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Respondent

13 Danika Ford

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Time to complete

Project Questionnaire

Please provide proper and accurate information.

1. Is your project complete? *

Yes

No

2. Name of project *

University of Illinois Investment Database

3. Date project received financial award letter *

January 9th, 2023

4. Date of project completion *

August 20, 2023

5. Date of final report submission *

April 8, 2024

6. Please describe marketing and promotion efforts for the duration of the project. *

After completing our database, the Transparent Transparent and Open Resource for Institutional Investments (TORIIS), there was a lot of marketing and promotion done to push the database into the public eye. TORIIS has Instagram and LinkedIn accounts where the launch was shared. Furthermore, this information was shared through the Students for Environmental Concerns (SECS) social media, highlighting that TORIIS is a project that originated from SECS. Since the launch, TORIIS has continued to be highlighted in the SECS weekly newsletter. In all of these promotional efforts, SSC was highlighted and recognized as the funding body for this project. Furthermore, TORIIS has continued to be promoted through avenues such as Daily Illini articles, news interviews with SECS members, and was even shared in a handout given to the Board of Trustees in January. Throughout all of this promotion, SECS and the TORIIS team has strived to educate the campus, surrounding community, and important stakeholders to the University of Illinois about the university's environmental footprint, which majorly involves their investments in the fossil fuel industry.

7. Please describe how your project faced challenges or obstacles during the duration of development. *

A major challenge the TORIIS team faced during the project was the acquisition and analysis of investments holding data from the University of Illinois Office Of Investments. We had to file Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests to receive ("publicly available") investment data in CVS (computer readable) format, but even then the data was given to us in a poorly organized state and did not have consistent labeling (in particular of company names) across assets. This required a tremendous amount of labor to clean and organize the data by hand before we could input it into our database and do analysis and visualizations. Otherwise, the TORIIS team faced general challenges in data analysis and website development engineering, but we were able to overcome many of these challenges through team discussions and collaborative advice (see our pull request history).

8. Please describe in detail how your project has integrated student involvement, community outreach, and campus sustainability. *

The TORIIS database would not have been possible without student involvement, community outreach, and campus sustainability efforts. Students from Students from Environmental Concerns, Hack4Impact, and other student activist groups banded together to obtain and code the investment data from the University of Illinois System, design the website layout, and communicate the investment findings through the TORIIS website. Being an entirely student-led project, TORIIS has been a wonderful opportunity for team members to build their data analysis, website design, coding, and communication skills. After its publication, TORIIS was promoted through thorough promotional efforts in an effort to outreach this information to the campus and surrounding community. As a result of that outreach, just in the last 30 days, TORIIS has received 301 unique visitors and 592 page views. The number of website visitors has only continued to grow as promotion is continued and as the website is updated with new investment data for FY23. Inspiring sustainability change on campus and in the surrounding community has been a key goal for the TORIIS team. With the investment data from TORIIS, we now know that just 12% of the University of Illinois System's investments are in fossil fuel companies but make up 78% of its carbon footprint. By being aware of how the university's investments are impacting its carbon footprint, students can be better equipped to fight for positive change in sustainability on campus, extending all the way down to the university's investment strategies. That is why TORIIS is such a critical tool for students. TORIIS will continue to be a resource for students in their sustainability efforts thanks to the student involvement that helped create it, the community outreach that has been done to promote it, and the campus sustainability initiatives that it will help implement.

9. If applicable, please explain how the project engaged individuals from underrepresented groups and/or promote diversity, equity, and inclusion. *

The fossil fuel industry is a major driver of environmental justice issues, and TORIIS has brought awareness to the University of Illinois' public investments in that industry. Black, Indigenous, and people of color are disproportionately impacted by these issues. TORIIS has helped bring awareness to this fact and that these investments conflict with the system's Land Acknowledgment Statement, which recognizes that each university in the system "rests on the land of multiple native nations" and that the system has "responsibilities to the peoples of that land." A significant part of these responsibilities is reversing the effects of climate change, as Indigenous peoples are more vulnerable to the health impacts of climate change and as climate change threatens indigenous peoples' livelihoods and economies. The U of I System must take actionable steps to fulfill the promises of its Land Acknowledgement by divesting from fossil fuels and thus reducing its impacts on climate change. This is what TORIIS has strived to raise awareness to and will continue to do so through its online presence.

Project Documentation

10. Please upload the final financial documentation for your project

<https://studentengagement.illinois.edu/student-sustainability/ssc/docs/SSC-Supplemental-Budget-Timeline.xlsx>

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 TORIIS Completed SSC Budget_Danika Ford.xlsx

11. Please upload additional project photography (not submitted in semesterly report) *

 [TORIIS Photo_Danika Ford.pdf](#)