# *From time to time unforeseen challenges or opportunities can affect the planned budget, timeline, or overall goals of a project funded by the Student Sustainability Committee. Past examples of these situations include projects coming in under budget but having additional opportunities available, or inclement weather delaying the planting of agriculture projects.*

# *Below please include a brief project summary and your requested changes. Attach additional documents as needed. If you have any questions, please contact the Student Sustainability Committee at sustainability-committee@illinois.edu.*

# General Information

**Project Name:** Zero Waste Coordination

**Total Amount Requested from SSC:** **$64,862**

# Contact Information

Applicant Name: Morgan White

Unit/Department: Facilities & Services

Email Address: mbwhite@illinois.edu

# Project Information

Please provide a brief background of the project, the goals, and the desired outcomes:

This is a multi-pronged project with four areas of focus, all working toward our eventual goal of being a Zero Waste Campus.

The largest portion of funding is going to add new recycling bins to areas north and east of the Main Quad as an expansion of the dual-bin recycling system currently used. The Main Quad bins have been very successful and this is a timely and needed expansion.

Over the last few years, the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center (ISTC) has been conducting waste audits of certain campus buildings such as the Swanlund Administration Building and the Business Instructional Facility. The second part of this proposal is supporting building-specific solutions for each of the eight buildings that were audited. Staff from ISTC will work with building stakeholders to identify how to reduce their waste, then implement the new measures.

Several other new waste streams, such as nitrile gloves and Styrofoam, have been added to campus’s waste diversion efforts recently. The third part of this proposal will employ student employees to conduct campuswide outreach with buildings on campus to improve participation in these new initiatives.

Finally, a small amount of money is being set aside for education and outreach to the campus community regarding zero waste efforts. This will largely occur via social media advertisements and digital signage, and will be developed in conjunction with SSC’s own subcommittee for marketing.

This proposal directly funds:

1. New recycling bins to the north and the east of the Main Quad
2. Marketing and publicity for recycling initiatives
3. Staff time and resources to identify and reduce existing and new waste streams

Please provide a brief summary of how students will be involved in the project’s changes:

Purchasing, Waste, and Recycling (PWR) SWATeam student member Fangxing Liu provided recommendations for the locations of dual bins. Her work will be part of the cost estimation process and will guide where the bins will be located.

Please provide a brief summary of your requested scope change. How is your request different from your original plan?

Our current request is to extend the timeline of the project for an additional year, through July 31, 2019. We would like to use the additional time and remaining project funds to continue our work to expand the dual bins on the Quad to other areas of campus. As noted at the end of the list of milestones below, we have made substantial progress on this aspect of the project and would like to maintain momentum on it. We would like to use remaining project funds to obtain cost estimates for removing the single bins and installing dual bins and to help cover the costs of the removals and installations.

Milestones and progress to date include:

* F&S hired an Academic Hourly (Marya Ryan) in March 2017 to serve as a part-time zero-waste coordinator and added a work order to pay for design work by Anna Barnes.
* Using messaging advice from Olivia Harris at iSEE, Barnes and Ryan created a PowerPoint presentation promoting use of recycling bins. With Morgan White's coordination, the presentation was made to key campus staff groups this past spring by student intern Leah Berti.
* Barnes and Ryan also created materials to promote the campus glove recycling program, including instructions for new users and a web form for new participants. Glove recycling information on the iCAP portal was updated in the spring of 2018, with the addition of the web form and new user instructions to come once the glove recycling trailer has been relocated this summer.
* Battery recycling information on the iCAP portal has been updated. In spring 2018, interested faculty members developed a proposal for a self-funding program that would require initial funding. During the 2017-18 academic year, Marcus Smith, a student minoring in sustainability, worked on a capstone project with one of the faculty members to provide a more detailed analysis of battery recycling impacts.
* Student volunteers from Business for Environmental Responsibility are reviewing glove purchasing reports this summer and will contact departments that purchase large quantities of gloves but do not yet participate in the glove recycling program to encourage them to participate.
* With assistance from Anna Barnes, Ryan found a local farmer interested in collecting coffee grounds from the Illini Union Starbucks for use on his farm.
* iSEE hired two students for the Styrecycle program in the summer of 2017, using project funds that F&S transferred to iSEE. The EPS densifier that CRI had housed was transferred to campus last summer, after Midwest Fiber purchased CRI and notified us that they are not willing to house it. ISTC is running tests on the densifier and investigating options for an ongoing styrofoam recycling program on campus.
* Glass recycling is on hold because we have not identified a vendor to replace CRI.
* We have not begun the building-specific solution efforts at this time. A student named Becky Jonas volunteered with Morgan and the PWR SWATeam this spring to impact indoor recycling bins. She started with Hydrosystems Lab, and then worked with the buildings from the waste characterization studies. At each building, Jonas mapped the existing and proposed bins, working with facility and building service worker contacts, and modifying the indoor collection areas to increase recycling rates at the point of disposal.
* Existing outdoor trash bins were mapped in the fall of 2017, locations where the new dual bins will replace them were identified in the spring of 2018, and the campus Architecture Review Committee approved the design and locations of the dual bins in the spring of 2018.

Additional comments (Optional)

Any additional comments/relevant information for the project proposal