# *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:** Project 4 Less

**Date of Report Submission:** 12/17/2021

**Project Purpose:**

The key objective for our food recovery operation is to reduce food waste and lead food redistribution efforts in the campus and surrounding community. In parallel with these goals we intend to spread awareness about local resources for food insecure individuals and work with local community organizers to ensure that pre-consumer food waste is redistributed to individuals in need.

**Detailed Accounting of Expenditures to Date:**

No expenditures to date—purchasing of new cold carts delayed because of the Covid-19 pandemic and consequent expansion restrictions.

**Project Progress to Date:**

 This semester, Project 4 Less made progress in improving and expanding its community partnerships, its connections with on-campus food waste awareness groups, its place within national networks of similar food recovery organizations, its packaging logistics, and more.

 P4L maintains strong relations with its partners Wesley Food Pantry and UniPlace, who act as mail distributors on a weekly basis. Each week, these partners distribute all the meals we package to the community. In addition to these partners, we have also committed to a partnership with Salvation Army, who will be able to expand our reach in the community and distribute food in the case that Wesley or UniPlace cannot, or when we are able to expand to multiple dining halls or more packaging nights. We currently are waiting for Dining’s ability to support our expansion, which has been delayed due to Covid-19’s impacts on the supply chain and staffing shortages. We are working to find solutions to this and are also discussing expansion into local restaurants and eateries as a possible option.

 P4L is maintaining its relationships with on campus organizations that hold similar missions. For example, we are maintaining our partnership with the Metropolitan Food & Environmental Systems Student Association (MFSTSA). We communicate with them on our goals, created a joint-website together, and co-attended a meeting alongside with members of SSC and the Associate Vice Chancellor of our university. With them, we have also officially become a chapter of the Food Recovery Network earlier this semester. This is a national network of similar organizations to our own, which provides us with resources about food recovery, program expansion, networking opportunities, and educational meetings.

 We continue to move forward with our packaging, finding new boxes to utilize and establishing improved logistics for measuring and recording our food recovery metrics.

**Student Involvement and Outreach to Date:**

This semester, we have expanding student involvement in the board of our club, recruiting new students to support our goals of food recovery via expansion, media promotion, and more. With new and returning members that attend our biweekly logistical meetings, we encourage engagement with various aspects of our organization such as partnership communication, media content creation, outreach, strategic planning, and more. We have provided leadership responsibilities and roles to students interested. Additionally, we continue to hold open volunteering sessions to students and allow students to act as volunteer coordinators each week.

In addition to the engagement within our organization’s operation, we are also encouraging student interaction with organizations outside of our own. We have increased our interaction with other RSOs, such as MFSTSA, and presented our organization and discussed our mission at meetings with MFSTSA, SSC members, and the Associate Vice Chancellor of the university.

**Marketing and Promotion Efforts to Date:**

We currently continue to grow our social media accounts while posting promotional information, project updates, and information content on both Facebook and Instagram. We recently have also created a joint website with MFSTSA, alongside whom we have become a Food Recovery Network Chapter. We have also led P4L presentations at meetings with MFSTSA, members of SSC, and university officials. In order to spread the word on our volunteering positions, we are planning promotion through pre-health RSOs and the GIES honors student newsletters. Lastly, to improve our email outreach, we are coordinating emails through Mail Chimp and discussing the possibility of a food waste and insecurity joint newsletter.

**Additional Comments:**

 As always, we are very grateful for the time and support of SSC as we continue throughout our mission, both throughout our recent scope change and our continued expansion efforts. It was great to meet with and discuss our shared goals with some of your members this semester. Have a lovely break, and we look forward to the semester ahead!