*Please submit this completed application and any relevant supporting documentation by the deadline listed on the SSC website to* [*Sustainability-Committee@Illinois.edu*](mailto:Sustainability-Committee@Illinois.edu)*. The Working Group Chairs will be in contact with you regarding any questions about the application. If you have any questions about the application process, please contact the Student Sustainability Committee at* [*http://sustainability-committee@illinois.edu.*](about:blank)

**General Information**

Project Name: Illini Lights Out

Total Amount Requested from SSC: $10,000.00

Project Topic Areas: ☐ Land & Water ⏹Education⏹Energy

☐ Transportation ☐ Food & Waste

**Contact Information**

Applicant Name: Vincenzo Spagnola

Unit/Department or RSO/Organization: iSEE

Email Address: vincenzo.spagnola@gmail.com

Phone Number: 773-727-2062

Project Team

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *Name* | *Department/Organization* | *Email* |
| Vincenzo Spagnola | iSEE | vincenzo.spagnola@gmail.com |
| Claire Kredens | iSEE | clairekredens@gmail.com |
| Olivia Harris | iSEE | oharris2@illinois.edu |
|  |  |  |

Financial Contact’s Name: Micah Kenfield - Sustainability Programs Coordinator

Faculty/Unit/Department: iSEE

Email: kenfield@illinois.edu

Phone: 217-244-9342

(If Applicable)

Facilities Manager Name:

Email:

Phone:

**Project Information**

*Provide a brief background of the project, its goals, and the desired outcomes.*

iSEE would like to be able to continue the ‘Illini Lights Out’ program and expand it to two Friday nights each month during the academic year. Our interest in doing so is based on the phenomenal success of ‘Illini Lights Out’ conducted from September 29th, 2017 to April 27th, 2018.

In an Illini Lights Out event, pairs or small teams of volunteer students are are assigned buildings to audit around campus to turn off non-essential lights in classrooms/hallways/bathrooms not in use. Volunteers meet at a designated location to sign in, review safety protocols and receive their tally sheets. Students use these sheets to indicate any empty rooms where they turned off lights, empty rooms where lights were on but they could not get into, and the amount of bulbs and fixtures in these rooms. After the audit is complete, students return all forms to designated staff and are then eligible for a complimentary meal (usually pizza) in exchange for their assistance. We hope that this event both results in direct energy conservation impact on campus and also helps to inspire students to make small behavioral changes to their routine to enhance sustainability more broadly and throughout life.

Buildings audited in the 2017-2018 academic year included Altgeld Hall, Animal Science Lab, Architecture Building, Armory, Bevier Hall, Burrill Hall, Business Instructional Facility, Chem Annex, David Kinley Hall, Davenport Hall, Education Building, Engineering Hall, English Building, Foreign Languages Building, Gregory Hall, Henry Administration Building, Illini Hall, Lincoln Hall, Materials Science and Engineering Building, Natural History Building, Noyes Laboratory, Psychology Building, and Wohlers Hall. Given that we would plan to audit a similar number of buildings each event this year, it is expected that approximately 44 student volunteers are needed per event.

Other current goals and desired outcomes include expanding outreach, talking to building managers about our progress in their building and giving them monthly 'report cards', expanding our team, and giving/doing more for our participants.

*How will this project improve sustainability at UIUC?*

Conducting light audits is a simple, fun and interactive way of engaging students with energy conservation while raising awareness of energy usage as it relates to climate change. There are currently no energy conservation initiatives on campus that are solely targeted to students year-round. Students have been collecting data on the number of lights turned off for each building once a month and our team has worked to discover trends in user behavior over time.

‘Illini Lights Out’ 2017-2018 was a highly successful event. It reached students across many fields and was a low cost option for engaging the campus community. Since our first event we have gradually grabbed the attention of more students. Our first event of this academic year, on September 29th, 2017, brought in 35 volunteers. Our most recent event, on March 9th, 2018, brought in 95 volunteers. Our largest event was on February 2nd, when we brought in 101 volunteers to turn off lights all around campus. Thus far this academic year we've saved 52,148 kwh worth of energy, a C02 equivalent of 38.8 metric tons, and an average dollar amount of $750 per event.

This campaign addresses Objective 4 of the Energy Conservation and Building Standards SWATeam (Chapter 2 of iCAP) – to engage and incentivize the campus community in energy conservation and to contribute to a comprehensive energy campaign. Many universities have already implemented light ‘audits’ as a way of engaging students and saving costs through energy conservation. Initiating a year-round light auditing program provides a way of sustaining engagement with energy conservation for the duration of the academic year.

