



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: vermiCULTure

Date of Report Submission: 12/9/2021

Project Purpose:

vermiCULTure aims to provide both vermicomposting kits and educational materials to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign campus community. The education materials convey the importance of vermicomposting, which is the product of earthworm digestion and aerobic decomposition of food waste, and general food waste management. This project is needed on campus since there is currently no community level option for sustainable food waste disposal. The only recycling or waste management option in Urbana-Champaign is the Landscape Recycling Center, but they don't accept food waste and require payment to give materials. Moreover, there are no organizations, RSOs, or larger campus efforts in the area to compost, much less vermicompost.

Detailed Accounting of Expenditures to Date:

\$0

Project Progress to Date:

vermiCULTure's target was to distribute 50 vermicomposting kits by the end of 2021. To this date, vermiCULTure has distributed approximately 48 mini vermicomposting kits and 40 full-sized vermicomposting kits to students, faculty, and staff. In addition to that, vermiCULTure has hosted five workshops with two City of Urbana staff, one Urbana Park District staff, two Mindful Waste co-founders, Illini Urban Farmers, and a community member (who has 20-year

vermicomposting experience) to talk about vermicomposting, sustainability efforts in Urbana, composting in general, and food waste issue (and the solutions to it).

Student Involvement and Outreach to Date:

Students have been involved in various ways. vermiCULTure is run by 10 executive board members and 10 committee members, and also have 20 general members, all of whom are students. In addition to that, vermiCULTure’s events (e.g., kit distribution events, sustainability workshops, fundraising events, and social events) are mostly attended by students.

Marketing and Promotion Efforts to Date:

vermiCULTure’s marketing efforts have been heavily based on Instagram – focused on targeting students. In addition to that, vermiCULTure are also participating in various RSO outreach events hosted by the University (and its departments) to continue recruiting members and promoting our efforts to tackle climate change issues.

Additional Comments:

Thank you for supporting us!

Documentations:

- <https://www.instagram.com/vermiculture.uiuc/>





