



STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Funding Application – Step I

Funding Criteria

A. General Rules

1. Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to submit requests for funding. Student-led projects require a faculty or staff sponsor in order to have funds awarded.
2. Funding can only go to university-affiliated projects from students, faculty, staff, and departments.
3. All SSC projects must make a substantial impact on students. All SSC funding is 100% from student green fees, so the projects funded by the students must benefit them.

B. Things SSC Can Fund, On A Case-By-Case Basis

1. SSC can fund feasibility studies and design work; however, it must work toward ultimately addressing a sustainability need on campus.
2. SSC can fund staff positions that are related to improving campus sustainability. Strong preference will be given to proposals receiving matching funding from departments and/or plans for maintaining continuity of the position after the end of the initial grant.
3. SSC can fund outreach events with a central theme of sustainability, provided their primary audience is the general campus community.
4. SSC discourages requests for food and prizes but will consider proposals on a case by case basis.
5. SSC can fund repairs and improvements to existing building systems as long as it works toward the goal of improving campus sustainability.
6. SSC can provide departments with loans for projects with a distinct payback. Loans will require a separate memorandum of understanding between SSC and departmental leadership pledging to repay the award in full and detailing the payback plan.

C. Things SSC Will Not Fund:

1. SSC will not fund projects with a primary end goal of generating revenue for non-University entities.
2. SSC will not fund personal lodging, food, beverage, and other travel expenses.
3. SSC will not fund any travel expenses.
4. SSC will not fund tuition or other forms of personal financial assistance.

Instructions

Submit this completed application and one map, graphic, or picture to Sustainability-Committee@Illinois.edu. Please adhere to the session word counts. The committee holds the right to decline applications over the designated word counts. If you have any questions about the application process, please contact the Student Sustainability Committee Coordinator at sustainability-committee@illinois.edu.

Project Name: Rainwater Management Plan

Total Amount Requested from SSC: \$200,000

Primary Project Leader Name & Email: Betsy Richardson; bliggett@illinois.edu

Project Abstract: In less than 100 words, briefly describe your project.

This project will develop a comprehensive Rainwater Management Plan for UIUC. The Plan will include recommendations to protect the existing stormwater system, mitigate or fully resolve known problems on campus (such as areas that flood frequently), and create new rainwater management system improvements. Rainwater reuse and green infrastructure technologies, for both planned construction projects and as stand-alone campus improvement projects, will help solve flooding issues while enhancing the overall ecology and aesthetics of campus. This Plan will help the University transition into the emerging paradigm that focuses on treating rainwater as an asset rather than a nuisance.

	Education	Energy	Food & Waste	Land & Water	Transportation
Project Category				X	

Project Team Member List (student projects must include their faculty/staff advisor’s information)

Name	RSO/Department	Email Address
Jeremy Neighbors	Facilities & Services, Safety & Compliance	jneighbo@illinois.edu
Brent Lewis	Facilities & Services, Capital Planning	bcl@illinois.edu
Colleen Ruhter	Facilities & Services, Safety & Compliance	cruhter@illinois.edu
Frank Colacicco	Facilities & Services, Utilities	frankc10@illinois.edu
Robbie Bauer	Facilities & Services, Utilities	robbauer@illinois.edu

Questions	Yes	No
Is this a student-led project?		X
If applicable, have you received approval from Facilities & Services and/or site manager?	X	
Do you have a plan for ongoing funding beyond SSC? (SSC cannot guarantee ongoing financial support)	X	
Beyond SSC, do you have sources contributing funding or support (ex. staff time, external grants, etc.) to this project?	X	
Have you applied for SSC funding previously?	X	

Project Timeline

SSC funding agreements remain active for two years. Please list your project's timeline and/or milestones.

2023-2024

Project Description

In 250 words or less, describe your project. What does your project hope to accomplish? What are your project's deliverables? Bullet points welcome.

Facilities & Services wants to hire a professional services consultant (PSC) to develop a campus Rainwater Management Plan that will develop a sustainable path toward achieving the university's strategic stormwater objectives and goals.

The PSC will:

- Review current and historical university and municipal stormwater management documents, studies, and plans, including the 2013 Foth Watershed analysis and the current 2022 University GIS plans.
- Use current topography, building footprints and sewer data to verify stormwater runoff quantities and discharge locations across campus watersheds.
- Summarize analyses and findings for a sustainable path toward achieving stormwater compliance and campus goals.
- Include field reconnaissance, surveying, engineering, and planning for the Rainwater Management Plan development to guide the campus towards enhanced rainwater management, green stormwater infrastructure installations, and improved water quality.
- Identify campus problematic areas, calculate rainwater volumes that the campus is currently discharging, and rainwater volume updates based on the proposed enhancements.
- Include recommendations on rainwater solutions, cost opinions, and phasing for green stormwater infrastructure facilities to address existing pipe size and flow issues, and proactively reduce campus stormwater flooding and runoff.
- Meet with the University and staff from surrounding municipalities (Champaign, Savoy, Urbana and the sanitary district) to develop a plan that takes into consideration campus and surrounding community stormwater goals.
- Provide a Rainwater Management Plan that considers current land use and proposed improvements from the 2018 Campus Master Plan and the 2022 Campus Landscape Master Plan.
- Provide a public forum presentation on the final Rainwater Management Plan.

Environmental Impact

In 200 words or less, how does your project increase environmental stewardship at UIUC? If applicable, what is the carbon, water, waste, and/or energy savings? Does your project relate to the iCAP? Bullet points welcome.

A campus Rainwater Management Plan will increase environmental awareness and stewardship by:

- Redefining stormwater as rainwater, an asset.
- Recommending green infrastructure installations that will reduce stormwater runoff and decrease stream bank erosion, flooding and pollution in local waterways.

- Recommending aesthetically pleasing green infrastructure installments and “artful rainwater” features, both of which will draw students and the public into the sites, enhancing engagement between students and the campus ecological environment.
- Providing plans for educational signage at select proposed green infrastructure installments, outlining the environmental benefits of the installation.
- Providing knowledge that will create a sense of ownership in campus rainwater and a sense of responsibility to protect local waterways.

This project supports the University iCAP 2020 by:

- Recommending green stormwater installations to help manage rainwater – this aligns with the Land & Water goal 4.2.3 to double green infrastructure installations on campus from 24 to 48 by FY24.
- Initiating a campus Rainwater Management Plan – this supports the Resilience goal 8.2 to coordinate rainwater management plans for the entire urbanized areas of Champaign, Urbana, Savoy, and the university.

Student Impact

In 200 words or less, how will this project benefit students? How will students be involved with this project? What educational components are in your project? Bullet points welcome.

Campus stormwater management will decrease the number of areas prone to flooding on campus and increase green space that can be used by students for recreation and educational purposes. Reduced flooding will also enhance the overall walkability of campus.

Stormwater management can include a variety of green infrastructure practices that can potentially be designed, studied and used by students (i.e., green roofs, blue roofs, rain gardens, porous pavement, tree boxes, living walls). Installations could be used by various engineering, landscape architecture, sustainability, and other classes.

Students will be drawn to aesthetically pleasing rainwater installations, enhancing engagement with their environment and campus.

Students may also see enhanced mental health through time spent in nature, as research shows that:

- Spending time in nature is linked to both cognitive benefits and improvements in mood, mental health and emotional well-being.
- Feeling connected to nature can produce similar benefits to well-being, regardless of how much time one spends outdoors.

(<https://www.apa.org/monitor/2020/04/nurtured-nature>)

