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Respondent

12

Arlene Vespa

40:42

Time to complete

Final Project Report

1. Date of this final project report submission *

May 9, 2025

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

Wymer Hall

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

May 5, 2023 (also December 4, 2023; May 28, 2024; November 21, 2024)

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

November 21, 2026 (2-years)

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

\$500,000 in total over all award semesters (\$200,000 most recently on November 21, 2024)

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

\$0.00

7. Briefly describe the goals of your project. *

Make Wymer Hall a net zero energy campus building.

8. 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.

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

The geo-exchange wellfield, which the SSC grant funded, was completed in 2024. The building is wrapping up construction and scheduled to open for classes this fall, in August 2025.

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

Since mobilization on May 8, 2023 the baseline construction schedule has slipped. Contractors issued a recovery schedule in June 2024. The development team continues to meet with the construction team to create a path forward to achieve Certificate of Occupancy. The late delivery of the permanent emergency generator has been a setback to testing out the fire alarm system as well as limited manpower availability in the electrical trades. All life safety systems must be tested, certified and fully functional prior to occupancy. Completion of the building to support classes in August 2025 is the focus.

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

Our previous report noted the Project team was utilizing Wymer Hall as the inspiration to revisit the sustainability goals of the college. Over the last year, starting in December 2023, Gies held monthly meetings with F&S to discuss a path to net zero for the college. In June 2024 Gies and F&S executed an MOU for the purchase of solar RECs to secure this goal. Wymer Hall has been the anchor in this effort, and the SSC has played a pivotal role by supporting Wymer's sustainability.

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

Wymer Hall will be 100% geothermal heating and cooling - a campus first. This is the next step beyond what CIF was able to achieve. In that space, the SSC has been pivotal in moving green energy forward on this campus. The building has provided an expandable geo-exchange wellfield system under the military axis. This will help open up the option to green energy use for future building expansions and renovations for the other facilities that front along this area. Art and Design may expand at some future date per the Campus Master Plan and the hope is that project may be able to consider geo-exchange with added walls along the military axis.

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

The project was studied in a civil engineering class in past semesters. Wymer Hall has been included in a case study document, "The Beginner's Guide to MEP Embodied Carbon" that has been widely/nationally circulated in the A/E community.

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

N/A

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

Engagement by the SSC to challenge campus to continually lean more and more into sustainable infrastructure is not only important but necessary to help us get there. The SSC is a big player, and this project is a wonderful example of that partnership. THANK YOU!

16. 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. *

Gies College of Business has updated the webpage on the public site devoted to Wymer Hall. Here is the webpage: <https://giesbusiness.illinois.edu/wymerhall> where you will see the SSC credit. Gies Marcom has been actively advertising construction progress of the building using several social media platforms. Links to various posts have been provided in the Excel Budget and Timeline report under the Publicity and Communication section.

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

 [Wymer case study - The Beginner's Guide to ME Arlene Vespa.pdf](#)

18. Complete and upload the final 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 documentation from Banner for your award's CFOP. Any remaining funds will be transferred back to the SSC. It is the sponsoring department's responsibility to close the CFOP after the account is at a zero balance.

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

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 [SSC-Budget-Timeline-FINAL-PROJECT-REPORT-Spri Arlene Vespa.xlsx](#)