View results

Respondent	
11	Aakanksha Chaubey

02:41 Time to complete

# Instructions

Please adhere to the session word counts. Project leads must present their project at a SSC Working Group meeting prior to the submitting their application. The Working Group meeting schedule can be found on the SSC website.

NOTE: This document will be shared publicly on our SSC Illinois Climate Action Plan (iCAP) portal so that others can learn from your project.

If you have any questions about Working Groups and/or the SSC application process, please contact the SSC at <u>Sustainability-Committee@illinois.edu</u>.

Has someone from the project's team presented their Step 2 project at an SSC Working Group meeting? \*

YES

1

○ NO

2

Select the Working Group meeting you attended. \*

C Energy + Transportation & Infrastructure Working Group Meeting

Food & Waste + Land, Air, & Water Working Group Meeting

O Education & Justice Working Group Meeting

3

Date of the Working Group meeting you attended.\*

10/14/2024

4

Project's Name \*

Single-Day Campus-Wide Composting Events

5

Amount of funding requested from the SSC for this project \*

a. \$7,000

....

Project Category *	
Education & Justice	
Energy	
Food & Waste	
) Land, Air & Water	
Transportation & Infra	astructure
7	
Project Abstract *	
In less than 100 words	s, briefly describe the project.
This project aims to pilot pre- and services to reduce landfilled wast divert significant food and compo	In dipost-consumer composting at two high-visibility events: a Men's Big Ten basketball game in March and Sustainapalooza on Earth Day. Working with WasteNot Compost, the project will provide composting te, engage students through volunteer opportunities, and promote environmental stewardship on campus. WasteNot Compost operates an electric fleet, eliminating emissions from transportation. The initiativ sostable waste from landfills, contributing to the university's zero waste iCAP objectives. Starting with small pilot projects allows the sustainability staff to build a case for consistent, larger-scale food waste dive sostable waste from landfills, contributing to the university's zero waste iCAP objectives. Starting with small pilot projects allows the sustainability staff to build a case for consistent, larger-scale food waste dive
<sup>8</sup> What key changes an	re reflected in your Step 2 application compared to your Step 1 application, if any, and why? *
8 What key changes an We have reviewed our initial subr	re reflected in your Step 2 application compared to your Step 1 application, if any, and why? *
8 What key changes an We have reviewed our initial subm	re reflected in your Step 2 application compared to your Step 1 application, if any, and why? *
8 What key changes an We have reviewed our initial subs <b>Project Lead</b>	re reflected in your Step 2 application compared to your Step 1 application, if any, and why? *
8 What key changes an We have reviewed our initial subr <b>Project Lead</b> 9	re reflected in your Step 2 application compared to your Step 1 application, if any, and why? •
8 What key changes an We have reviewed our initial subs Project Lead 9 Project Lead's Full N.	re reflected in your Step 2 application compared to your Step 1 application, if any, and why? • mission thoroughly and confirmed that no additional adjustments are needed for the Step 2 application, as our initial proposal fully aligns with the project's goals, resources, and anticipated impact.
8 What key changes at We have reviewed our initial subr <b>Project Lead</b> 9 Project Lead's Full No Daphne Hulse	re reflected in your Step 2 application compared to your Step 1 application, if any, and why? *
8 What key changes an We have reviewed our initial subr Project Lead 9 Project Lead's Full N. Daphne Hulse	re reflected in your Step 2 application compared to your Step 1 application, if any, and why? •
8 What key changes an We have reviewed our initial subr Project Lead 9 Project Lead's Full N. Daphne Hulse 10	re reflected in your Step 2 application compared to your Step 1 application, if any, and why? *

Facilities & Services

11

Project Lead's University Email Address \*

dlhulse2@illinois.edu

12

All student-led projects require a faculty/staff advisor. Is this proposed project a student-led project?\* NOTE: Only currently enrolled Illinois students are eligible to be a Project Lead.

O YES (by selecting YES, you affirm that the Project Lead is a currently enrolled Illinois student)

NO

# **Project's Financial Contact**

The project's Financial Contact must be a full-time Illinois employee who has the authority to manage the project's financials and generate financial reports on behalf of the project.

13
Financial Contact's Full Name *
Mike Alsip
Financial Contact's Department *
Facilities & Services
15
Financial Contact's University Email Address *
alsip@illinois.edu
<sup>16</sup> Are there additional members of your project team? *
VES
O NO
Additional Team Member
17
Team Member's Full Name:
Aakanksha Chaubey
18 Team Member's Department/Campus Affiliation:
Zero waste intern at Facilities and Services
19
Team Member's University Email Address:
chaubey3@illinois.edu
20 Do you have additional team members? t
Do you have additional team members?*
YES
NO NO

**Project Questionnaire** 

21

## List your proposed project's timeline and major milestones. \*

### NOTE: SSC funding agreements remain active for two years. Thus, your timeline should reflect your activities over a two year period or less.

