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Respondent

11

Yesenia Adrianzen

39:52

Time to complete

Final Project Report

1. Date of this final project report submission *

12/19/2025

2. Name of project exactly as it was listed in your award letter *

Illini Lights Out

3. Date (or semester/year) of original award letter *

10/3/2023

4. Expiration date of award as listed on original award letter or approved scope change letter - whichever is more recent *

2025

5. Enter the amount of the award, including any budget increases as a result of a previous scope change. *

4,000

6. What is your project's 6 digit fund account number created for this project and to which the SSC allocation was transferred?

Please ask your project's financial contact for this information if unknown.

508065

7. How much (in dollars) of your award (including previous approved budget increases) is remaining? *

-1028.45

8. Briefly describe the goals of your project. *

Illini Lights Out addresses objectives 2.2 and 2.2.2 of the iCAP, or Illinois Climate Action Plan, to increase energy efficiency and reduce building-level energy. Illini Lights Out hopes to save energy while simultaneously engaging students in energy reduction efforts. Thousands of light bulbs are shut off at each event, saving the University money and reducing its carbon footprint. Data is collected at each event to show the program's success: number of student volunteers, number of lights shut off, energy saved, CO2 emission reductions, and money saved. These numbers are then sent out to the volunteers and posted to the iCAP portal so that everyone can see the strength of this program. Additionally, at this event, students will quickly learn that it's easy to make a positive environmental impact and everyone learns that teamwork can make a big impact.

9. Did you complete your project as it was outlined in the original award letter or in a subsequent approved scope change? *

- ☒ Yes, the project was completed as originally outlined.
- ☐ No, the project was not completed as originally outlined.

10. On what date did you consider the project finished or that you stopped working on it? *

10/3/2025

11. Describe, in detail, the challenges / obstacles your project faced. *

We encountered coordination challenges with Facilities & Services (F&S), as some buildings closed earlier than the posted hours, which limited access for volunteers to turn off lights. To address this issue, Illini Lights Out events were rescheduled to an earlier time, and no further access issues have occurred since. Additionally, the negative account balance will be resolved by transferring unpaid expenses to the new ILO account once it is established. These expenses will be covered through newly requested funding, and the project was awarded \$5,000, which will fully address the existing deficit.

12. Describe, in detail, the successes your project experienced. *

The Illini Lights Out (ILO) project was highly successful in advancing campus sustainability through direct action, student engagement, and education. The project effectively reduced unnecessary energy use in academic buildings by targeting lighting left on during low-occupancy periods, demonstrating how simple behavioral changes can lead to meaningful environmental benefits at an institutional scale. A major success of the project was its ability to engage students across campus. Through multiple events, ILO created accessible opportunities for students from a wide range of majors and backgrounds to participate in climate action. Volunteers not only contributed to immediate energy conservation efforts, but also gained a stronger understanding of campus energy systems and the environmental impacts of electricity use. This broadened awareness extended beyond volunteers, as the project sparked conversations among peers, student organizations, and building users throughout campus. The project also strengthened collaboration between students and university stakeholders, reinforcing trust and shared responsibility in advancing sustainability goals. By pairing action with education and community-building, Illini Lights Out successfully demonstrated the power of student-led initiatives to create lasting environmental impact and campus-wide cultural change.

13. Describe, in detail, how your implemented project addressed sustainability. *

As claimed on the ICAP page, "Energy is by far the largest contributor to the campus' emissions inventory... The 2020 iCAP calls for a 45 percent reduction in building energy use by FY30". Illini Lights Out is not only reducing energy emissions on select weekends throughout the year, but also gets the ball rolling for future projects. Thus, ILO has successfully sparked sustainable behavior across campus as students begin to think about how they can not only save money but also conserve energy!

14. Describe, in detail, how your project integrated student involvement and community outreach. *

Illini Lights Out (ILO) was intentionally designed to center student involvement and create meaningful opportunities for community engagement across campus. The project relied on student leadership and volunteer participation at every stage, from event planning and outreach to on-the-ground implementation. By offering a hands-on, low-barrier way to engage in sustainability work, ILO made climate action accessible to students from a wide range of academic backgrounds and lived experiences.

