STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

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: Purchase and Install new Eco-Counters Spring 2022
Total Amount Requested from SSC: $60,000

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

Applicant Name: Sarthak Prasad
Campus Affiliation (Unit/Department or RSO/Organization): Facilities & Services
Email Address: sprasad9@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
Sarthak Prasad	Facilities & Services	sprasad9@illinois.edu
Stacey DeLorenzo	Facilities & Services	sdeloren@illinois.edu
Name	Department/Organization	Email Address
Name	Department/Organization	Email Address

Student-Led Projects (Mandatory):
Name of Faculty or Staff Project Advisor:
Advisor's Email Address:

Financial Contact *(Must be a full-time University of Illinois staff member)*
Contact Name: Michael Alsip
Unit/Department: Facilities & Services
Email Address: alsip@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:

You may copy and paste your Step 1 application answer if nothing has changed.

Based on the preliminary results from the Mode Choice Survey by F&S TDM in 2022, nearly 85% of our students use active modes of transportation, and nearly 40% of them walk as their primary mode of travel. Nearly 90% of the students responded that Walking is one of their top 3 preferred mode of travel on-campus. However, maintenance and programming to promote walking are often not considered for transportation funding. This project will bring the need of investing in walking forward.

This project funding request will help us purchase and install three sets of bicycle and pedestrian counters with Eco-Counter on campus, which will support future research, projects, and policy. The overage will be covered by F&S TDM and Bike Fee.

The Eco-Counters will give us access to 15-minute data transmission for each location for bicyclists as well as pedestrians, including which direction they are moving. Any student, faculty, or staff can use this data for research purpose.

In general, $20,000 will allow us to purchase and install one set of Eco-Counter at a location. This funding request of $60,000 will allow us to purchase and install three sets of Eco-Counters. As mentioned above, we have to monitor the pedestrian and bicyclist traffic at 12 locations, so the table below indicates the number of installations we could install for various levels of SSC funding. So, if we are approved for

$ amount	# of Eco-Counters that can be purchased	# of locations for installation
$20,000	2 Counters	1 location (1 set)
$60,000	6 Counters	3 locations (3 sets)
$80,000	8 Counters	4 locations (4 sets)
$100,000	10 Counters	5 locations (5 sets)

Here is the cost breakdown to purchase one set of Eco-Counters (based on previous purchase):

The cost to purchase a set of Eco-Counter from the manufacturer is about $14,000 (includes 1 year of auto-data transmission subscription and shipping). The installation of one set of Eco-Counter is about $6,000.

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 Multimodal Corridor Enhancement (MCORE) project requires the Champaign-Urbana Urbanized Active Transportation Study (CUUATS) partners to monitor the pedestrian and bicycle counts following the completion of the project. This requirement is to understand the increased walking and bicycling activities at the twelve predetermined corridors. Champaign County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) collected pedestrian and cycling counts at these locations before the MCORE project. These twelve corridors/intersections are

1. Birch Street and Green Street
2. Lincoln Avenue and Green Street
3. Goodwin Avenue and Green Street – to be installed in Summer 2022

4. Illini Union Entrance/Green Street – installed
5. **Wright Street and White Street – proposed with this funding**
6. Wright Street and Healey Street – installed
7. Wright Street and John Street – Purchase Order in place, will be installed this summer
8. Sixth Street and Armory Avenue – **Installed in April 2022***
9. **Fourth Street and Armory Avenue – proposed with this funding**
10. Third Street and White Street
11. **Third Street and Green Street – proposed with this funding**
12. Locust Street and Green Street

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 supported by

- CUUATS
- iCAP 2020
- Campus Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC)
- Student Sustainability Committee (SSC) as previously supported with the "Bike and Ped Counters" and "Purchase and Install new Eco-Counters" project

How will this project involve and/or benefit students?
This includes both direct and indirect impact.
There are more than 51,000 students (Full time + Part time) enrolled in spring 2021 at the University of Illinois, and nearly 11,000 faculty and staff. The 5 phases of MCORE project has renovated some of the busiest corridors of the University District that are used primarily by students, faculty, and staff at the University of Illinois.