Phase 1: Initial Engagement and Partnership Building (August - September 2024) • August: Begin the project with an informative and informal interaction with WasteNot Compost to discuss composting strategies and initial ideas for collaboration

• September: Met formally with WasteNot Compost to confirm collaboration details and discuss possible events to participate in and further learn about waste collection strategies at the upcoming events

hase 2: Finalizing Logistics and Budget (October)

• Early October: Receive the official guote from WasteNot Compost detailing the costs of composting services for the Men's Big Ten basketball game and Earth Day Sustainapalooza. This guote includes services such as station setup, collection, and transportation of compostable materials

Late October: Finalize agreements and submit any necessary funding applications (such as through the Illinois Green Fund) based on the guote and proposed budget

 November - December: Begin planning logistics for composting stations, volunteer recruitment, and event-day management, and integrate permissible compostable product information into vendor agreements for Sustainapalooza. Facilities & Services, the Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment, Student Affairs, and Athletics will work with our vendor to ensure the proper placement of composting stations at the event venues. Start volunteer recruitment. • January - February: Finalize the volunteer recruitment and training process. Collaborate with WasteNot Compost to ensure volunteers receive proper waste sorting and composting process training. Also, finalize any educational materials and signage for the events.

hase 4: Event Implementation (March - April) (Milestone events)

• Early March: Men's Big Ten basketball game composting milestone. Set up composting stations at key areas within the venue, ensuring student volunteers are present to guide attendees in proper waste sorting. WasteNot Compost will guide and manage the collection and processing of compostable materials

April 23: Earth Day Sustainapalooza composting milestone. Similarly, composting stations will be placed in high-traffic areas at the event, with volunteers and staff from WasteNot Compost overseeing the process

Phase 5: Post-Event Data Collection and Reporting (May)

• Following the events, data on the amount of compostable waste diverted from landfills will be compiled. Analyze the initiative's impact, focusing on waste reduction, student participation, and event engagement. In the process, assess the project's success, identify areas for improvement, and discuss the potential for expanding the composting initiative to additional campus events and long-term as a continued resource for the campus.

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Describe your project in detail.\*

#### Be sure to address the following:

-What are your project's goals and how do you intend to accomplish them? -What are your project's deliverables?

The Zero Waste team at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is privy to waste-related data from the university's Waste Transfer Station (where all refuse trash and recycling from university-affiliated facilities ends up). For the past two year the university has averaged just under 6.000 U.S. tons of waste per year (slightly less than 12.000.000 lbs.). While the university does have the great resource of the Grind2Energy systems at the five dining facilities (which diverts on average 230 U.S. tons of food waste per year to the Urbana-Champaign Sanitary District), there is still a considerable amount of organic waste present on the campus. This food waste can contaminate recyclable products, especially fiber-based paper, and cardboard if co-mingled in the waste stream

In 2023, a waste characterization study conducted by the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center found that almost 20% of the landfill stream consists of compostable materials. This past year, F&S, ISEE, and Student Affairs are working more aggressively to address waste at large-scale, high-visibility events on campus. Our most recent example hails from the new and transfer student Welcome Lunch this past August, in which all single-use plastic beverage containers were eliminated Filtered water refill stations were placed to encourage the use of reusable bottles and aluminum water bottles were handed out to those who needed them. More than half of the attending students brought their own reusable water bottles. By approaching high-visibility events first, we can build support and momentum to address waste in day-to-day operations across campus more routinely. And this background context informed our decision to pursue two high-visibility events in the spring to collect organic waste.

This project aims to invoduce a comprehensive composting initiative at key campus events, specifically the Men's Big Ten basketball game and Earth Day Sustainapalooza event, to reduce the organic waste sent to landfills. By collaborating with WasteNot Compost, a zero-emission composting service, the project will ensure that food and other compostable materials generated during these events are properly diverted from the waste stream. To achieve this, we will set up composting stations at event locations, where trained student volunteers will assist attendees in sorting their waste into compostable materials. Volunteers will receive hands-on training from WasteNot Compost,

ensuring accurate waste management. Additionally, educational materials will be distributed at the events to inform attendees about the environmental benefits of composting and encourage greater participation in waste diversion efforts. Key deliverables of this project include:

1. Implementation of composting services at two significant campus events.

Training and mobilizing student volunteers to assist with composting efforts.
 Data collection on the volume of compostable waste diverted from landfills to measure the environmental impact of the initiative.

By integrating composting into large-scale campus events, this project will contribute to the university's waste reduction efforts while providing valuable educational experiences for students and fostering a culture of sustainability within the campus community.

23

Authentic sustainability consists of the overlapping area of 3 spheres: Environment, Society, and Economy.

