savings of approximately 843,000 gallons of water annually.

Each “low-flow” shower head is projected to yield a water-usage savings of approximately 3.3 gallons per minute; the new technology uses only 2.2 gallons per minute compared with 5.5 gallons per minute with existing units. The estimated usage for a year would thus result in a savings of approximately 752,000 gallons of water annually.

Each “low-flow” faucet aerator is projected to yield a water-usage savings of approximately 1.7 gallons per minute; the new technology uses only 0.5 gallons per minute compared with 2.2 gallons per minute

with existing units. The estimated usage for a year would thus result in a savings of approximately 209,000 gallons of water annually.

In total, the annual water reduction (for all four components) would equal approximately 3.7 million gallons which would result in an annual savings of \$7,918.00 (at current utility rates). 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 \$82,824.00 while the SSC would provide funding in the amount of \$124,236.00. The project can be completed within six months and can commence at any time following the arrangement of funding.

The Illini Union Marketing Department will also employ various media campaigns to communicate and educate regarding this sustainability initiative along with our other on-going efforts.