

## View results

Respondent

3

Leon Liebenberg

01:06

Time to complete

## Instructions:

Please adhere to the session word counts. Project leads must attend one SSC working group meeting post step 1 application submission. If you have any questions about the application process, please contact the SSC at [Sustainability-Committee@illinois.edu](mailto:Sustainability-Committee@illinois.edu).

1. Have you attended a working group meeting and presented your project to the committee before this application? The SSC requires attendance at a working group meeting to remain eligible for SSC funding. If you have not attended a working group meeting, please do so and then continue the application.

Linked below is our calendar with all of our working group meetings

<https://studentengagement.illinois.edu/student-sustainability/ssc/calendar/>

\*

☒ Yes☐ No

2. Please enter the dates of the working group meetings you attended. As a reminder, the working group meetings are structured as followed:

- Energy + Transportation and Infrastructure working group.
- Food & Waste + Land, Air, and Water working group.
- Education and Justice working group.

\*

Land, Air, and Water: September 27, 2023

3. Project Name: \*

Reimagine our Future sustainability competition for undergraduate students

4. Total Funding Requested From the SSC. \*

\$86,150

5. Date of application. \*

9/29/2023

6. Project Lead Full Name: \*

Leon Liebenberg

7. Project Lead University Email Address. \*

leonl@illinois.edu

8. Project Abstract: (In less than 100 words, briefly describe the project.) \*

Competition for undergraduate students, where students identify (alone in in self-formed teams) a sustainability topic/challenge and then ideate solutions, with the help of over 100 specialist advisors. Winners are helped to take their ideas further.

9. Project Category \*

- ☐ Education & Justice
- ☐ Energy
- ☐ Food & Waste
- ☒ Land, Air & Water
- ☐ Transportation & Infrastructure

10. Do you have a change in team members? \*

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

Project Questionnaire:

11. Any press releases or educational/promotional materials involving the project must acknowledge SSC funding. How will you bring awareness and publicize the project on campus? In addition to SSC, where will information about this project be reported? \*

Pre- and post- event promotion using various media outlets. The competition organizing teams works closely with the Office of the Provost, Office of the Associate Chancellor for Global Affairs & Strategies, and Illinois Public Affairs to maximize promotion of the competition. Apart from publicizing the competition in The Daily Illini (online and paper), campus-wide promotion on electronic bulletin boards, placement of posters in large meeting venues, newspaper articles and appearances on local TV, we of course also acknowledges our funding sources on the competition webpage. The ten participating international universities will of course also internally promote the competition.

12. Other than the project team, who will have a stake in the project? Please list other individuals, groups, or departments affiliated directly or indirectly by the project. This includes any entity providing funding (immediate, future, ongoing, matching, in-kind, etc.) and any entities that benefit from this project.

Please attach letters of commitment or support below \*

The project enjoys the support of over 100 volunteers from across the UIUC campus, including from several other universities, industry, and civilian life. Those individuals act as competition judges or as specialist advisors. They are listed here: <https://reimagine.web.illinois.edu/about-us/>


The UIUC Sustainable Development Goal Competition was initially made possible by generous support from: The Robert Rosencranz Memorial Charitable Fund, the anonymous donor-advised funds at The Chicago Community Foundation and at Fidelity Charitable, and the UIUC Agroecology and Sustainable Agriculture Program. Additional financial support was provided by the Student Sustainability Committee, UIUC, and the Center for Global Studies at UIUC.

The Competition is supported by the Office of the Vice Provost for International Affairs and Global Strategies, UIUC.

The Competition is also supported by the following centers, institutes, and initiatives: Center for Global Studies, Siebel Center for Design; Technology Entrepreneur Center; Global Classrooms; Game Studies & Design; Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment; Student Sustainability Committee.

13. Please attach any letters of commitment or support here along with any other supplemental media that will support your application (presentations, pictures, etc.)

 [Answers to questions from Step 1-application Leon Liebenberg.pdf](#)

 [Re CGS Theme for 2023-24 Leon Liebenberg.pdf](#)

 [Fidelity Charitable and CCT Leon Liebenberg.pdf](#)

 [Lavey\\_email Leon Liebenberg.pdf](#)

 [University of Illinois Foundation Award Lette Leon Liebenberg.pdf](#)

 [Provost Coleman Leon Liebenberg.pdf](#)

 [Associate Chancellor Mabokela Leon Liebenberg.pdf](#)

## 14. How does this project impact environmental and social justice? 250 word max \*

The Reimagine our Future international undergraduate sustainability competition asks students to tackle self-chosen sustainability projects and analyze them through the lenses of the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Such an initiative can impact environmental and social justice in several ways.

