

View results

Respondent

5

Miriam Keep

25:25

Time to complete

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

1

Please read and acknowledge the following:

- SSC funding can take ****1 MONTH OR LONGER**** to receive after the SSC has voted to approve a project because it includes several steps:
 - the authorization of an award letter by SSC, iSEE, Division of Student Affairs, the project's advisor (*student-led projects only*), and the project lead;
 - the creation of the CFOP by the project team's departmental financial contact in conjunction with the project team;
 - the transfer of funds from SSC to the project's CFOP.
- If you are a project lead for a new project that is approved by the SSC, be sure to check your email regularly for the prompt to sign the award letter to help facilitate the efficiency of the process.
- Project teams for funded SSC projects do NOT receive funds directly. After a project's SSC funds have been transferred to the project's CFOP, the project team must work with the sponsoring department to purchase the approved budgeted items on behalf of the project team.
- This application will be shared publicly on our SSC Illinois Climate Action Plan (iCAP) portal so that others can learn from your project.
- Funded projects have grant reporting requirements. See our website for more information.

*

☒ I acknowledge that I have read this information.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Prior to starting your application, make sure you have the following information available:

- Project personnel including project lead, confirmed faculty/staff advisor (*student-led projects only*), departmental financial contact, other team members
- Working Group attendance information
- Project title and abstract
- Project description including timelines, deliverables, detailed description about the project, project feasibility information
- Intended student impacts
- Intended sustainability impacts
- Optional supporting documentation (e.g., Working Group presentation, letters of support)
- Detailed project budget information
- Information about changes to the Step 2 application submitted compared to the Step 1 application submitted

See our website for a sample application: <https://studentengagement.illinois.edu/studentsustainability/illinoisgreenfund/funding>

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Today's Date *

4/18/2025



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A follow up project presentation at a SSC Working Group meeting is *occasionally* requested of a project team prior to submitting their Step 2 application. Did someone from the project team present updates to their originally proposed Step 1 project at a SSC Working Group meeting this semester?

*

☐ YES

☒ NO

4

What is the name of your project? *

Eco Reps

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Amount of funding requested from the SSC for this project *

The amount entered here must match the amount reflected in your detailed primary budget spreadsheet that you will be prompted to submit with this application.

\$55,000

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

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Project Category *

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

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Project Abstract *

In approximately 100 words, describe your project.

The project goal is to develop an EcoReps program that will train a cohort of student peer educators who will connect the student body with campus sustainability initiatives. EcoReps will conduct sustainability outreach in different colleges, residence halls, student organizations, and major campus events, with the aim of broadening sustainability messaging and awareness to diverse groups of students. They will receive regular guidance in planning their activities. The project covers a two-year pilot program with a cohort of ten students to establish an effective program model for our campus and build the foundation to expand the program in the long term.

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

There are no major changes. I discussed with several members of the Education and Justice working group who said no major changes were requested.

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Describe your project in detail. Ensure the SSC has sufficient details to be able to evaluate the merits and feasibility of this project. *

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?

This proposed project is an "EcoReps" pilot program designed to fit the needs of the Illinois campus. The program will create a cohort of peer educators who will serve as a primary resource for connecting the student body with campus sustainability initiatives. The program will aim to recruit EcoReps from different colleges to expand impact and reach. Feedback from students on campus sustainability efforts has consistently highlighted the need for improvement in communication around opportunities for involvement in sustainability initiatives. From a student perspective, sustainability communication can seem piecemeal as it comes from different sources on campus, and it can be confusing to find the most complete sources of information on sustainability opportunities on campus. The EcoReps program would address this challenge by training a cohort of students from across different colleges and providing them with the training and resources to share sustainability knowledge, increase sustainability awareness and education among their peers, and share opportunities for involvement in sustainability initiatives more widely. EcoReps will provide a connection between the student body and campus sustainability leadership to reduce barriers for students who want to help reach our climate goals, reinforcing iCAP engagement efforts to encourage more active participation in sustainability efforts across campus. Many other Big 10 schools have a similar program (Michigan State University, Penn State, University of Michigan, Arizona State). Please see the attached spreadsheet that highlights the main features of those programs. The EcoReps pilot program would aim to recruit 10 EcoReps from five different colleges, targeting LAS, FAA, ACES, Gies, and Grainger. To ensure maximum impact, outreach to these colleges will be conducted to Spring 2025 to explain the benefits of the program and ask for support in linking EcoReps in their college to relevant meetings and communications channels. Each college will be asked to provide a point of contact for the EcoReps who can help ensure EcoReps are aware of major events in the college, are able to attend appropriate meetings, and may communicate with students through college newsletters. Each EcoRep will work an average of 4-5 hours during the academic year. Please see the attached job description for more details.

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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.

The project covers a two-year pilot period in order to test the effectiveness of different program activities to establish an effective, long-term program model. The annual program timeline is outlined below. The second year is expected to follow the same timeline, but adjustments may be made based on learnings identified in the first year.