A key strength of the project was its role as a service opportunity for Registered Student Organizations (RSOs). Many RSOs consistently participated in Illini Lights Out events, using them as service hours, team-building activities, and entry points into sustainability work. This structure allowed ILO to extend its reach far beyond sustainability-focused organizations and into cultural, academic, professional, and social groups across campus. As a result, the project fostered cross-organizational collaboration and strengthened a sense of shared responsibility for campus sustainability.

Community outreach was further supported through intentional promotion and partnership-building. ILO leaders worked closely with RSOs, campus sustainability offices, and student networks to advertise events through social media, tabling, listservs, and word-of-mouth. These outreach efforts helped normalize sustainability as a collective campus effort rather than a niche interest, increasing visibility and participation over time. Also many students interviewed me or came to our events to get content for their class projects.

Beyond the immediate impact of turning off lights, Illini Lights Out served as an educational and community-building space. Volunteers engaged in conversations about energy use, climate change, and the role of individual and collective action, often bringing these discussions back to their own organizations and peer networks. In this way, the project's outreach extended beyond the event itself, creating ripple effects that raised awareness and encouraged ongoing engagement in sustainability initiatives across campus.

15. Describe how the project engaged individuals from underrepresented groups and/or how it promoted diversity, equity, and inclusion. *

Illini Lights Out (ILO) promoted diversity, equity, and inclusion by creating an accessible and low-barrier opportunity for students across campus to engage in sustainability work. Participation required no prior experience, financial commitment, or specialized knowledge, making the project welcoming to students who may not traditionally be represented in environmental spaces.

The project also engaged students from underrepresented groups through intentional collaboration with a wide range of Registered Student Organizations, including cultural and identity-based RSOs that used Illini Lights Out as a group service opportunity. This collective approach fostered a sense of belonging and reinforced that sustainability is a shared responsibility connected to community well-being and social equity.

It's also encouraged during these event to group up with different people so one can make new friends and have this sense of community!

By centering student voices, encouraging peer-to-peer learning, and framing environmental action as inclusive and community-driven, Illini Lights Out helped expand who feels invited into campus sustainability efforts.

16. What key takeaways should the campus community know about your project? *

Illini Lights Out demonstrates that small, collective actions can lead to meaningful environmental impact when scaled across campus. The project highlights the power of student leadership and collaboration in advancing sustainability goals while showing that climate action does not require specialized knowledge or resources to participate. By engaging students from a wide range of majors, identities, and organizations, Illini Lights Out reinforces that sustainability is a shared responsibility and an accessible entry point for community involvement. Beyond immediate energy savings, the project fosters greater awareness, conversation, and accountability around campus energy use, contributing to a stronger culture of environmental responsibility at the university.

17. Describe the marketing material developed for promotion of your project, including but not limited to advertising (including digital) and/or signage related to this project. All marketing must include SSC's logo and/or a statement of which fee funded the project. Projects must coordinate with SSC to ensure the promotion appropriately highlights the SSC's contributions to the project. *

Marketing and promotion for Illini Lights Out were developed in coordination with the Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment (iSEE). Promotional materials included digital advertising such as social media posts and event announcements, all of which incorporated the Student Sustainability Committee (SSC) logo and clearly acknowledged SSC funding. Messaging also highlighted SSC's contribution to the project through funding volunteer incentives, including cookies provided at events, which were advertised as part of volunteer outreach. All promotional efforts were coordinated with SSC to ensure appropriate recognition of SSC's role and alignment with campus sustainability communication standards.

18. Upload project marketing and/or media not previously submitted in semester progress reports. *

 [ILO image Yesenia Adrianzen.pdf](#)

19. Complete and upload the semester financial documentation for your project. You should reflect all expenditures since your last semester project report. **We strongly suggest that you also upload supporting financial transaction reports from Banner for your award's CFOP. Talk to your project's financial advisor for more information on generating this report.**

<https://studentengagement.illinois.edu/sites/default/files/2024-09/SSC-Budget-Timeline-SEMESTER-PROGRESS-REPORT-template.xlsx>

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NOTE: Any unused project funds remain the property of SSC and will be transferred back to SSC when the project has finished or when the award expires, whichever comes first.



[SSC-Budget-Timeline-SEMESTER-PROGRESS-REPORT- Yesenia Adrianzen.xlsx](#)