



Student Sustainability Committee Funding Award Letter



March 22nd, 2024

Project: Climate Change in Your Neighborhood

Nicolas Ramkumar,

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 **\$9,704.00** in grant funding for Climate Change in your Neighborhood.

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

1. In accordance with the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign terms and conditions, the project-sponsored department will oversee the establishment of a letter of agreement with the Home Owners Association (HOA) of the property at which the research will be conducted.
2. 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 **02/28/2026** or project completion.
3. Project status updates and detailed account statements must be provided at the end of each semester until the project is completed.
4. The Primary Applicant will be the individual responsible for all official communication and the execution of this agreement.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. All projects are expected to follow university policies and procedures as well as any applicable local, state, and federal laws.
8. 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.
9. SSC reserves the right to revoke funding if the project does not comply with the terms and conditions outlined in this letter.
10. Any press releases or educational/promotional materials involving the project must acknowledge SSC funding.
11. 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: Climate Change in Your Neighborhood

Funding Source: SCEF (303692)

Funding Requested: \$9,704.00

Funding Allocated: \$9,704.00

Primary Unit of the Project: Molecular & Cellular Biology

Unit Financial Contact: Brenda Wilson

Project Description:

Climate change and biodiversity loss resulting in heat waves, flooding, and worsening air quality impact human and planetary health. Literature reviews have found that increasing urban green spaces with native and other beneficial vegetation are nature-based solutions (NBS) that communities can use to reduce the impacts of climate change and improve biodiversity. This project aims to examine the difference between spaces with native/not native vegetation and conventional urban spaces that tend to contain nonfunctional turf grass or are continuously mowed. This study will look at metrics such as temperature, air quality (VOCs, PM1, PM2.5, PM10), biodiversity index above and below the ground, and soil quality in terms of water retention capacity. Our study hypothesizes that NBS with increased vegetation will be beneficial in terms of less heat, flooding, and better air quality, which will lead to improved human and planetary health outcomes, protect infrastructure, and build resilience in our communities.

This pilot study and the results obtained can be used for further investigation in different disciplines concerned about climate change mitigation through increased green spaces. There is applicability in fields such as urban planning and medicine in connecting climate change, human and planetary health impacts, and mitigation strategies. This project hopes to educate community members on this issue so that they can participate in diminishing the effects of climate change as much as possible.

Project Category:

Land, Air & Water

This proposal directly funds:

1. ILLUMINA MISEQ V3 sequencing, DNeasy Powersoil Kits
2. Soil sampler probe, Atmotube sensor, mini disc infiltrometer
3. Protective ventilated box for Atmotubes
4. Pipette tips, culture plates, PVC pipe

Funding Approval

Student Sustainability Committee, Chairperson

Claire Keating

Name

Claire Keating

Signature

03/26/2024

Date

Institute for Sustainability, Energy and Environment, Director

Jennifer Fraterrigo

Name

Jennifer Fraterrigo

Signature

03/22/2024

Date

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Danita Brown Young

Name

Danita Brown Young

Signature

03/22/2024

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.

Award Recipient

Nicolas Ramkumar

Name

Nicolas Ramkumar

Signature

03/26/2024

Date

Project Advisor Signature (Student-Led Projects Only)

Brenda Wilson

Name

Brenda Anne Wilson

Signature

03/26/2024

Date









Spring 2024 SL Ramkumar Funding Award Letter

Final Audit Report

2024-03-26

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