May-June:

- o Advertising positions and outreach to campus units about the program
- o Recruitment

August:

- o Half day training session for EcoReps

Fall:

- o EcoReps conduct regular responsibilities, including:

- ☐ Tabling at large student-facing campus events and high-traffic student areas
- ☐ 4 Illini Lights Out Events
- ☐ 2 trash pick-up events
- ☐ Outreach and promotion of sustainability initiatives in different departments, colleges, university housing, or other venues where EcoReps are active on campus
- ☐ Participate in weekly meetings and submit biweekly work plans + progress reports
- ☐ Semester review of successes and opportunities for improvement, and planning for Spring

Spring:

- o EcoReps conduct regular responsibilities, including:

- ☐ Tabling in high-traffic student areas to recruit next cohort
- ☐ Sustainability presentations in university residence halls
- ☐ 2 trash pick-up events
- ☐ Two Zero Waste athletic events
- ☐ With supervisor guidance, each EcoRep will identify a specific sustainability need on campus to address
- ☐ Participate in weekly meetings and submit biweekly work plans + progress reports
- ☐ Annual review of successes and opportunities for improvement, and discussion of goals for next year
- ☐ Recruitment for next EcoReps cohort

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

NOTE: While this step is optional for many projects, all projects involving infrastructure (e.g., internal or external physical infrastructure of university buildings, etc.) or grounds (e.g., plantings, installing structures on campus grounds, etc.) must have F&S approval prior to receiving SSC funding. If you need assistance evaluating the feasibility of your proposed project, please reach out to SSC-Advisor@illinois.edu PRIOR to submitting your application.

- ☐ YES
- ☐ NOT YET
- ☒ N/A

STUDENT IMPACTS

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

10-20 EcoReps over 2 years

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

15,000-25,000 (estimated students reached through events and outreach)

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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?

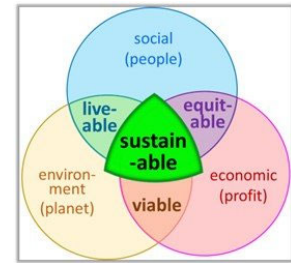
The primary goal of this project is student impact. The EcoReps cohort will receive direct training, knowledge, work experience, and professional development in campus sustainability and peer outreach. They will build skills in leadership, teamwork, communication, and project management. In addition, the entire student body will benefit from improved communication and education about campus sustainability initiatives and opportunities to become involved.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACTS

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

Describe how your project addresses sustainability. *



The EcoReps program promotes the three pillars of authentic sustainability for empowering student leaders to drive change within their communities.

The peer educator model builds a sense of ownership and responsibility for environmental issues among students, encouraging active participation in creating a more sustainable future. By providing students with the tools, knowledge, and skills to educate others, the program fosters a culture of sustainability that extends beyond individual actions to influence the collective mindset and behaviors of peers. This sense of community and engagement promotes social connections, leadership development, and inclusivity, which are all vital aspects of social sustainability.

EcoReps will educate their peer about eco-friendly behaviors and the importance of reducing waste, conserving energy, and using resources more efficiently. These actions have direct positive impacts on the environment, such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions, conserving water, and minimizing landfill waste.

EcoReps will encourage practices that lead to cost savings, like reducing electricity usage or encouraging waste reduction. Through professional development offered by the program, EcoReps will be prepared to contribute to the development of a future workforce that is well-versed in sustainability practices, which could open up economic opportunities in green industries.

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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 will providing training to a cohort of students in different aspects of campus sustainability and focus actionable strategies to make our campus more environmentally sustainable. The EcoReps will also provide this information to other students through peer-to-peer outreach.

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Does your project aim to advance one or more of the Illinois Climate Action Plan's (iCAP) objectives? If so, indicate which and describe how. If not, enter N/A.

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

This project indirectly advances a number of iCAP objectives through increased outreach and education, including:

- 5.2 Reduce landfilled waste
- 5.3 Establish a culture of reuse
- 7.1 Green certifications

PROJECT LEAD

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Project Lead's Full Name *

Miriam Keep

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Project Lead's Department *

Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment (ISEE)

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Project Lead's University Email Address *

keep2@illinois.edu

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The Project Lead must be a UIUC faculty, staff, or currently enrolled student. Which category describes the Project Lead's primary role at the university? *

- ☐ Currently enrolled UIUC student
- ☐ UIUC faculty
- ☒ UIUC staff

PROJECT'S FINANCIAL CONTACT

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

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Financial Contact's Full Name *

Elizabeth Murphy

23

Financial Contact's Department *

Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment

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Financial Contact's University Email Address *

eamurphy@illinois.edu

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Are there additional members of your project team? *

☐ YES☒ NO

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

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

 [EcoReps Job Description_Miriam Keep.docx](#) [EcoRep Program Comparison_Miriam Keep.xlsx](#)

PROJECT FINANCES

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Describe in detail how SSC funds will be used in your project.

NOTE: Only address the use of SSC funds, specifically, even if the project will be funded by multiple sources.

Most of the SSC funds will go to funding the hourly wages of the EcoReps. Some other funds will go to printing sustainability outreach materials and reserving space on campus for trainings and extended meetings. This is outlined in the budget.

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If you receive SSC funding, will your project require additional sources of funding to achieve your project's overall goals? *

NOTE: SSC cannot guarantee financial support beyond that provided in an approved funding agreement.

☐ YES

☒ NO

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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

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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 merits of your funding request. **We STRONGLY recommend providing alternate budgets in addition to your main budget in case SSC cannot fully fund your project. There are alternate budget tabs in the template.**

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

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 [SSC-Budget-Timeline-NEW-APPLICATION-EcoReps_Miriam Keep.xlsx](#)