

iCAP Team Recommendation

Name of iCAP Team: Engagement

iCAP Team chair(s): Ann Witmer, Kratika Tandon

Date submitted to iWG: 12/8/22

Recommendation title: Sustainability Ambassador Program

For internal use only: Date reviewed by iCAP Working Group:

Specific actions/policy recommendation:

The Illini Sustainability Ambassador program is meant to have an emphasis in housing but can be applicable in any form across campus. The status would last for one year, with a recertification needed year after year. There will be a one-day introductory training session that covers our own campus sustainability goals (the iCAP). The session includes overview of ILO, Greener Campus Programs, SSC project funding, and highlighting the SSLC and iSEE sustainability event calendars. The introductory session will be at the beginning of the school year, and we will have a celebratory event in April to recognize the people who successfully became sustainability ambassadors. To incorporate the program into housing, there is a checklist of how to make your residence more sustainable (i.e., turning lights off when not in use, eating a vegetarian meal once a week, reusable coffee cup, walking to class, etc.). These actions would contribute to the five hours of volunteering or service that are required to become a sustainability ambassador.

Suggested unit/department to address implementation:

iSEE and University Housing

Rationale for recommendation:

Adopting a sustainability advisor program will allow iSEE to collaborate with University Housing, thus adhering to one of the iCAP Goals (7.1) of increasing a culture of sustainability across campus. Furthermore, student sustainability ambassadors will feel empowered and encouraged to teach others about sustainability. iSEE will essentially have a group of students that serve as our liaison from housing.

Connection to iCAP goals:

7.1 : Increase a culture of sustainability across campus.

Perceived challenges:

We may receive no student applicants—therefore there must be an incentive for students to apply. How will this benefit them throughout their time at the University?

How can we keep these students motivated to improve sustainability within housing? How can we keep them accountable?

Anticipated timeline of implementation:

Aug 2023-Jan 2024

Anticipated budget (identify if cost is up-front or continuous):

Training session costs (Lunch), but I believe that would be all.

Individual comments are required from each iCAP Team member (one or two sentences):

Team Member Name	Team Member's Comments
Claire Keating	Starting a sustainability ambassador program within housing will empower first and second year students to be involved in sustainability efforts on campus. I am in support of this initiative.
Sophie Fox	I think this recommendation would benefit campus engagement by bringing in students that live in housing. Underclassmen tend to want to participate in lots of activities, and having this in the dorms will be easy access for everyone.
Mika Lew	I endorse this recommendation because I believe it is a great way to have someone involved with sustainability at a freshman or sophomore level (the typical demographic that lives in university housing). There is a lot of potential for this type of program to succeed, so I believe it would be worthwhile as long as we give the intern guidance.
Kratika Tandon	I believe this is a great idea and would be an effective way of promoting a culture of sustainability campuswide. Students will get hands-on experience and a further understanding of how to make a tangible impact on their own.
Ann Witmer	I'm a big fan of peer encouragement, and I believe this recommendation would increase sustainability engagement in residence halls in a positive, fun way. I fully support this initiative.
Dave Guth	
Shibu Kar	I am in support of creating the Illini Sustainability Ambassador program with an

	initial emphasis in housing and then gradually expanding it to campus-wide sustainability efforts. This will help students who care about sustainability take leadership role, and others would be more willing to learn from their peers.
Tim Knox	I support the recommendation. Putting power into the hands of students only helps this move forward.
Kathy Adams	Encouraging students to get involved when they first come to campus is a great way to build lifelong habits that engage, support and increasing personal sustainable practices and may connect sustainability efforts across different areas of study. I support this recommendation.
Keilin Jahnke	I support this recommendation as a means to enhance overall student sustainability engagement and provide additional leadership opportunities for students interested in sustainability efforts.

Further explanation and background (can be supplied in an attachment):

Comments from consultation group (if any; these can be anonymous):