Describe how your project addresses sustainability.\*



#### "Waste is only waste if we waste it." - Will.I.Am

This project addresses the three spheres of sustainability—environment, society, and economy—by creating a holistic impact that benefits both the university and the broader community

Environmentally, the project is pivotal in reducing the campus's carbon footprint by diverting significant amounts of compostable waste from landfills. Turning food waste into nutrient-rich compost lowers methane emissions and contributes to healthier soil systems, reinforcing the university's commitment to environmental stewardship.

Socially, this initiative serves as an educational platform, offering students, faculty, and staff valuable, hands-on experiences in sustainable waste management. It encourages active participation in sustainability efforts, fostering a sense of responsibility and awareness among the university community.

Finally, from an economic perspective, the project paves the way for cost savings in waste management by reducing landfill tipping fees and optimizing waste processing. Furthermore, it supports the local economy by collaborating with a community-based partner, WasteNot Compost, thereby creating a ripple effect that promotes sustainable business practices in the region. This project stands at the intersection of these three pillars, driving meaningful change on multiple fronts.

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How does your project promote and increase environmental stewardship at UIUC? \*

If applicable, also address what the carbon, water, waste, and/or energy savings is associated with your project.

The project promotes environmental stewardship by encouraging the UIUC community to engage in waste diversion activities during significant campus events. The project involves students, staff, and faculty in active composting efforts, raising avareness about waste reduction and proper disposal of compostable materials. Additionally, it demonstrates the university's commitment to achieving the iCAP goals by reducing landfill waste and promoting zero-waste practices at events.

25

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

This project supports several iCAP objectives, including: • Zero Waste: This project helps UIUC advance its waste diversion goals by introducing composting at high-waste events. Specifically, Objective 5.2: Reduce the total campus waste going to landfills. According to the U.S. EPA, food waste comprises about 24% of municipal solid waste disposed of in landfills. Also, food waste contributes to more methane emissions than any other landfilled material. On the Urbana-Champaign campus, food waste also contributes to the contamination of recyclables, especially fiber-based materials such as paper and cardboard, rendering them unrecyclable.

• Objective 52.1: Install appropriate infrastructure. Providing the campus community with infrastructure to sort their food waste for compost gives them the agency needed to make good environmental choices, especially at food & beverage events where waste is considerably higher.

• Objective 5.5: Plan for organic waste. While the university is fortunate to enjoy the benefits of the Grind2Energy systems installed at all five dining halls, food waste still prevents itself around campus and at events. Piloting compost services at two high-visibility campus events allows sustainability staff and students to begin building the case for year-round, accessible composting services. • Engagement and Outreach: The project also aligns with iCAP's emphasis on educating the campus community about sustainable practices, offering direct engagement opportunities through volunteer training and participation

26

How many students will be directly impacted by this project? \*

At a minimum, 52 students at the basketball game and 24 students at the Sustainapalooza Earth Day event will be solicited for volunteering and directly impacted by the project

27

How many students will be indirectly impacted by this project? \*

There are roughly 16,000 attendees at March Big Ten basketball games. If nearly half of the attendees are students, 8,000 students are indirectly affected by the service. There are approximately 4,000 attendees at Sustainapalooza (based on last year's estimate). If approximately 90% of the attendees were students, 3,600 students are indirectly affected by the service

### 28

What is the intended student impact? \*

Be sure to address the following: -How will this project benefit students?

-How will students be involved with this project? -What educational components are in your project?

Intended Impact:

• The project will foster a sense of environmental responsibility among students by engaging them in real-world sustainability efforts. Students can participate and learn about the importance of composting and proper waste management. This helps build momentum and support for more frequent events featuring composting and a plan set in place by university leaders for consistent organic waste collection and disposa Involvement:

• Students can volunteer at composting stations, guiding attendees in sorting their waste. Volunteers will receive WasteNot Compost training on how to manage composting stations properly. Educational Component

• The project aims to provide knowledge on composting and awareness about its benefits to those directly involved with volunteering and those who are indirectly a part of the project.

### 29

Have you spoken with anyone in UIUC's Facilities & Services (F&S) department regarding the feasibility of your project?

YES

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O NO
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30

With whom in the Facilities & Services department did you speak?\*

Zero Waste Department

# **Project Finances**

31

Has your project team or department previously been awarded funding from the SSC for the same or a similar project? \*

O YES

NO

32

OPTIONAL: Attach any letters of commitment or support here along with any supplemental media that will support your application (presentations, photos, etc.).

111Single-Day Campus-Wide Composting Events\_Aakanksha Chaubey.pdf

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Download, complete, and submit the **SSC-Budget-Timeline-NEW APPLICATION-template** file linked below. Please be very detailed so that the SSC can fully evaluate the merit of your funding request.

https://studentengagement.illinois.edu/sites/default/files/2024-09/SSC-Budget-Timeline-NEW-APPLICATION-template.xlsx

Copy of SSC-Budget-Timeline-Compost-Project(o\_Aakanksha Chaubey.xlsx