



STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Funding Award and Acceptance Letter

January 9th, 2023

Project: **University of Illinois Investment Database**

Dear **Gabriel Kosmacher**,

On behalf of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Student Sustainability Committee (SSC), we would like to thank you for initiating a project that improves the sustainability of our campus. SSC is pleased to inform you that your project will receive **\$1,000.00** in grant funding.

In order to remain eligible for this award, you must agree to the following conditions:

1. The project must be completed within two years. A final report of all work completed should be provided to the SSC Assistant Director by **January 9th, 2025**.
2. Project status updates and detailed account statements must be provided at the end of each semester, in the method requested, until the project is completed.
3. The Contact Person will be individually responsible for all official communication and the execution of this agreement.
4. The awardee will take the appropriate steps to create a CFOP with OBFS UAFR University Accounting Services. The CFOP provided for this award shall strictly be used for the money awarded in this proposal.
5. Any substantial modifications to project scope, budget, or timeline must first be approved by SSC. These requests must be submitted in a formal letter to the Chair and the Assistant Director.
6. All projects will be expected to follow campus policies and procedures as well as any applicable State and Federal laws.
7. SSC reserves the right to revoke funding if the project does not comply with the terms and conditions outlined in this letter.
8. Any press releases or educational/promotional materials involving the project should acknowledge SSC funding.
9. Any signage involving the project or events surrounding this project should include SSC's logo and/or a statement of which fee funded the project. Projects must coordinate with SSC to ensure promotion appropriately highlights the SSC's contributions to the project.

If you agree to the terms and conditions for the funding, please sign on the designated line at the bottom of this letter. If you have any questions regarding these requirements please contact the SSC, at sustainability-committee@illinois.edu. You will be notified when the Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs officially approves this project. Again, thank you for your interest in improving the sustainability of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. We look forward to working with you in the future.



STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

SSC Signatories



Jack Reicherts, Chair
Student Sustainability Committee

Awardee Signatory

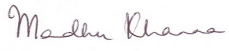
Gabriel Kosmacher
Applicant

**Faculty or Staff Project Advisor
(for Student-Led Projects)**



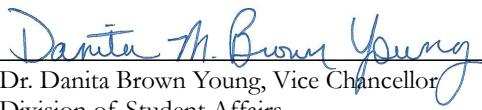
Dr. Yu-Feng Lin
Faculty/Staff Project Advisor

iSEE Signatory



Dr. Madhu Khanna, Director
Institute for Sustainability, Energy & Environment

Student Affairs Signatory



Dr. Danita Brown Young, Vice Chancellor
Division of Student Affairs



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Project Information

Project: University of Illinois Investment Database

Funding Source:

Cleaner Energy Technologies Fee (302571)

Sustainable Campus Environment Fee (303692)

Funding Amount: \$1,000.00

Receiving Campus Unit: Prairie Research Institute (PRI)

Unit Financial Contact: Karen Hartman

E-mail: khartman@illinois.edu

Project Description:

The University of Illinois has over \$230 million invested in companies that profit from the extraction, transportation, or combustion of coal, petroleum, or natural gas. The possession of these assets opposes the University's stated values of “enhanc[ing] the lives of people in Illinois, across the nation, and around the world” and “dedicating its [the University of Illinois’] brightest minds and resources toward prioritizing the environment.” In 2019, students voted with an overwhelming majority for the divestment of fossil fuels.

A decade into the fossil fuel divestment campaign, Students for Environmental Concerns has assessed a knowledge deficit regarding University of Illinois investments and their negative impact on our environment as an obstacle to remedying the ongoing climate crisis. We believe that an accessible and transparent web interface will shrink this knowledge gap; in turn informing the local and extra-local communities of environmental harm done by UIS investments, leading to the collective expansion of a fossil fuel divestment movement. Furthermore, this web interface can serve as a portal to *anyone* interested in analyzing institutional investments and will thus serve as a tool in providing public oversight to a historically opaque institution.

We aim to build an interactive and dynamic web interface to visualize the University of Illinois Systems’ investment portfolio, with a focus on assets invested in corporations that profit from the extraction, transportation, or combustion of coal, petroleum, or natural gas.



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The University of Illinois System (UIS) publishes investment data as an appendix to their annual report, which is the singular current source of publicly accessible UIS investment data. Ideally, these reports would be used to create a longitudinal relational database of UIS investment, which would require intensive data refinement and data integrity checking. Developers would also utilize publicly accessible API or web scraping techniques to update the database with additional relevant information regarding UIS assets, including but not limited to the participation in the profiteering from fossil fuels. A web interface would follow from this database, where users may interact with UIS asset data, while the interface provides accessible visualizations of relevant information pertaining to UIS assets.

Ideally, a general open source framework would be created to generate similar databases and web interfaces that may be extended to other institutions of interest (i.e. other public university systems may extend this platform).

This proposal directly funds:

- Hack4Impact Development Fee