



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: CornCrete

Date of Report Submission: 2/1/2022

Project Purpose:

The Project will divert an agricultural waste product and direct it into a higher value end product: An insulating monolithic wall material.

Detailed Accounting of Expenditures to Date:

See attached

Project Progress to Date:

The majority of the work to date can be broken down into the following categories:

Design Work: 100% Complete

Material Preparation: 100% Complete

Material Installation: 100% Complete

Video Documentation: 80% Complete

Data Monitoring Purchase and Installation + Informational Display and Signage: 0% Complete

Final Plaster Finish: 95% Complete

Student Involvement and Outreach to Date:

The initial work was carried out by one undergraduate and one graduate student. In spring 2019 a team of 4 graduate students built a mock-up wall using 3 different agricultural fibers within the setting of a seminar class. During the Summer of 2021 a team of 3 students (1 graduated student) worked on the installation of the different grasscretes in the 2 demonstration walls. One graduated student worked on video documentation of the process to be used for outreach purposes. An early version of the video documenting the process has already been shown at a couple of outreach activities. Early in 2022 an

additional student (graduate hourly) joined the team to assist the Faculty Lead apply the final layer plaster to the two demonstration walls, that student will be retained to assist in the installation of sensors and build the informational display and signage.

Marketing and Promotion Efforts to Date:

The project was discussed in an interview conducted by Jenna Kurtzweil, iSEE Communications Intern and released via the iSEE website on February 14th 2019: <https://sustainability.illinois.edu/past-present-and-future-corncrete>. The videos documenting the process have slowly been progressing. Once the final few stages are complete a strong effort will be made to organize photos and the video to be distributed through various social media routes.

Additional Comments:

Now we are approaching the conclusion of this project we have a better understanding of the size of the budget surplus. This is in large part due to the Faculty Lead not being able to work with as many students and academic hourlies as originally intended due to COVID restrictions. Instead, the Faculty Lead worked many unpaid hours to bring this project to conclusion, saving funds in the process.

On the following page is an image of one of the two demonstration walls in the final stages of plastering and awaiting the installation of sensors for thermal and relative humidity monitoring.

Scope Change:

It is requested that the remaining balance in the account be put towards concluding another project that was originally designed and built by students and is in close proximity to the GrassCrete demonstration walls at the Energy Farm: The Gable Home. This request was initially made in last semester's report, however at this stage the Faculty Lead can now formally submit the Scope Change and new budget (see attached).

The Faculty Lead for this project would like to ask the committee if the remaining funds be used towards the reinstating of the deck surrounding the Gable Home (the 2009 Solar Decathlon House), also located at the Energy Farm. In the Fall of 2021 under the direction of the Faculty Lead 12 students in Arch 576 reused the original deck members, however additional material will be needed to complete the new installation.

