



## Student Sustainability Committee Funding Award Letter



March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Project: Addressing Sustainability in Research: Pipette Tip Box Waste

Katie Zobus,

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Student Sustainability Committee (SSC) is pleased to inform you that your project has received approval from the Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment (iSEE), and the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

The Student Sustainability Committee is proud to award **\$1,818.00** in grant funding for the project **Addressing Sustainability in Research: Pipette Tip Box Waste**.

In order to remain eligible for this award, you agree to the following conditions:

1. The project must be completed within two years of the funding awarded. A final report of all work completed, a full list of expenditures, and a detailed sustainability impact report must be provided to the SSC Advisor by **03/20/2026** or project completion.
2. Project status updates, and detailed account statements must be provided at the end of each semester until the project is completed.
3. The Primary Applicant will be the individual responsible for all official communication and the execution of this agreement.
4. The Project Unit Financial Contact must submit the prescribed FPI form for the assignment of a Chart, Fund, Organization, and Program code (CFOP) within four weeks of receipt of this letter. The CFOP established for this award shall strictly be used to award the funds to this proposal.
5. Any substantial modifications to the project, including alterations to the budget, timeline, project lead, and project direction, must be submitted within a scope change form. A majority vote of the SSC must approve scope changes.
6. All projects are expected to follow university policies and procedures as well as any applicable local, state, and federal laws.
7. The sponsoring department is responsible for all equipment purchased with SSC funds. Equipment should be inventoried according to institutional procedures and should be returned to the department, as applicable, when not in use by the project team.
8. SSC reserves the right to revoke funding if the project does not comply with the terms and conditions outlined in this letter.
9. Any press releases or educational/promotional materials involving the project must acknowledge SSC funding.
10. Any marketing, including but not limited to advertising, signs, and digital ads, involving the project or events surrounding this project must include SSC's logo and/or a statement of which fee funded the project. Projects must coordinate with SSC to ensure promotion appropriately highlights the SSC's contributions to the project.

**Project:** Addressing Sustainability in Research: Pipette Tip Box Waste

**Funding Source:** SCEF (303692)

**Funding Requested:** \$1,818.00

**Funding Allocated:** \$1,818.00

**Primary Unit of the Project:** Bioengineering

**Unit Financial Contact:** Caroline Cvetkovic

**Project Description:**

Many bioengineering labs utilize an aseptic technique, which often requires the one-time use of plastics. Since biological waste-contaminated products cannot be recycled, other avenues are available to promote sustainability in research. The TerraCycle pipette tip box recycling program recycles Plastic #5, a plastic that cannot be recycled in a typical program, and holds about 113 empty pipette tip boxes. Within the purchase of these boxes, every box comes with a pre-paid shipping label through UPS, so this is a one-time purchase. Participating labs will receive a box and then bring the whole box of decontaminated pipette tip boxes or trays to the receiving room. As every lab does different work with varying fields of research, it is estimated that it will take 6 months to 1.5 years for a group to fill a box. Ideally, the implementation of this practice and the ease of the process will encourage the labs to continue this practice by themselves. This project will begin spreading throughout the Bioengineering department, ideally leading to a widespread campus initiative.

**Project Category:**

Food & Waste

**This proposal directly funds:**

1. Pipet Tip Box Recycling Program
2. TerraCycle

## Funding Approval

**Student Sustainability Committee, Chairperson**

Claire Keating

Name

*Claire Keating*

Signature

04/03/2024

Date

**Institute for Sustainability, Energy and Environment, Director**

Jennifer Fraterrigo

Name

*Jennifer Fraterrigo*

Signature

03/27/2024

Date

**Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs**

Danita Brown Young

Name

*Danita Brown Young*

Signature

03/27/2024

Date

## Funding Acknowledgement

By signing below, I agree to the terms and conditions for this award. If you have any questions regarding these requirements, please contact the Student Sustainability Committee Advisor at [ssc-advisor@illinois.edu](mailto:ssc-advisor@illinois.edu).

