

[View results](#)

Respondent

4 Daphne Hulse

30:00

Time to complete

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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### 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 \*

11/4/2025



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Please tell us how you heard about the availability of SSC's funding for your sustainability project. \*

I Have Received SSC Funding Previously.

Instagram

MassMail

SSC's Newsletter

Departmental Newsletter

Digital Signage

LinkedIn

SSC Website

SSC Board Member or Other Member of the Committee

Other Project Teams that Received Funding

Illinois Faculty or Staff

At a Tabling Event

General Word of Mouth

Other

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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

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Select the Working Group meeting you attended. \*

- Energy + Transportation & Infrastructure Working Group Meeting
- Food & Waste + Land, Air, & Water Working Group Meeting
- Education & Justice Working Group Meeting

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Date of the Working Group meeting you attended. \*

9/30/2025



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What is the name of your project? \*

Community-accessible Composting

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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.**

\$18,631

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### 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.**

This project aims to continue momentum with previous composting events to more frequently and broadly service composting on campus through the remainder of the 2025-2026 academic year (January - May) via WasteNot Compost, a zero-emissions compost hauler from Chicagoland. Specific sites on campus would have regular composting service via WasteNot Compost starting in the spring semester. The pilot aims to target the most engaged, captive audiences looking to participate in community-accessible composting, with the intention to grow the compost activities organically as more departments and individuals seek to be involved.

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

Scope and budget. Per the continuing conversations with WasteNot Compost, insight from the staff at the proposed compost site sources on campus, and consideration of the future of the zero waste coordinator role, it was determined that the project should only have a semester-long duration (January - May 2025). A final quote from WasteNot Compost also helped further inform and shape the project's final proposal (a reduction of roughly \$1,300).

Describe your proposed 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 project is a continuation of the student-initiated discussions and the vendor relationship with WasteNot Compost that F&S has fostered over the past year. This project intends to continue building the momentum for composting through a semester-long (January-May 2026) piloted means via specific sources on campus. Specific sites on campus would have regular composting service via WasteNot Compost starting in the spring semester. The pilot aims to target the most engaged, captive audiences looking to participate in community-accessible composting, with the intention to grow the compost activities organically as more departments and individuals seek to be involved.

Our initial list of compost sources includes the following:

Illinois Street Residence Hall, specifically the Sustainable and Innovation Living-Learning Communities  
Bevier Café  
Drop-off sites (for broader community access, and collections from RSO events), stored at the Sustainable Student Farm

Our primary goals include continuing a partnership with WasteNot Compost (directly connecting them with identified sources of organic waste) and providing a consistent composting service to the student body (starting with a pilot, and organically expanding as departments become interested and aware).

WasteNot Compost can provide detailed information about the weight of the compost collected, and its source. This will help inform us where organic waste diversion needs to be targeted, and helps build a proof-of-concept that when the community is offered composting accessibility, they will choose to engage willingly and genuinely.

The following information has been included to address inquiries about the oversight of the project in light of potential vacancy in the zero waste coordinator role: currently, the remote zero waste coordinator role is funded through the rest of fiscal year 2026 (June 30, 2026). As of early November 2025, Facilities & Services has opened applications for its next in-person, full-time zero waste coordinator. The search has begun, but a defined timeline on how long it will take to onboard the next coordinator is not yet assured. WasteNot Compost is being connected directly with the proposed compost sources, Adam Betz at the Sustainability Living-Learning Community, and Carter Phillips at Bevier Cafe. The intention with this project, regardless of who the zero waste coordinator is, is to increase efficiency between compost sources and their hauling, to reduce bottlenecks and dependency on a single person. The drop-off location is currently slated to be stored at the Sustainable Student Farm under Matt Turino, but the zero waste coordinator and two on-campus zero waste interns will serve as the liaison between RSOs and departments wanting to contribute their event waste to the drop-off bins – the Sustainable Student Farm will not assume responsibility for this portion of the project. In the event that there is a vacancy in the zero waste coordinator role before it has been filled by the successor, the Facilities & Services Transportation & Building Services division would take ownership of the drop-off locations/storage at the Sustainable Student Farm, and may choose to reduce service levels with the drop-off locations as needed.

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.**

October & November 2025

- Final details regarding pilot sites and WasteNot Compost quote contract

December 2025

- Prepare marketing/educational materials to pilot sites

Early January 2026

- WasteNot Compost to bring bins to campus

- Place bins in pilot sites prior to spring semester beginning

Late January 2026 - May 2026

- Run pilot in target sites

- Distribute marketing/educational materials

- Work with campus partners to release media on the pilot and identify opportunities for expansion

April 2026: Sustainapalooza compost opportunity

June - July 2026

- Debrief and SWOT analysis on spring semester pilot

- Prepare expansions if identified

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](mailto:SSC-Advisor@illinois.edu) PRIOR to submitting your application.**

- YES
- NOT YET
- N/A

## STUDENT IMPACTS

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

We anticipate approximately 70 students directly benefitting from the project, who would be directly involved in composting or spreading awareness for the program. This includes the students who participate in Bevier Cafe's spring capstone class, the students living at the Sustainability and Innovation Living-Learning Communities, and RSOs that choose to use compostables at events and dispose of them in WasteNot Compost bins.

