



STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Funding Application – Step I

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. All SSC funding is 100% from student green fees, so the projects funded by the students must benefit them.

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 requests for food and prizes but will consider proposals on a case by case basis.
5. SSC can fund repairs and improvements to existing building systems as long as it works toward the goal of improving campus sustainability.
6. SSC can provide departments with loans for projects with a distinct payback. 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.

Instructions

Submit this completed application and one map, graphic, or picture to Sustainability-Committee@Illinois.edu. Please adhere to the session word counts. The committee holds the right to decline applications over the designated word counts. If you have any questions about the application process, please contact the Student Sustainability Committee Coordinator at sustainability-committee@illinois.edu.

Project Name: Revert to Earth; Student Recycling Behavior Research

Total Amount Requested from SSC:

Primary Project Leader Name & Email: Hannah Kim, hannahk9@illinois.edu

Project Abstract: In less than 100 words, briefly describe your project.

This project tackles one of the most prominent issues on campus; recycling contamination. Many recyclable materials end up going to landfills due to mislocation of contaminated waste. This research studies how different methods may affect students' recycling behavior as an initial step to the implementation of a compost system. The three methods that will be tested are standardized labeling, implementing separate food waste bins, and education. By learning how students' respond to these methods will provide insight to how the university should go about the matter of reducing recycling contamination.

	Education	Energy	Food & Waste	Land & Water	Transportation
Project Category			✓		

Project Team Member List (student projects must include their faculty/staff advisor's information)

Name	RSO/Department	Email Address
Hannah Kim	School of Earth, Society and Environment	hannahk9@illinois.edu
Sakshi Vaya	School of Earth, Society and Environment	svaya2@illinois.edu
Daphne Hulse	Zero Waste Coordinator	dlhulse2@illinois.edu

Questions	Yes	No
Is this a student-led project?	Yes	
If applicable, have you received approval from Facilities & Services and/or site manager?	Yes	
Do you have a plan for ongoing funding beyond SSC? (SSC cannot guarantee ongoing financial support)	Yes	
Beyond SSC, do you have sources contributing funding or support (ex. staff time, external grants, etc.) to this project?		No
Have you applied for SSC funding previously?		No

Project Timeline

SSC funding agreements remain active for two years. Please list your project's timeline and/or milestones.

The research timeline is fairly short - spanning a total of about 2 months. As of now, we aim to set up the experiments and conduct the study over the month of April, and then aggregate the results in May, so that we have concrete data moving into the fall semester.

This research project is the initial step of the bigger project, which would then involve separating and composting food waste around campus. We have filled in a separate application for the said project,

which is to begin in fall 2023, and span over the course of a year, to judge efficacy and large scale feasibility.

In the long term, we hope that the success of our project may lead the university administration to take it on as an official step.

Project Description

In 250 words or less, describe your project. What does your project hope to accomplish? What are your project's deliverables? Bullet points welcome.

The research study aims to have quantitative data that determines students' recycling behaviors. The data will be collected in three places; two residential halls and the Union, which will have different types of waste which may show different patterns in recycling behavior. Three different types of recycling pots will be placed in each of these places; the control group, a pod with prominent instructions on how to eliminate food contaminants, and a pod with separate food waste bins. The researchers will visit the site 4 days a week to record how many contaminants are in each respective bin and make observations. The results will then reveal 3 things: Would students recycle if they are informed better? Are students capable of separating food waste for the sake of a potential compost system? Are there any differences in the types of waste generated and the recycling patterns in different places? The study will be a useful tool to inform the university—what needs to be done to improve recycling and reduce recycling contamination.

Environmental Impact

In 200 words or less, how does your project increase environmental stewardship at UIUC? If applicable, what is the carbon, water, waste, and/or energy savings? Does your project relate to the iCAP? Bullet points welcome.

- Recycling is a significant part of environmental stewardship, as it is a practice that will help our community maximize the lifetime utility of each material.
- This study will be a small yet significant step towards making students better stewards of the UIUC campus community. UIUC has so far implemented big scale systems/facilities for sustainability. However, big changes eventually come down to the students, who are not always aware of these systems.
- One way that students as individuals can contribute towards sustainability would be by recycling. Therefore, improving the recycling behavior of the students will significantly enhance the quality of recyclable materials which will be a huge contribution to a greener campus and a student body more aware of and empowered in their role in making campus sustainable.
- The study will be useful for future implementation of a system as the results of the study can provide information on how the facility should be built to cater towards our student body. Not only would it safe funding allocation but also would improve efficiency.

Student Impact

In 200 words or less, how will this project benefit students? How will students be involved with this project? What educational components are in your project? Bullet points welcome.

- This study aims to improve the students' recycling behavior by having better understanding of their response to change and their patterns.

- The study will also provide a rough understanding of students' level of environmental awareness. By understanding current levels of awareness, we can plan toward specific ways of addressing students' gaps in knowledge.
- Both Mr. Etchison, the food service administrator on campus, and Mr. Patterson, the waste transportation manager, highlighted the significance of increasing students' awareness and helping them make better choices as the faith of the environment and the community comes down to individual student's daily choices.
- This project is student-initiated, student-led, and student-run.