It empowers students to innovate, collaborate, and advocate for a better world. By raising awareness, inspiring creative solutions, fostering global networks, and promoting policy advocacy, the competition galvanizes a new generation of leaders committed to addressing pressing global challenges.

The winning projects will receive financial awards and professional support for possible implementation, resulting in tangible benefits such as clean energy solutions, poverty reduction initiatives, and improved access to clean water. Furthermore, it can influence university courses and curricula, promoting sustainability education and influencing future policies.

The competition also acts as a public engagement platform. The competition is promoted via many channels (e.g., presentations by the competition organizers at the UIUC-YMCA, articles in Daily Illini and local newspapers, online workshops), sparking discussions, shaping consumer choices, and encouraging sustainable practices.

Participants come to realize the importance of monitoring project outcomes and ensuring accountability for progress on the SDGs. In this regard, the competition helps to advance the global agenda for environmental and social justice. This competition therefore serves as a catalyst for transformative change, leveraging the creativity and passion of undergraduates to make a meaningful impact on our world's most critical challenges.

## 15. Where is the project located, does it require Facilities and Services permissions? \*

The project is mainly online.

The competition award ceremony is however of a hybrid nature, being both in-person (on the UIUC campus) and streamed via Zoom.

## 16. Is this project student led? \*

☐ Yes

☒ No

## 17. If applicable, have you received approval from Facilities &amp; Services and/or site manager? \*

☐ Yes

☐ No

☒ N/A

## 18. Do you have a plan for ongoing funding beyond SSC? (SSC does not guarantee ongoing financial support) \*

☒ Yes

☐ No

## 19. Beyond SSC, do you have sources contributing funding or support (ex. staff time, external grants, etc.) to this project? \*

☒ Yes

☐ No

20. Have you applied for SSC funding previously? \*

☐ Yes

☒ No

21. Project Timeline:

(SSC funding agreements remain active for two years. List your project's proposed end date.) \*

This competition will be presented on an annual basis, ad infinitum.  
The competition is promoted in spring and summer semesters and runs in fall semesters.

22. Provide a detailed project description:

(In 400 words or less, describe your project. What does your project hope to accomplish? What are your project's deliverables?) \*

The project aims to help demystify "sustainability" among students and to elicit broad-based discussion about sustainability. Students are challenged to generate novel ideas to address one or more of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Competitors may attend a series of workshops to help with ideation. Students are also assisted by more than 100 voluntary specialist advisors from the UIUC and beyond. Students submit their ideas via fact sheets that are adjudicated by volunteer specialists from academia and beyond. Winning teams or individuals receive financial awards and are also mentored by a professional to help take their ideas further. The competition is promoted via several media channels to facilitate maximal impact and continued growth.

23. 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?) \*

The project aims to help demystify "sustainability" among students and to elicit broad-based discussion about sustainability. The competition raises awareness about environmental issues, self-educating participants and the public about the importance of environmental conservation and sustainable living.

Undergraduates often propose innovative, practical solutions to environmental challenges, contributing to the development and implementation of sustainable technologies and practices.  
Student-led projects and recommendations may influence government policies, fostering pro-environmental legislation and regulation.

The competition fosters international collaboration and knowledge sharing among participants, leading to the exchange of best practices and expertise in environmental conservation.

Despite students generating innovative ideas to address self-chosen sustainability challenges, faculty and staff are also drawn into the process, as well as industry specialists. The project as a whole therefore benefits the UIUC's sustainability efforts, not only on campus but also in courses and curricula.

24. iCAP Objective Correspondence:

(In 200 words or less, does your project aim to advance one or more of the Illinois Climate Action Plan's (iCAP) objectives? If so, how?)

A full list can be found here: <https://icap.sustainability.illinois.edu/objectives>

The project addresses all the iCAP objectives, and more. The competition challenges its competitors to take on each of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals.

25. 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?) \*

Students will learn more about a sustainability challenge of their own choosing. They will learn from specialists in the field on how to best implement their chosen solutions. Winners will be guided by a professional to take their ideas further. The project therefore relies on the pedagogical principles of guided self-directed learning, where competitors will learn or hone an important life skill, namely self-efficacy.

## Project Finances

26. See attached file, please be very descriptive and fill out the finalized budget and timeline Excel sheet, and submit it below.

<https://studentengagement.illinois.edu/student-sustainability/ssc/docs/SSC-Supplemental-Budget-Timeline.xlsx>

\*



SSC-Supplemental-Budget-Timeline (1) Leon Liebenberg.xlsx

27. Project Finance Manager.

Must be a fulltime UIUC faculty or staff member\*\* \*

Leon Liebenberg

28. Finance Project Manager Department \*

Nuclear, Plasma, and Radiological Engineering

29. Project Finance Manager University Email \*

leonl@illinois.edu