**Award Recipient**

Katie Zobus

Name

*Katie Zobus*

Signature

04/03/2024

Date

**Project Advisor Signature (Student-Led Projects Only)**

Caroline Cvetkovic

Name

*Caroline Cvetkovic*

Signature

04/03/2024

Date

# Spring 2024 SL Zobus Funding Award Letter

Final Audit Report

2024-04-03

Created:	2024-03-27 (Central Daylight Time)
By:	Codie Sterner (codie@illinois.edu)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAcoZAI4OeCS7qDMReQv53GcVsKsT9bYIR
Number of Documents:	1
Document page count:	3
Number of supporting files:	0
Supporting files page count:	0

## "Spring 2024 SL Zobus Funding Award Letter" History

-  Document created by Codie Sterner (codie@illinois.edu)  
2024-03-27 - 3:09:08 PM CDT
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2024-03-27 - 3:09:57 PM CDT
-  Document emailed to Danita Brown Young (dbyoung@illinois.edu) for signature  
2024-03-27 - 3:09:58 PM CDT
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2024-03-27 - 3:09:58 PM CDT
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2024-03-27 - 3:13:02 PM CDT
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2024-03-27 - 3:13:11 PM CDT
-  Document e-signed by Danita Brown Young (dbyoung@illinois.edu)  
Signature Date: 2024-03-27 - 3:13:11 PM CDT - Time Source: server
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2024-03-27 - 3:13:13 PM CDT
-  Email viewed by Jennifer Fraterrigo (jmf@illinois.edu)  
2024-03-27 - 3:36:08 PM CDT



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 Document e-signed by Jennifer Fraterrigo (jmf@illinois.edu)

Signature Date: 2024-03-27 - 3:41:57 PM CDT - Time Source: server

 Document emailed to Claire Keating (cek6@illinois.edu) for signature

2024-03-27 - 3:41:58 PM CDT

 Agreement viewed by Codie Sterner (codie@illinois.edu)

2024-04-03 - 9:35:18 AM CDT

 Email viewed by Claire Keating (cek6@illinois.edu)

2024-04-03 - 9:42:39 AM CDT

 Agreement viewed by Claire Keating (cek6@illinois.edu)

2024-04-03 - 9:43:26 AM CDT

 Claire Keating (cek6@illinois.edu) authenticated with Adobe Acrobat Sign.

2024-04-03 - 9:43:42 AM CDT

 Document e-signed by Claire Keating (cek6@illinois.edu)

Signature Date: 2024-04-03 - 9:43:42 AM CDT - Time Source: server

 Document emailed to Caroline Cvetkovic (ccvetko@illinois.edu) for signature

2024-04-03 - 9:43:44 AM CDT

 Email viewed by Caroline Cvetkovic (ccvetko@illinois.edu)

2024-04-03 - 10:03:27 AM CDT

 Agreement viewed by Caroline Cvetkovic (ccvetko@illinois.edu)

2024-04-03 - 10:04:14 AM CDT

 Caroline Cvetkovic (ccvetko@illinois.edu) authenticated with Adobe Acrobat Sign.

2024-04-03 - 10:05:02 AM CDT

 Document e-signed by Caroline Cvetkovic (ccvetko@illinois.edu)

Signature Date: 2024-04-03 - 10:05:02 AM CDT - Time Source: server

 Document emailed to Katie Zobus (kzobus2@illinois.edu) for signature

2024-04-03 - 10:05:05 AM CDT

 Email viewed by Katie Zobus (kzobus2@illinois.edu)

2024-04-03 - 10:06:47 AM CDT



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2024-04-03 - 10:07:33 AM CDT

 Katie Zobus (kzobus2@illinois.edu) authenticated with Adobe Acrobat Sign.

2024-04-03 - 10:16:50 AM CDT

 Document e-signed by Katie Zobus (kzobus2@illinois.edu)

Signature Date: 2024-04-03 - 10:16:50 AM CDT - Time Source: server

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2024-04-03 - 10:16:50 AM CDT

