DAVID STEINFELS

# Project Name

**Please list the name/title of your proposed project.**

Trash to Treasure

# Project Information

**Please provide a brief summary (100-150 words) of the project, the goals, and the desired outcomes.**

*Please address all of the above items including concrete examples of the desired outcomes*

My project, Trash to Treasure, will be one that helps promote recycling on campus and can simultaneously raise money for further school environmental sustainability projects. The project’s focus would be take advantage of end of semester student movements. As students finish semesters and move from their housing, as well as seniors leaving the campus, they have an excess of belongings that have been acquired during their time on campus. Many students find themselves with excessive belongings and are unable to move them all home or to their next housing location. These students are often forced to throw away what they cannot bring with them. My idea is to set up the Trash to Treasure organization, which will be controlled and monitored by the school and students. This organization encourages students to donate as much of their unwanted belongings as possible. These belongings will range from clothing, foot ware and books to electronics, sports equipment and furniture. All of which can be recycled back into the college community through a school run facility of affordable used goods. The unwanted items can be organized and sent to various outside organizations such as Good Will and the Salvation Army.

The project will require very little effort to implement. It will need three main elements.

1. A volunteer group to collect, relocate, organize and price the donated goods.
2. A facility on or near campus that could be used as storage and a sales point for the donated goods to be sold.
3. A selected managerial group who can oversee this program and can properly oversee and allocate the funds brought in from this project.

**Project topic area(s), check all that apply:**

*To select/deselect, double click the box next to the topic(s) and select ‘checked’ on the popup menu.*

 Energy

 Education

X Food & Waste

 Land

 Water

 Transportation

**Why did you choose these topic(s) to focus on? Why are these topic(s) important to the UIUC campus? (200-250 words)**

*Please cite any relevant sources.*

I chose this topic to address because I want to slow the rate of garbage buildup to dumps around Champaign while simultaneously creating a method of fundraising to support further sustainability programs. I served four years in the United States Marine Corps and have seen first-hand the waste caused by mass exodus from a living facility. When Marines prepare to deploy for long periods of time, they have to clear their rooms completely for the returning unit to move in. This chaotic period of emptying out barracks rooms leaves dumpsters over flowing with extremely valuable objects that couldn’t possibly be brought on deployment or sent home. This waste of valuable goods continues to happen both in the military as well as on college campuses. We can easily recycle student’s unwanted belongings and raise money while doing so. UIUC hosts thousands of students, both foreign and domestic. This program could help provide students struggling with finances an opportunity to purchase things they need for fractions of the cost.

**List two to three specific, measurable, outreach goals. How will these be measured? (150-200 words)**

*Please be as specific as possible*

Three specific measurable outreach goals would be the measurements of money raised, tonnage of material donated and the number of customers who purchase used goods.

1. The key method of measuring the success of this project would be the money raised from the selling of the donated goods. The money gained from the sales should be used to support the program and the surplus can go to support similar sustainability projects.
2. A second measure of program’s success would be the recorded tonnage of material collected by this organization. Every ton of material collected would not only find its monetary value but would more importantly be reutilized instead of ending up filling garbage dumps. We need to find methods to reduce and prevent land fill growth.
3. A final measurable method to show the program’s success is the recording of customers that purchase the donated goods. Every customer that chooses to purchase goods from the program’s store is preventing further consumption of new products and saving money for other necessary and generally costly school supplies.

**How will the project improve the sustainability of the Illinois campus? How will the project go above and beyond current campus standards? (150-200 words)**

*Please cite any relevant sources.*

The project will improve sustainability by first reducing the amount of waste and necessary garbage pickup as semesters end. The second improvement is the program creates an outlet for students to donate time and belongings to support further school sustainability programs. The students can feel good about getting rid of their belongings knowing that their donations will help future struggling students.

**Please indicate how this project will involve or impact students. What role will students play in the project? What will make this project ‘student-led’? (150-200 words)**

*How will students benefit from this project? This could be direct benefits, indirect benefits, or student involvement opportunities during the implementation of the project.*

This project will be designed entirely around student participation. Students will be encouraged to donate their unwanted belongings to the program. Other students will be expected to donate time (probably through other organizations) to help collect, sort and prepare the items for sale. The goods will be sold at very affordable prices so that students are more inclined to purchase from Trash to Treasure instead of purchasing online or at expensive local retailers.

This program will be almost completely dependent on student participation and can help become a model for other college campus student recycling programs.

**Sources**

*List any sources used in this application*