**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 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*](mailto: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.*](mailto:Sustainability-Committee@illinois.edu.)

**General & Contact Information**

**Project Name:** At-home Edible Gardening Education Program

**Total Amount Requested from SSC:** $1765

**Project Topic Areas:**  Land & Water  Education  Energy

Transportation  Food & Waste

**Applicant Name:** Sydney Curts

**Campus Affiliation (Unit/Department or RSO/Organization):** Grow2Give

**Email Address:** scurts2@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.): Grow2Give

**Project Team Members**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Department** | **Email** |
| Joey Hartz | Grow2Give | Jhartz4@illinois.edu |
| Steven Adamson | Grow2Give | Adamson3@illinois.edu |
| Colin Dobson | Grow2Give | Cdobson2@illinois.edu |
| Holly Hahn | Grow2Give | Hollyh2@illinois.edu |

**Student-Led Projects (Mandatory):**

Name of Faculty or Staff Project Advisor: Matt Turino  
Advisor’s Email Address: turino@illinois.edu

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

Contact Name: Matt Turino

Unit/Department: Sustainable Student Farm

Email Address: turino@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?*

Within our At-Home Edible Gardening Education Program, participants can attend three workshops throughout AY22-23. We have tentatively planned for the following dates at 75 participants.

• Microgreens Workshop (Nov. 7th)

Participants will receive a hemp growing mat, seeds, and a container upon request (encouraged to bring their own to reduce environmental impact). This workshop will be led in conjunction with Dr. Jennifer Nelson, UIUC instructor and horticulturist. They will learn how to start microgreens in a non-conventional growing medium and how to harvest.

• At-Home Gardening Workshop (February 6th)

Participants will receive a self-watering window gardening container and their choice of seeds. They will be guided through the planting process and learn what to expect when gardening indoors, as well as how to harvest. Additionally, vermiCUlture, another environmental RSO, will partner with us on this event to include vermicomposting education and tutorials.

• Sprouts Workshop (Apr. 3rd)

Participants will receive a sprouting jar and lid and learn how to grow sprouts through hydroponics. This workshop will be led in conjunction with a mentor that is TBD.

Our project hopes to encourage, educate, and make accessible to members of the UIUC and Champaign-Urbana communities the ability to sustainably grow food at home. Preference will be given to UIUC students facing food insecurity. All materials and instructions are provided for participants to make the program/workshops as accessible to all as possible.

Detailed reports of participant turnouts, workshop success, as well as workshop photos, will be provided as deliverables for this project.

**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.*

**All events held under this project will take place at the University YMCA. No special permission is required.**

**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.*

This project is a collaboration between other environmental organizations, faculty/staff, and mentors. At this time, Dr. Jennifer Nelson from the Department of Crop Sciences has agreed to lead the November 7th workshop and vermiCUlture has committed to partner with Grow2Give at the February 6th workshop. We are still weighing our options for the April 3rd workshop at this time.

**How will this project involve and/or benefit students?**

*This includes both direct and indirect impact.*

**Students will be both involved and benefit through engagement in educational workshops covering various topics:**

**• A hands-on workshop to educate students on planting, caring for, and producing microgreens with all materials provided at no-cost**

**• A hands-on workshop to educate students on sustainable at-home gardening of various types of produce in collaboration with vermiCUlture to promote vermicomposting practices, all at no-cost**

**• A hands-on workshop to educate students on planting, caring for, and producing sprouts with all materials provided at no-cost**

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

**Grow2Give is developing an at-home edible gardening education program in which participants will have opportunities to attend and engage in educational workshops designed to begin new or accelerate existing participant journeys to sustainably growing their own food. The program will be made available to Grow2Give student members, non-member students, and Champaign-Urbana community members. This program will collaborate with faculty and staff of the University of Illinois, as well as other environmentally focused registered student organizations. We hope that participants will leave with a new wealth of knowledge, feeling supported, and excited to make a difference in the UIUC community.**

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

Our project increases environmental stewardship at UIUC by:

• Reduction of household food waste

• Preventing consumerism

• Reduction of single-use plastics from food packaging

• Promoting environmental education

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

**This project has been developed with food-insecure and underepresented folks in mind. More often than not, individuals experiencing food insecurity are from minority groups. We are aiming to tackle fresh food insecurity head on, and priority will be given to individuals in these groups.**

**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.** *Please be as detailed as possible.*

Grow2Give intends to hold a Microgreens Workshop on November 7th, an At-Home Gardening Workshop on February 6th, and a Sprouts Workshop on April 3rd. The Target Date for physical completion will be the end on Spring 2023. However, continued support and troubleshooting with participants will go beyond this date.

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

*Please be as detailed as possible.*

*The itemized budget can be found here https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1XfeW7SUBDuUQYd5MLMcJrgz\_M28oXh0lv2VjPfDMBVs/edit?usp=sharinghttps://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1XfeW7SUBDuUQYd5MLMcJrgz\_M28oXh0lv2VjPfDMBVs/edit?usp=sharing*

**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?**

*SSC provides funding on a case by case basis and should not be considered as an ongoing source of funding*

*The project will not require ongoing funding. In the case of underbudgeting, we will host a backup-plan fundraiser to go towards the project's efforts.*

**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 applied for SORF funding to cover refreshments and advertisement for the events. This funding is waiting approval at this time.

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

Yes, the Grow2Give Raised Garden Beds project was heavily funded through SSC. This project will be complete at the end of this semester.

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

This project will be held at the University YMCA, where it will be exposed to a diverse group of students and community members. Physical and digital advertisement will also be provided.