Funding Application – Step II

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 Step 2 funding application should include this application, the supplemental budget form, and any letters of support.

Please submit this completed application and any relevant supporting documentation 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: Pilot for National Green Infrastructure Certification Program for University Operations

Total Amount Requested from SSC: $2196

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

Applicant Name: Stacy Gloss
Campus Affiliation (Unit/Department or RSO/Organization): Illinois Institute for Sustainability, Energy and Environment (iSEE)
Email Address: sgloss@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.):

Project Team Members

Name	Department	Email
Morgan White	Sustainability / F&S	mbwhite@illinois.edu
Meredith Moore	iSEE	mkm0078@illinois.edu
Stacy Gloss	iSEE	sgloss@illinois.edu

Student-Led Projects (Mandatory):

Name of Faculty or Staff Project Advisor: N/A

Advisor's Email Address: N/A

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

Contact Name: Mike Alsip

Unit/Department: Facilities and Services

Email Address: alsip@illinois.edu

Phone Number: 217-244-4049

Project Information

Please review the proposal materials and online content carefully. It is <u>highly recommended</u> 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:
You may copy and paste your Step 1 application answer if nothing has changed.

Facilities and Services will designate four staff (director/professional level and/or grounds staff) to receive the National Green Infrastructure Certification Program (NGICP) training through Parkland College as a pilot to determine future F&S investments in this training for grounds crew and other F&S project staff. This project invests $2,196 for the training. Participants will provide a presentation about program outcomes and any results, lessons, learned and best practices for adoption by F&S landscape crew. F&S staff will determine needs for further funding for Green Infrastructure training in the future.

The NGICP is a program that provides entry level workers the skills needed to properly construct, inspect, and maintain green storm-water infrastructure such as raingardens, bioswales, green roofs and other green infrastructure involved in the management of campus surface water that's compatible with the conservation of land, resources and biodiverse habitats.

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.

The NGICP training takes place on-line through Parkland College early in the Spring Semester.

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.

NA

How will this project involve and/or benefit students?
This includes both direct and indirect impact.

This project has an indirect impact on the campus community with the aim to improve green infrastructure and green rainwater management systems on campus. Staff will acquire skills needed to construct, inspect and maintain green storm water infrastructure on campus. By increasing the staff capacity for green infrastructure planning and implementation, students will be provided opportunities to develop greater connections to sustainability efforts and the campus environment.
This project invests in the knowledge, skills, and abilities of campus maintenance and grounds crew at a base level; but may have the added benefit of igniting new levels of stewardship of campus land and water, and green infrastructure resources. Experiential learning opportunities with green infrastructure projects can inspire students in their own career trajectories.

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

Participants in the program will provide a report on training outcomes to the University Landscape Architect, the Land & Water iCAP team, the Resilience iCAP team, and other interested parties. NGICP training certifications will be listed on the Facilities & Services website. The F&S Facebook page, the FS Insider online magazine, and FS Twitter may be utilized to include a social media post about the NGICP training.

Financial Information

In addition to the below questions, please submit the supplemental budget spreadsheet available on the Student Sustainability Committee [website](). Submission of both documents by the submission deadline is required for consideration of your project.

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

N/A.

If this project is implemented, will you require any ongoing funding required? What is the strategy for supporting the project in order to cover replacement, operation, or renewal costs?
Please note that SSC provides funding on a case by case basis annually and should not be considered as an ongoing source of funding.

This source of funding is seed funding for the Green Infrastructure training that meets the goals set in iCAP 2020 objective 8.5. If successful, other sources of funding may be explored and identified.

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.

N/A.

Environmental, Economic, and Awareness Impacts

How will the project improve environmental sustainability at the Urbana-Champaign campus? If applicable, how does this project fit within any of the [Illinois Climate Action Plan]() (iCAP) goals?

This project is directly related to iCAP objective 8.5 which states: *"We will also explore the National Green Infrastructure Certification Program (NGICP), which provides the skill set needed for entry-level workers to properly construct, inspect, and maintain green stormwater infrastructure. Designed to meet international best practice standards, the NGICP is a tool that can be used to meet a wide range of needs, including professional development for existing green infrastructure professionals. As part of a larger workforce development, the NGICP can provide candidates with the technical skills to enter the green workforce and earn a livable wage."*

The NGICP training equips grounds staff with:
- knowledge and skills needed in green infrastructure construction
- ability to spot problems and implement solutions
- increased knowledge, awareness, skill and ability for grounds staff to assist with the maintenance of campus green infrastructure resources.

How will you monitor and evaluate the project's progress and environmental outcomes? What short-term and long-term environmental impacts do you expect?

Some examples include carbon emissions, water conservation, green behavior, and reduced landfill waste.

Water conservation and green infrastructure projects are tracked by the university landscape architect Brent Lewis. Green infrastructure projects, like rain gardens, are monitored.

The Red Oak Rain Garden is an exemplary model with its own newsletter and website that incorporates the benefits of Green Infrastructure with arts and culture, service learning opportunities for students, local organizations and community volunteers. While not every Green Infrastructure project is expected to have the same community impact, staff with NGICP training will be trained for an eye on opportunities for new Green Infrastructure locations and may be able to spot trouble in existing GI locations, taking the steps to conduct preventative maintenance before issues become larger more unwieldy problems.

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

This project will inspire change at UIUC. By increasing the number of qualified Green Infrastructure trained staff at the University of Illinois, campus will have improved the capacity for F&S to identify and implement new projects that focus on Green Infrastructure for Rainwater Management at the University of Illinois.

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

The project invests in professional development NGICP training for civil service employees in the grounds department who work closely with the University Landscape architect to create spaces that are inviting, sustainable, and maintainable.

Green Infrastructure projects have multiple environmental, economic and social benefits. With campus as a model, the public works departments in the local community can learn from the projects that are piloted on campus, which may have the downstream effect of catalyzing Green Infrastructure projects in the wider community.

Supporting staff to train and receive the national certification, opportunities in Green Infrastructure careers can be opened to entry-level, blue collar workers.