

iWG Assessment

iCAP Team Recommendation Ref #: Res005 Sustainability Economic Analysis

Date of iWG Assessment Started: 2/27/2023

Assessment Transmitted: 4/9/2023

iWG Recommendation: iWG supports this recommendation

iWG Routing Direction (*Department name, iCAP Team, or Council*): iSEE

Individual comments from each iWG member:

iWG Member Name	iWG Member's Comments
Jennifer Fraterrigo (iSEE)	I endorse the recommendation to provide undergraduate research support for sustainability-related projects of interest to the local urbanized areas of Urbana, Champaign, and Savoy and agree that iSEE should assist with this effort.
Morgan White (F&S)	This is a good opportunity for connecting the local community and the U of I students, through the topic of sustainability, while also encouraging adoption of cost-effective sustainable technologies and practices.
Jamie Singson (Representing Auxiliaries)	In support. Perhaps MTD could be included in a community economic analysis by the course. Especially given that each student is paying a Campus Transportation Fee of \$68/semester (\$30 summer) for MTD services on campus.
Brian Bundren (Provost Office)	I support this recommendation.
Jim Brennan (Academic Senate)	I support this recommendation.
Sandy Yoo (System Office)	UOCP supports this recommendation.
Qu Kim (Representing College Facilities)	I support the recommendation as well
Carl Bernacchi (Representing College Facilities)	<i>[Not part of iWG when this recommendation was discussed]</i>
Lucy Nifong (Student Sustainability Committee)	I support this recommendation. If there is extra space, the course, ENVS 492, should also be available to non-iSEE Fellow students upon petition of the instructor.
Danika Ford (Student Sustainability Leadership Council)	I support this recommendation. Undergraduate research is extremely beneficial for the advancement of technologies, and students should be supported through that. ISEE has strong community connections that can be provided to student researchers, and I hope to see this program expand into all colleges at the University.

[Vacant] Illinois Student Government Environmental Sustainability Committee	
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Original iCAP Team Recommendation:

Provide undergraduate research support for reporting on sustainability concepts including cost-benefit analysis, lifecycle costs, and finance considerations for Sustainability-related projects of interest to the local urbanized areas of Urbana, Champaign, and Savoy.

Topic examples include Green Infrastructure or Energy Conservation / Renewable Energy projects that municipalities are interested in undertaking. This research should help identify useful case studies and provide reporting on the economics of “green” capital projects of interest. Information showing that Green Infrastructure projects and/or Renewable Energy projects are fiscally sound, financially viable, and can demonstrate a return on investment have a greater chance for adoption over the easier “status quo” or lowest-bidder projects.

ISEE will provide some oversight and work to identify potential resources to partner with communities to answer sustainability questions with regard to “green” and “sustainable” community investments – where cost-benefit analysis and life cycle analysis reporting would be beneficial. ISEE recommended that Eric Green’s ENVS 492 undergraduate course is an appropriate class to partner with.

This recommendation also seeks assistance from iSEE to help identify future funding for the development, implementation, and outreach of this plan.

Additionally, the Education iCAP Team will assist in identifying online and on-campus degree programs with capstone courses that may align with the project scope. The Resilience iCAP Team leaders will continue to work with community partners to identify areas of prioritized need to be shared with a growing network of faculty and programs who in turn, are interested in providing real-world research-based opportunities to their students.

Through ENVS 492 and potential online and on-campus capstone programs, students will work with communities to conduct research and outreach, and to disseminate applicable reports and findings.

iWG Assessment of budget and policy impacts (*check one*):

moderate budget and/or policy impact OR major budget and/or policy implications

iWG Routing Need (*check one*):

more detailed study OR transmit recommendation OR forward to Sustainability Council