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Respondent

6 Jack McCoy

32:32

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 [Sustainability-Committee@illinois.edu](mailto:Sustainability-Committee@illinois.edu).

1

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

☐ YES☒ NO

2

Project's Name \*

Greenhouse Renovation for the Sustainable Student Farm and Illinois Urban Farmers Student Organization

3

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

34,249.00

4

Project Category \*

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

5

Project Abstract \*

**In less than 100 words, briefly describe the project.**

In collaboration with the Illinois Urban Farmers (IUF) student organization, this project requests funds for the renovation of existing defunct greenhouse space at the future site of the Sustainable Student Farm (SSF) to improve sustainable food system education and student participation. Supported by the Department of Crop Sciences and the Sustainability in Food and Environmental Systems Program, the SSF is initiating a location change on Lincoln Ave, directly adjacent to the Illinois Arboretum. The new site will improve visibility and access, providing opportunities to bolster student engagement. A fully functioning greenhouse, shared with IUF, is an essential first step.

6

What key changes are reflected in your Step 2 application compared to your Step 1 application, if any, and why? \*

We have approached facilities with our proposal and sought input on the plans. We have verified budget items and alternative budgets and made small adjustments to application language.

## Project Lead

7

Project Lead's Full Name \*

Jack McCoy

8

Project Lead's Department/Campus Affiliation \*

Director of Sustainability in Food and Environmental Systems (ACES Office of Academic Programs) and Lecturer of Horticulture (Department of Crop Sciences)

9

Project Lead's University Email Address \*

jemccoy@illinois.edu

10

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.**

- ☐ 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.**

11

Financial Contact's Full Name \*

Jack McCoy

12

Financial Contact's Department \*

ACES Office of Academic Programs/Department of Crop Sciences

13

Financial Contact's University Email Address \*

jemccoy@illinois.edu

14

Are there additional members of your project team? \*

☒ YES☐ NO

### Additional Team Member

15

Team Member's Full Name:

Matt Turino

16

Team Member's Department/Campus Affiliation:

Director of the Sustainable Student Farm (Department of Crop Sciences)

17

Team Member's University Email Address:

turino@illinois.edu

18

Do you have additional team members? \*

☒ YES☐ NO

### Additional Team Member

19

Team Member's Full Name \*

Bee Mensing

20

Team Member's Department/Campus Affiliation \*

Student (Illinois Urban Farmers Vice President)

21

Team Member's University Email Address \*

bmens2@illinois.edu

22

Do you have additional team members? \*

☒ YES☐ NO

### Additional Team Member

23

Team Member's Full Name: \*

Julian Martinez

24

Team Member's Department/Campus Affiliation: \*

Student (Illinois Urban Farmers President)

25

Team Member's University Email Address: \*

jmart375@illinois.edu

### Project Questionnaire

26

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.**

Initial greenhouse cleanup will begin as soon as this winter (November 2024). Early 2025 will be devoted to cleaning greenhouse space and preparing existing frame for new construction. New roofing, baseboards, and doors will be installed in March of 2025 and fans and electrical repairs will be made in April 2025. Renovations are anticipated to be complete as early as May 2025, and the student employees and the Illinois Urban Farms can begin using the space immediately.

27

Describe your project in detail. \*

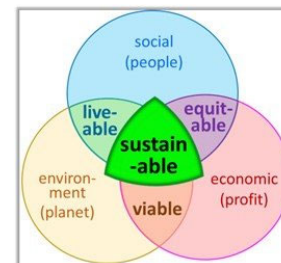
**Be sure to address the following:****-What are your project's goals and how do you intend to accomplish them?****-What are your project's deliverables?**

The goal of this project is to renovate existing greenhouse infrastructure that is no longer in use so that the Sustainable Student Farm can effectively migrate operations to a new location and the Illinois Urban Farmers can expand their capacity as a student organization. This project has a clear deliverable of a fully functioning greenhouse at the new location less than 1 year after funding. This greenhouse is an essential component of a larger move by the Sustainable Student Farm that will bolster an already highly impactful space for sustainable food system education.

28

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

Describe how your project addresses sustainability. \*



Sustainability is at the core of the Sustainable Student Farm mission. It serves as a living laboratory for hands-on, active education in the complexities of sustainable food systems, particularly as it relates to our local small-scale, diversified specialty crop farms. Through student training (internships, classes, student organizations, and certificate programs) it promotes career paths that stimulate long-term local economic contributions. Both in student education as well as dozens of tours and events annually, it builds and empowers communities to understand sustainable food production, and to participate in sustainable production through the many markets it provides for (campus dining, farmstand, community supported agriculture, and food bank donations). Lastly, through its production practices, it encourages environmentally sustainable farming by using low-input systems, maintenance of good soil health, and increasing biodiversity through "pollinator patches" and undisturbed portions of the farm. Beginning with the renovation of this greenhouse, moving the farm allows the SSF to grow and refine these tenants of sustainability through modernizing our use of controlled environment spaces and redesigning our land-use with students and sustainability in mind.

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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.

This specific project promotes environmental stewardship in several ways. The first is through thoughtful repurposing of existing infrastructure for our greenhouse space. A brand-new facility could also be proposed; however, taking advantage of the older, but still strong frame and electrical of the existing greenhouse allows us to build modern facilities that minimize environmental impacts of additional raw materials and manufacturing. Additionally, though we repurpose existing infrastructure, a modern greenhouse renovation can contribute to reduced energy use compared with older facilities currently used by the student farm. Finally, the new greenhouse space will allow Illinois Urban Farmers and other student groups to learn and promote new ways to produce food in controlled environments that may have reduced environmental impacts compared with some open-field production systems.

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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>

Yes, the greenhouse renovation promotes the iCAP objectives of promoting a culture of reuse, reducing energy use and water consumption, and promoting the consumption of local food. These objectives are met through the renovation of existing infrastructure (rather than building new) and the improved efficiency through modern greenhouse technology and production practices. Additionally, the greenhouse production systems (such as hydroponic food production) that will be demonstrated by the Illinois Urban Farmers promotes an approach to controlled environment agriculture in local and urban settings. Indirectly, this project will also support other objectives by facilitating the SSF move to a new space, including promoting biodiversity, soil health, food literacy, and sustainability education.

31

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

20-50, including the 20-30 interns and employees that work at the SSF in a given year who will work directly with the facility, and the members of the Illinois Urban Farmers.

32

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

100+, including the 20+ students in the Sustainability and Food and Environmental Systems Degree, members of HORT 360 and 205 who use the farm regularly as a living laboratory, additional classes which may be offered because of the newly accessible greenhouse and farm space, dozens of tour groups, which also may increase in number because of the new location.

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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?

This project will directly impact students through the participation of the Illinois Urban Farmers, as well as other student organizations, interns and employees, and existing classes that use the space, all of which will have an improved education in greenhouse production on small farms as a result of this renovation. Students will be directly involved in the project by assisting in many of the actual renovations. For the students directly involved, including the funded student help and the members of the Illinois Urban Farmers, the project will serve to educate on greenhouse mechanics and renovation. The result of the renovated space will contribute in large ways to education on the farm, both through student organizations and use of space by classes.

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

☒ YES

☐ NO

35

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

Doug Walters (dwalters@illinois.edu)

## Project Finances

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

☐ YES

☒ NO

37

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

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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>

 SSF-IUF-Proposal\_SSC-Budget-Timeline-NEW-APPL\_Jack McCoy.xlsx