Student Sustainability Committee
Funding Award Letter

December 4th, 2023

Project: Zero Waste Classification via Spectroscopy-Enabled Computer Vision

Dr. Nishant Garg,

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 **$96,600.00** in grant funding for **Zero Waste Classification via Spectroscopy Enabled Computer Vision**

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 **December 3rd, 2025,** 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 for the awarded funds of this proposal.
5. Any substantial modifications to the project must be submitted within a scope change form, including alterations to the budget, timeline, project lead, and project direction. 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. SSC reserves the right to revoke funding if the project does not comply with the terms and conditions outlined in this letter.
8. Any press releases or educational/promotional materials involving the project must acknowledge SSC funding.
9. 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.

Student Sustainability Committee of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Illini Union Suite 284, 1401 West Green Street Urbana, IL 61801
Sustainability-Committee@illinois.edu **|** Phone: 217.300.8757

Project: Zero Waste Classification via Spectroscopy-Enabled Computer Vision

Funding Source: SCEF (303692)

Funding Requested: $161,200.00

Funding Allocated: $96,600.00

Primary Unit of the Project: Civil and Environmental Engineering

Unit Financial Contact: Dr. Nishant Garg

Project Description:

This project aims to automate waste classification (with the hopes of expanding into sorting) by fusing image processing with Near-Infrared (NIR) spectroscopy into a specialized AI model. Targeted for implementation at the University's Waste Transfer Station, this initiative aligns with both the Illinois Climate Action Plan (iCAP) for Zero Waste and the State Waste Reduction Plan. By automating waste categorization, our AI model will offer precise, real-time analytics for more effective waste upcycling, all visualized through an intuitive analytics dashboard available to the entire campus community.

Project Category:
Food & Waste

This proposal directly funds:

1. Materials Testing
2. Near Infrared Spectrometer
3. 2 Graduate Students for 1 Year
4. 4 undergraduate students for 1 year
5. Hourly staff at the waste transfer station
6. Wi-Fi and power supply

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Funding Approval

Student Sustainability Committee, Chairperson

Claire Keating	*Claire Keating*	12/07/2023
Name	Signature	Date

Institute for Sustainability, Energy and Environment, Director

Jennifer Fraterrigo	*Jennifer Fraterrigo*	12/06/2023
Name	Signature	Date

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Danita Brown Young	*Danita Brown Young*	12/06/2023
Name	Signature	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

Nishant Garg	*Nishant Garg*	12/20/2023
Name	Signature	Date

Project Advisor Signature (Student-Led Projects Only)

Name	Signature	Date

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Fall 2023 Garg Funding Award

Final Audit Report   2023-12-20

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