



STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Funding Award and Acceptance Letter

February 27th, 2023

Project: **Myco-Cycling Spent Coffee Grounds into Food for Fungi**

Dear **Jasper Nord**,

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 **\$6,552.00** 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 **February 27th, 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

Jack Reicherts, Chair
Student Sustainability Committee

Awardee Signatory

Jasper Nord
Applicant

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

Dr. Andrew Miller
Faculty/Staff Project Advisor

iSEE Signatory

Madhu Khanna

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

Student Affairs Signatory

Danita M. Brown Young

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



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Project Information

Project: Myco-Cycling Spent Coffee Grounds into Food for Fungi

Funding Source(s):

Cleaner Energy Technologies Fee (302571)

Sustainable Campus Environment Fee (303692)

Total Funding Amount: \$6,552.00

Receiving Campus Unit: Prairie Research Institute

Unit Financial Contact: Dr. Andrew Miller

E-mail: amiller7@illinois.edu

Project Description:

This project aims to investigate the possible use of Spent Coffee Grounds, a common urban waste by-product, as substrate in the production of novel mycelium based composite materials. In recent years, the advent of new ecologically friendly materials produced using fungi's natural growth systems have been shown to be incredibly promising. From Leather alternatives (MycoLeather) to Biodegradable burial systems (MagicalMushroom Company's edenn), mycelial materials are environmentally friendly and open the doors to revolutionize industries that have historically been incredibly harmful to the ecosystem such as leather. The goals of this are twofold: 1) divert Spent Coffee Grounds from entering the waste pipeline and 2) to investigate a possible framework for environmentally friendly materials production in dense urban areas where fresh food may be hard to access. Through preliminary testing, we've found coffee grounds alone to be a viable substrate for Lions Mane (*Hericium erinaceus*) and Reishi (*Ganoderma lucidum*) species that are of high interest and value in consumer markets today as supplements and food products, and have been identified as viable species for bio-material fabrication. The produced mycelium and possible mushrooms produced will be analyzed for any contaminants, and if possible, may provide a new avenue for production of edible mushrooms from waste. If the mushrooms produced are deemed inedible, the project will still have produced usable mycelium materials and excess can be used as highly-valued mushroom compost.

This proposal directly funds:

- See budget attachment for full details:



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- <https://uofi.box.com/s/zcui3j55j9xnv9ecfq2d1j170uze5159>