



STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Funding Application – Student-Led Projects (Under \$10K)

Funding Criteria

A. General Rules

1. Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to submit requests for funding. Student-led projects require a faculty or staff sponsor in order to have funds awarded.
2. Funding can only go to university-affiliated projects from students, faculty, staff, and departments.
3. All SSC projects must make a substantial impact on students. This may be a direct impact or an impact through education and engagement. All SSC funding is 100% from student green fees, so the projects funded by the students must benefit them.
4. SSC encourages innovation and new technologies – creative projects are encouraged to apply.
5. Unless a type of expense is specifically listed below as having restrictions, SSC can generally fund it. The items referenced below should not be taken as a comprehensive list.

B. Things SSC Can Fund, On A Case-By-Case Basis

1. SSC can fund feasibility studies and design work; however, it must work toward ultimately addressing a sustainability need on campus.
2. SSC can fund staff positions that are related to improving campus sustainability. Strong preference will be given to proposals receiving matching funding from departments and/or plans for maintaining continuity of the position after the end of the initial grant.
3. SSC can fund outreach events with a central theme of sustainability, provided their primary audience is the general campus community.
4. SSC discourages funding requests for food and prizes but will consider proposals on a case by case basis that prove significant reasoning.
5. SSC can fund repairs and improvements to existing building systems as long as it works toward the goal of improving campus sustainability; however, a preference is shown to projects utilizing new or innovative ideas.
6. SSC can provide departments with loans for projects with a distinct payback on a case by case base. Loans will require a separate memorandum of understanding between SSC and departmental leadership pledging to repay the award in full and detailing the payback plan.

C. Things SSC Will Not Fund:

1. SSC will not fund projects with a primary end goal of generating revenue for non-University entities.
2. SSC will not fund personal lodging, food, beverage, and other travel expenses.
3. SSC will not fund any travel expenses.
4. SSC will not fund tuition or other forms of personal financial assistance for students beyond standard student employee wages.

Your funding application should include this application and any letters of support.

Please submit this completed application and any relevant supporting documentation by the deadline listed on the SSC website to Sustainability-Committee@Illinois.edu. The Working Group Chairs will be in contact with you regarding any questions about the application. If you have any questions about the application process, please contact the Student Sustainability Committee at Sustainability-Committee@illinois.edu.

General & Contact Information

Project Name: Solar-Powered Workstation for new Campus Recreation green space

Total Amount Requested from SSC: \$10,000

Project Topic Areas: Land & Water Education Energy
 Transportation Food & Waste

Applicant Name: Joshua Silvestre, Emily Grayburn

Campus Affiliation (Unit/Department or RSO/Organization): Campus Recreation

Email Address: jds7@illinois.edu

Check one:

- This project is solely my own **OR**
 This project is proposed on behalf of (name of student org., campus dept., etc.): Campus Recreation

Project Team Members

Name	Department	Email
Emily Grayburn	Campus Recreation	Emilyeg2@illinois.edu
Joshua Silvestre	Campus Recreation	Jds7@illinois.edu
Name	Department/Organization	Email Address

Student-Led Projects (Mandatory):

Name of Faculty or Staff Project Advisor: Alana Harris

Advisor's Email Address: aharri2@illinois.edu

Financial Contact (Must be a full-time University of Illinois staff member)

Contact Name: Alana Harris

Unit/Department: Campus Recreation

Email Address: aharri2@illinois.edu

Project Information

Please review the proposal materials and online content carefully. It is highly recommended you visit a working group meeting sometime during the proposal submission process.

Please provide a brief background of the project, its goals, and the desired outcomes:

We want to know: What is your project? What does it concretely produce, accomplish, or solve? Why is this project needed on campus?

The goal of this grant proposal is to receive funding to purchase and install a solar powered workstation through a company named SunBolt (<https://gosunbolt.com/workstations/>). The goal is to provide a shaded area for staff, faculty, community members and Illinois students. We were recently awarded funding to open an outdoor activity space. This space would allow us to provide students with access to physical activity opportunities and to reduce barriers to participation for our community members. It is important to provide a resource that allows guests to seek refuge from the sun while also promoting sustainability efforts on campus. Desired outcomes are, but not short to, limiting health hazards that could come from heat exhaustion, to build awareness of sustainability efforts by allowing users to charge devices using energy from the sun, and creating a space for individuals to gather and build community.

This is a necessary project needed for campus because the new outdoor facility will have no shelter from the sun, and the solar powered table will provide a solution to this specific issue while also aligning with the University's sustainability goals outlined in the Illinois Climate Action Plan (iCAP). Furthermore, other Big10 schools (specifically University of Michigan Ann-Arbor) have implemented a similar project using Sunbolt's solar powered workstation "CampusXL". The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign would benefit from this purchase as it would allow us to keep up with the best schools in the country, be the first major Illinois university to have this product, and to demonstrate a commitment to sustainability efforts.

Where will the project be located? Are special permissions required for this project site?

If special permission is required for this location, please explain, and submit any relevant letters of support with the application. SSC cannot fund projects without prior location approval.

