

## Student Sustainability Committee Fall Update and Open House

Hello from the Student Sustainability Committee!

Do you want to see more sustainability efforts on campus? The SSC can help turn your environmental aspirations into reality. Please read on to learn about our history, funding, recent accomplishments, and how to [get involved!](#)

As a student-led organization, our goal is to provide financial support for projects that promote environmental stewardship and student engagement at UIUC. The Green Fund permits this funding and is composed of two student-initiated fees; the Sustainable Campus Environment Fee (\$12.06/student per semester) and the Cleaner Energy Technologies Fee (\$2/student per semester).

The committee was formed in 2002 by a group of passionate students fighting for clean energy on campus, and has since expanded our scope to include all facets of sustainability. SSC now consists of 18 enthusiastic student-voting members as well as many staff and faculty members who provide their expertise.

Together, we are an interdisciplinary team that is well equipped to determine which projects will best serve our campus community, such projects have included [Eco-Illini](#), [Solar Decathlon](#), [Red Oak Rain Garden](#), [Bevier Cafe's herb garden](#), [the Illini Union's recycling bins](#), [CIF's geothermal system](#), and many more! Each of these projects falls under one of the SSC's Working Groups: Energy, Transportation & Infrastructure, Education & Justice, Food & Waste, Energy, and Land, Water, & Air. Be sure to look for the SSC logo on campus to see some of the projects we funded!

Over the past 20 years, the **SSC has proudly dedicated \$15.55 million to 316 individual projects**, which have significantly improved campus sustainability and engagement.

### Recent Accomplishments

Because the SSC receives funding from students to be used for students, it's important to share our achievements with those who make the SSC possible: *you!*

Over the last few years, SSC has expanded our goals to include increased sustainability outreach and programming. In October 2021, we co-hosted a month-long Student Sustainability Summit that included Green Quad Day, the Tuesday Talks at Bevier Cafe

seminar series, a movie night, tours of university facilities, teach-ins, and a climate strike. We also programmed many Earth Month activities throughout April, hosting another Green Quad Day, more Tuesday Talks, and a showing of *The Lorax* at the Illini Union. For more updates on SSC's programming, join our [mailing list](#) or [check out our calendar](#).

Some other initiatives that we had the privilege of working with and funding in the previous year include:

- The first-ever Sustainability Grammys to recognize all the amazing work that environmental RSOs do on campus, co-hosted by iSEE's Greener Campus Office
- The development of a single-use plastic reuse and elimination protocol at the Brinkworth Lab
- The Sustainable Lab Network, which will compile a database of sustainability education resources
- Fume hood upgrades in Morrill Hall to decrease energy demand
- The Sustainability Mural Project to highlight the university's sustainability initiatives

A collection of proposed, completed, and ongoing SSC projects [can be found on the iCAP Portal](#).

### **Reimagine Our Future Competition:**

The SSC is running the second annual [Reimagine Our Future](#) Student Sustainability Competition. All we need is YOU! If you have knowledge of sustainability, we encourage you to submit an entry promoting one or more of the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals. The top prize will be \$2,000 dollars! The deadline for registration is Sept. 19. To learn more click the link above.

### **Here are some ways to get involved with the SSC:**

- **Attend our open house** to learn more about the SSC and get involved.
  - The open house will be held on **Thursday September 15th from 6-8 pm**.
    - You can attend the open house virtually (details will be distributed via our mailing list and on our website) or in person at the **Campus Instructional Facility (CIF) Room 2039**.

- **Submit a project application** to turn your sustainable vision into a reality. The deadline to submit a Step 1 Project Proposal is **October 14th**. Student-led applications are accepted on a rolling basis. To find out more about applying for funding, click [here](#).
- **Become a general member** and attend biweekly working group meetings for Energy, Transportation & Infrastructure, Education & Justice, Food & Waste, Energy, and/or Land, Water, & Air. Click [here](#) to find the Working Group meeting schedule
- **Sign up** for our [mailing list](#) and **follow us** on [social media!](#)

Getting involved in the SSC is a great way for students like you to **make a difference and have your voice heard**.

We look forward to seeing new and familiar faces!

The SSC Communications Team