



STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Semesterly Report

Thank you for your commitment to green initiatives at the University of Illinois. One of the ongoing requirements listed in the terms of the funding agreement for your project is the submission of semesterly reports with key information about your project. In addition to this form, please provide additional financial documentation and/or progress photos if available.

Please be as accurate as possible in describing the project (including possible setbacks or challenges in meeting the initial goals of the project). Not fully meeting your project's goals will not disqualify you from making future funding requests as long as your reports are as complete and accurate as possible. If you have any questions, please contact the Student Sustainability Committee, at sustainability-committee@illinois.edu.

Project Name: Illini Union Indoor Recycling Centers with Shadow Boxes

Date of Report Submission: 9/14/2021

Project Purpose:

The Illini Union purchased 7 outdoor recycling units and 8 indoor units in Spring of 2018 to address the growing need for recycling centers in and around the Union establish its own visual identity due to of a Campus standard for recycling centers at that time. The second phase of recycling centers wholly funded by the SSC added an additional 9 three stream recycling centers and 2 dedicated paper recycling bins to building. In addition, a scope change granted by the SSC in 2019 to add shadow boxes to the 9 three stream units. This added an educational element to the recycling centers by tangibly showing users actual which stream to place materials.

Primary Goals:

- Increase recycling efforts within the Illini Union
- Implement iCAP strategies
- Promote recycling within the Union and across campus
- Encourage individual environmental stewardship
- Increase in diversion rate of recyclable products from landfills

Deliverables:

- Increased opportunities for recycling with more bins available
- Strides toward waste reduction
- Increased visibility for recycling efforts
- Develop greater user awareness of how to recycle materials correctly, both at through the kickoff event for the recycling centers, through ongoing marketing in digital media, and through periodic renewal of the recycling and waste stream objects.

Detailed Accounting of Expenditures to Date:

Please see attached Max-R quotation and Banner report from Illini Union Business Affairs. **We have completed expending all \$31,928.56 for the combined base scope and approved scope change (shadow boxes).** The original project as originally scope in 2019 was funded for \$29,000, and in 2020 the change in scope was approved for \$3,911.56, a total of \$32,911.56. **A net project surplus of \$983 remains due to discounts made by Max-R.**

Project Progress to Date:

For Earth Day 2021 (April 22, 2021), SSC and IU Board promoted and co-sponsored a hybrid kickoff event in the evening, "Earth Day Extravaganza," which introduced the Campus community and students in particular by having the participants help load the new recycling centers' shadow boxes with recyclable and waste materials before picking up their take home "Crafts & Snacks" (a terra cotta pot and plant kit). An education presentation with members of SSC and other Campus waste reduction SMEs were on hand to answer questions. Several in depth, thoughtful discussions were had with participants regarding waste diversion. An official event count of 370 participants was made, although the number of students who showed up was over 500, with a socially distanced line stretching from the North Lobby of the Illini Union, down the East hallway, and across Anniversary Plaza to Wright Street.

Student Involvement and Outreach to Date:

Two: former IU Board VP of Policy Hannah Price (base project) and IU Board President Louis Sommesi (scope change). We held the aforementioned "Earth Day Extravaganza," which was the kick-off event for the new recycling centers. Illini Union Green team is also working on developing a Sustainability webpage nested within the main Illini Union webpage update that will highlight our progress and impact of this project on students and guests of the Union.

Marketing and Promotion Efforts to Date:

Extensive social media marketing and a limited number of posters were printed for placement within the Illini Union's notification boards to publicize the kickoff. Regarding the Illini Union's Sustainability webpage, we have commitments from Illini Union Marketing to integrate our information on the Union's webpage. However, this effort has been hampered due to COVID-19 and the changing Campus identity lockups for our webpage. IU Board and the SSC are planning a major outreach event for Earth Week in April 2022, and this project will receive attention in highlighting our progress in waste diversion at Illini Union.

We are also planning for an October Illini Union waste sorting event (tentatively on a day October 12 – 19th) that will confirm progress from our 2016 waste analysis with ISTC.

Additional Comments:

This project is complete. Please close out the project fund and return remaining surplus to the SSC funding pool for AY2021-2022.