This project will be located at the new outdoor facility near 51 East Gregory Dr., Champaign, IL, adjacent to the Campus Bike Center and outdoor courts. Marcus Jackson, Director of Campus recreation, who is responsible for this space has provided a letter of support (see attached) .

Other than the project team, who will have a stake in the project? Please list other individuals, groups, or departments affiliated directly or indirectly by the project. This includes any entity providing funding (immediate, future, ongoing, matching, in-kind, etc.) and any entities that benefit from this project.

Please attach letters of commitment or support at the end of the application.

We are currently exploring potential sponsorship

Here are the list of potential stakeholders of the project:

- 1) University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign: Campus Recreation
- 2) University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign: Office of Sustainability
- 3) University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign: Facilities and Services
- 4) University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign: Human Resources (as a resource for staff and faculty – free open rec area)
- 5) Sunbolt, the supplier of the solar powered workstation
- 6) Students who utilize the new outdoor space and workstation

- 7) Local community surrounding the university who utilize the new outdoor space and workstation
- 8) Affiliated college of students who helped fund this project, such as the College of Applied Health Science and College of Information Science
- 9) Local youth attending the Activellini Day Camp offered through Campus Recreation

How will this project involve and/or benefit students?

This includes both direct and indirect impact.

This will benefit students in several ways. First, according to a study published by Harvard Health, time spent in nature is proven to improve mental health. Called ecotherapy, a strong connection can be seen between time spent in nature and reduced stress, anxiety, and depression. Just being outside and in nature appears to boost mental health and overall wellness (Frumkin et al., 2015). Second, the addition of the umbrella and table will allow the students playing on these outdoor fields to have an area to seek refuge from the sun, making their experience more enjoyable and safer. Without these, the closest shade area is at a distance from the area. Additionally, these tables will use energy from the sun to allow students to charge their devices with the built-in charge point. This project aligns with our vision of innovation, inclusion, and sustainability which benefits and involves students at its core. By incorporating sustainable technology, such as solar-powered charging points and umbrellas, we are innovating the use of outdoor spaces on campus. Additionally, by reducing barriers to participation through free access and creating a welcoming space for all students, we are promoting inclusion which would allow us to expand programming and informal opportunities for students. Finally, by using energy from the sun instead of traditional forms of energy, we are contributing to a more sustainable campus environment. Recently, there is more research to support the mental health benefits of exercise outdoors and in spending time in nature.

What are your specific outreach goals? How will this project inspire change at UIUC?

Our specific outreach goals are to build awareness of free physical activity and exercise opportunities by opening a fitness court with a shade area and charging station. There is a high degree of visibility because of the location (Oak and Gregory). We are planning a grand opening event for students, staff/ faculty, and the greater community to attend, which will also increase visibility. The Campus Recreation marketing team will take photos and do a press release about the new space and the inclusion of a solar powered shade area. This project will inspire change at UIUC by showing the everyday ways that sustainable energy can be used, and hopefully inspire students to be more eco-friendly and design their own innovative ways to create helpful devices that are sustainable. The Fitness court and shade will reduce barriers to participation and physical activity - if we have community members that lack the resources to afford a gym - we are providing free access to an outdoor facility as well as free access to charging and refuge. This outdoor space will also allow us to facilitate personal training, kids' camps and several other special events.

How will the project improve environmental sustainability at the Urbana-Champaign campus?

This project will improve environmental sustainability at the Urbana-Champaign campus by using energy from the sun instead of other forms of energy to power devices (Also allows us to have people exercise outside - environmental operating costs of the Campus Recreation gyms are very high - will not need to use facilities with a very high operating cost to operate, which the outdoor facility will not use, will also inspire people to think about sustainability more through signage outside saying why we chose the equipment we did (reference above).

If applicable, how does this project impact environmental injustice or social injustice?

(we mentioned above, talk about again - equity in access, social determinants of health)

This project impacts environmental injustice and social justice in three ways:

- 1) First, providing shade and a structure where community members can sit can improve access to green spaces, another aspect of social justice. Access to green spaces can have a positive impact on physical and mental health, and members of a community who are low-income or people of color who experience inequities will benefit in access to more green spaces (Cohen-Cline et al., 2015). Having a place where community members can take a seat and gather encourages use of green spaces which in turn will positively impact community members.
- 2) Second, the solar powered aspect of the workstation could help reduce carbon emissions and help address climate change, which disproportionately affects communities of color and low-income communities. According to our very own Illinois researchers, underserved populations (such as African Americans, Hispanic residents, refugees in Champaign-Urbana, IL) are more likely to experience extreme heat and air pollution due to the location of highways and industrial sites (Tessum et al., 2021). Adding more renewable energy sources such as the solar powered benches can help mitigate the effects of climate change and improve air quality for marginalized community members.
- 3) Third, the ability to charge devices and use the solar powered bench promotes digital equity, an important part of social justice often forgotten about. Low-income and marginalized communities may not have access to reliable electricity/reliable space to charge devices and some individuals may rely on their mobile devices as a primary means to access the internet and communicate with others. Providing a place to charge devices could help ensure that students and community members are not limited to their device's battery life.