Doing this twice a month, given our success and the responses we've gathered from our participants, would likely double our numbers. Engagement levels are easily identifiable (total number of student volunteers throughout the year) and the cost savings through emissions and dollars saved can be calculated with relative ease. ‘Illini Lights Out’ can act as an initial step to further engaging the campus by posting our findings in each building and providing building faculty with a more in depth monthly 'report card' on how they are doing, this way both the campus community can see what we've been doing and over time staff can work to change their energy usage habits.

*Where will the project be located? Do you need special permissions to enact the project at this site? If so, please explain and attach a letter of support to your application.*

We anticipate conducting audits in larger, core campus buildings with which students are familiar with, which has been the case with the buildings we have selected. We have not yet needed special permission to enter any of the buildings that were selected, but if the project further expands, we may need to work with building coordinators of any selected buildings to notify them what our project consists of, and that they notify staff residing in that building, so that our volunteers do not come as a surprise.

*Other than the project team, who will have a stake in the project? Please list other individuals, groups, or departments indirectly or directly affiliated to this project. This includes any funding entities (immediate, future, ongoing, etc.) and any entities that will be benefiting from this project.*

The monetary impact of this project on campus is most directly received by F&S, but it impacts the energy costs of any office or department located in the selected buildings. In addition to the project team who have been coordinating the event, the recruited volunteers are directly impacted by their participation. Other iSEE staff are knowledgeable of this program and we understand that all comments, concerns, and/or praise that may be related with 'Illini Lights Out' will also trace back to iSEE and our staff. We have been working with many campus RSO's, such as APO, JSSAB, and more to gather more volunteers which benefits their own participants by providing them with an educational community service activity.

*Please indicate how this project will involve or impact students. What role will students play in the project?*

Students (Vincenzo and Claire) directly serve on the project planning team. In addition, all of the volunteers are students. This is very much a project that focuses on student impact and student behavioral change.

*Have you applied for funding with SSC previously? If so, for what project?*

This program applied for funding last year while it was still under the operation of the ECBS SWATeam.

**Scope, Schedule, and Budget verification**

*What is the plan for project implementation? Describe the key steps of the project including the start date, target completion date, target date for submitting a final report, and any significant tasks or milestones in the table below. Please be as detailed as possible.*

Next academic year we plan on expanding our team for this project, perhaps by getting started on the creation of an RSO (this part is still being talked over). Both of the students who currently plan and operate the program will be back next year to continue running the program. The team will meet with entire iSEE staff at first and then later meet to discuss specifics about the 'Illini Lights Out' program. We will then allocate funds as needed to what needs funding, get in contact with past members, and begin other forms of outreach.   
Key Milestones include the first ILO event, which usually comes early September, the end of the first semester where we can gather data and start implementing any changes as we run through data we've gathered, and the end of the year report.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Task** | | **Estimated Completion Date** | |
| iSEE Staff Initial Meeting | | Late August | |
| Illini Lights Out team first planning meeting | | Late August | |
| First and Second ILO event | | September | |
| Third and Fourth ILO event | | October | |
| Fifth ILO event | | November | |
| Sixth ILO event | | December | |
| First Semester Data Report | | January | |
| Seventh and Eighth ILO event | | February | |
| Ninth ILO event | | March | |
| Tenth ILO event | | April | |
| End of Year Report | | April or May | |

*List all budget items for which funding is being requested. Include cost and total amount for each item requested. Please be as detailed as possible.*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** | |  |  | **Total Request** | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Event Supplies** | | | | | |
| Clipboards, Light Refreshments, Giveaways Item/Prizes | | | | $4,000.00 | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Outreach Materials** | | | | | |
| Building Scorecards, Promotion/Advertisement | | | | $3,000.00 | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Safety** | | | | | |
| High Visibility Outerwear | | | | $3,000.00 | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | **TOTAL BUDGET** | **$10,000.00** | |

*If the project is implemented, will there be any ongoing funding required? What is the strategy for supporting the project in order to cover replacement, operation, or renewal costs? (Note: SSC provides funding on a case by case basis and should not be considered as an ongoing source of funding)*

Illini Lights Out has received funding in the past from the Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment, which continues to provide ongoing support through staff costs and covering some food expenses (~$5000 per year total). The goal for this application is to give Illini Lights Out the resources to prove it can sustain a significantly larger scale of events and to provide the program with transitional support as we investigate alternative funding options (e.g. in-kind donations from area businesses).

*Please include any other sources of funding that have been obtained or applied for, and please attach any relevant letters of support.*

iSEE currently provides approximately $5,000 per year in staff costs and financial resources to support the ILO program.

*What is the plan for publicizing the project on campus? In addition to SSC, where will information about this project get reported?*

Through iSEE newsletter, through social media, and by using flyers. This year the campus paper interviewed our students running ILO. We also work with RSO's, Greek life, and other groups on campus to get them to come out and participate in our events. Every year we contact past participants, inviting them to come back and support our event.   
  
Information about this project has been report on social media as well as the iSEE website and the iCAP Portal.