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

We anticipate 2,000+ students would indirectly benefit from the opportunity to consistently compost. Were the pilot to organically grow over time, the potential to indirectly benefit the student population increases exponentially (~12,000 across residence halls, several more thousand with events, etc.)

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 was born directly from consistent student voices who encourage the campus to look inward at our opportunities to offer community-accessible composting. This project is a direct result of decades-long conversations about responsible organic waste diversion, our accountability as a land grant institution to address the waste we produce on campus, and our more recent attempts to engage vendors, such as WasteNot Compost, who are willing, able, and excited to work with the campus on an interim solution while longer-term strategy continues to be explored.

Two Facilities & Services zero waste interns are currently involved in the oversight of this project. Over the summer, two student-initiated meetings were held to convene experts and stakeholders across campus and identify a strategic path forward. The F&S Zero Waste Team also recently completed our two composting events (Sustainapalooza and Welcome Lunch) for a previous Fall 2024 SSC-funded project, "Single-day Campus-wide Composting Events," which featured our chosen vendor, WasteNot Compost. These events introduced 50+ students to composting directly with their volunteer efforts, and collectively reached 12,000+ new/transfer students and Illini-Fest prospective students at the two events.

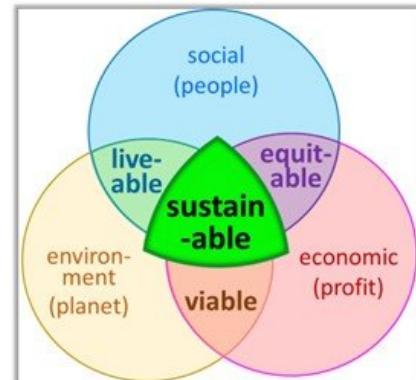
Beyond responsible organic waste diversion, the intention with this compost projects has always been to inspire the student body and continue generating momentum around these activities. The Single-Day Campus-Wide Composting Events project reached new heights with engaging students and setting an attitude that we are capable of offering compost on campus. When offered the opportunity to compost instead of landfill food waste, students consistently choose to do it!

The primary educational component in this project will be our forward-facing engagement with the campus and student body regarding how we compost and why it's important to do so. This project in particular will grant Registered Student Organizations the opportunity to host events that utilize certified compostable utensils and allow them to dispose of extra food waste from events as they need through this partnership with WasteNot Compost.

## SUSTAINABILITY IMPACTS

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

Describe how your project addresses sustainability. \*



Compost activity most clearly supports the sphere of the environment, by actively diverting material away from the landfill. In addition to this, composting also has an impact on society (our campus) and the economy (our finances). This project aims to fulfill a desire from the student body for community-accessible composting, through servicing compost at RSO events, campus-affiliated retail sites, and residential halls. Additionally, the need to address composting on campus also raises the opportunity for future job growth with current sustainability roles on campus (both staff and students internships), as well as the option to consider roles that more closely devote time to just organic waste (dependent upon departmental decisions/funding).

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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.**

According to a waste characterization study from October 2023, the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center identified that slightly under 20% of our landfill waste stream consists of organic waste material. Annually, the campus produces slightly over 6,000 U.S. tons of landfilled waste. Rough estimates show that we could potentially divert 1,200 U.S. tons alone of just organic waste from campus at fully optimal levels of composting activity (excluding the work done through Grind2Energy). This project aims to pilot a composting service on campus that builds will and momentum for a campus-wide composting program in future years. This project aims to fill an immediate gap that exists with our ability to properly divert organic waste, while still allowing campus to continue strategizing on longer-term, in-house variants for organic waste disposal.

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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>**

Yes, this project aims to advance the Illinois Climate Action Plan's Zero Waste Objective 5.5 to Plan for Organic Waste. This project would advance our ability to divert organic waste on campus to a Chicagoland hauler who can bring it back to a commercial compost facility for processing.

## PROJECT LEAD

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Project Lead's Full Name \*

Daphne Hulse

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Project Lead's Department \*

Facilities & Services, Zero Waste

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Project Lead's University Email Address \*

dlhulse2@illinois.edu

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.**

Financial Contact's Full Name \*

Mike Alsip

Financial Contact's Department \*

Facilities & Services

Financial Contact's University Email Address \*

alsip@illinois.edu

Are there additional members of your project team? \*

- YES
- NO

## SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

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

 [Composting SSC Step 1 presentation Daphne Hulse.pdf](#)

## PROJECT FINANCES

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.**

The funds will be used to pay for a weekly flat rate service fee, the servicing of 65-gal carts, and marketing and outreach materials ( (paid advertisements on digital boards, and tabling materials for flyers, laminated materials for compost how-to for piloted sources).

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

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

YES

NO

What is the total amount of SSC funding received to date for the same or a similar project by the project team/department submitting this application? \*

\$7,000

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>

\*  [SSC-Budget-Timeline-Step2Compost Daphne Hulse.xlsx](#)