Scope, Schedule, and Budget verification

What is the plan for project implementation? Describe the key steps of the project including the start date, target completion date, target date for submitting a final report, and any significant tasks or milestones.

Start date: May 2023

1. May 2023: Submit funding application to the SSC
2. June 2023: Receive funding approval
3. July 2023: Finalize solar bench purchase via <https://gosunbolt.com/workstations/>
4. August 2023: Solar bench delivery and installation within new space early August
5. Mid-Late August 2023: Monitor usage of the bench over the first few weeks, implement survey collection via QR code asking community members and students alike what they think about the bench and how it fits well in the space. This ensures the functionality of the solar power workstation is functioning properly and being well utilized
6. August 2023-December 2023: Continuously monitor survey data to create analysis and creation of a final report to the SSC on the implementation of the solar powered bench project
7. December 2023: Submit report to the SSC for solar powered bench utilization during Fall 2023 semester

Significant tasks or milestones: Submitting the funding application, receiving approval and funding, ordering then installing the solar powered workstation and monitoring its usage. Notable milestones are the grand opening of the new space featuring the solar powered bench and submission of the final report at the end of the Fall 2023 semester.

List all budget items for which funding is being requested. Include cost and total amount for each item requested.

Budget & Funding Request for SunBolt Campus XL Workstation

Item	Cost per unit	Quantity	Total Cost
Campus XL Workstation	\$12,450	1	\$12,450
Shipping	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total			\$12,450
Funding Requested			\$10,000

If the project is implemented, will you require ongoing funding? What is the strategy for supporting the project in order to cover replacement, operation, or renewal costs?

There will be no need for any ongoing funding once the Campus XL Workstation is purchased and installed. It is important to note that there may be potential maintenance in the future such as replacing any faulty batteries or solar panels that arise, but it would be covered by Campus Recreation moving forward as the entire space is built and maintained by Campus Recreation.

To support the project and any future replacement, operation, or renewal costs we will be creating a maintenance plan and budget for the solar powered workstation (this plan can be added onto the final report). Included in this prospective plan is regular and maintained inspections, repairs, and cleaning. Campus Recreation will seek out additional grant opportunities or partnerships to support the continuation of supporting sustainability and green initiatives to secure funding for the sustainability of this offering.

Please include any other obtained sources of funding. Have you applied for funding elsewhere?

Please attach any relevant letters of support as needed in a separate document.

We have not applied for additional funding at this time.

Have you applied for funding from SSC before? If so, for what project?

No.

How will you bring awareness and publicize the project on campus? In addition to SSC, where will information about this project be reported?

As the first Sunbolt product being introduced to an Illinois university, we plan to generate awareness and publicity through several media outlets, here are some listed:

1. Social Media: Various RSO's and official university social media accounts (with mutual sustainability interests) can promote and highlight the project and its benefits
2. Campus Events: The new solar powered workstation can be showcased at numerous Campus Recreation and University of Illinois outreach events, a large impact one we can highlight is during quad day

3. Emails: Emails sent out by official university accounts and faculty members (such as Chancellor Jones) can be sent to inform the broader university population about the project and its purpose.
4. Flyers: Flyers can be distributed campus wide either near the Illini Union, libraries, cafes, and Campus Recreation buildings to provide details about the project and its purpose of sustainability.

In addition to the SSC, the project can be highlighted through the University of Illinois' Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment (iSEE). This project can also be shared through various academic departments and programs whose effort align with this project's mission of sustainability and green energy.

Citations:

Cohen-Cline H, Turkheimer E, Duncan GE. Access to green space, physical activity and mental health: a twin study. *J Epidemiol Community Health*. 2015 Jun;69(6):523-9. doi: 10.1136/jech-2014-204667. Epub 2015 Jan 28. PMID: 25631858; PMCID: PMC4430417.

Christopher W. Tessum et al. ,PM2.5 pollutants disproportionately and systemically affect people of color in the United States.*Sci. Adv.*7, eabf4491(2021).DOI:10.1126/sciadv.abf4491

Fang W-T, Ng E, Chang M-C. Physical Outdoor Activity versus Indoor Activity: Their Influence on Environmental Behaviors. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*. 2017; 14(7):797. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph14070797>

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Healthy People 2030, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Retrieved [date graphic was accessed], from <https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/social-determinants-health>

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Powers, Samantha L, Nicholas A D Pitias, and Andrew J Mowen. "Public Perceptions of Local Parks and Recreation as an Essential Community Service During the COVID-19 Pandemic." *Journal of park and recreation administration* : a publication of the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration. 40.3 (2022): 159–178. Web.

Ramísio, P. J., Costa Pinto, L. M., Gouveia, N., Costa, H., & Arezes, D. (2019). Sustainability strategy in higher education institutions: Lessons learned from a nine-year case study. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 222, 300-309. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2019.02.257>