Students can be directly involved in the Bicycle and Pedestrian Counts project. As described earlier, once the data has been collected by the Eco-Counter, students

1. will have the opportunity to help analyze the data, flow of the bike/ped traffic, and understand the use of the area
2. may also have the opportunity to manually collect the data from the counters periodically, if automatic transmission isn't available

Also, a Masters in Urban Planning student, Sutapa Banerjee, is working with F&S on the Walkability Audit and Deficiency Reporting of campus walkways. The Walkability Audit will result in a Campus Walking Master Plan (expected by June 2023), and having the data regarding Pedestrian Counts will help us immensely.

Based on the preliminary results from the Mode Choice Survey by F&S TDM in 2022, nearly 85% of our students use active modes of transportation, and nearly 40% of them walk as their primary mode of travel. Nearly 90% of the students responded that Walking is one of their top 3 preferred mode of travel on-campus. This project will help us understand the need of investment in the maintenance of sidewalks and bicycle facilities at other high traffic corridors on campus.

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

- iCAP Portal
- F&S website
- News Release
- Information from this project will be used in the Campus Walking Master Plan
- Bike at Illinois website

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?

Yes.

1. Bike Registration Signs
2. Bike Path Renovation: Armory Avenue Path South of Gregory Hall
3. Bike and Ped Counters
4. Purchase and Install Eco-Counters

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.

There is an annual subscription for data transmission, which is covered by the Bicycle Registration Fee funds this year, and going forward, Bicycle Infrastructure and Programming Fee (Bike Fee) will cover it. The replacement of batteries are covered by the F&S TDM funds.

We may apply for additional funding to purchase and install more counters.

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 will be using the Bicycle Infrastructure and Programming Fee (Bike Fee) funds for the renewal of subscription and battery replacement.

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 supports the $47 million MCORE project. These Eco-Counter units will help us monitor use of bicycles and pedestrians at these 3 additional locations on campus. These corridors make up the busiest streets in Champaign-Urbana and they are primarily used by the University of Illinois students, faculty, and staff. This project will help us analyze these newly renovated corridors and their use by our pedestrians and bicyclists.

In future, we would like to display the daily/weekly/monthly number of pedestrians and bicyclists traveling through these corridors at nearby buildings. That will, hopefully, encourage more students, faculty, and staff to use alternative modes of transportation (bicycling, walking, and transit) rather than single-occupancy vehicles.

This project directly aligns with the iCAP 2020 objectives 3.4 Reduce Driving on Campus and objective 3.4.2 "Implement the Campus Bicycle Plan" (which includes bicycle counts). This project also encourages walking and the use of transit.

This project also aligns directly with the 2014 Campus Bicycle Master Plan.

We are working on a Walkability Audit, to analyze all university district walkway pavements, and the information collected by these counters will help us understand the use of these areas on campus.

We will also use the Eco-Counters' number of pedestrian and bicyclist information while developing the Campus Walking Master Plan.

Furthermore, there are six E's of active transportation planning: Education, Encouragement, Engineering, Enforcement, **Evaluation**, and Equity. This project directly aligns with the Evaluation of the active transportation, and Evaluation is a key part of behavior change for sustainable transportation mode-shift.

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.
The data transmission subscription allows us 15-minute interval data that is transmitted once a day. We can observe the movement pattern of our students using various analysis tools provided on the Eco-Visio platform. I can provide "Viewer" access to SSC, so that you can explore the Eco-Vision platform as well.

Short-term impact of this project:

- We will use the data collected from Eco-Counters to develop a Campus Walking Master Plan
- We can use this data in the analysis of the Walkability Audit data as well

In future, we would like to display the daily/weekly/monthly number of pedestrians and bicyclists traveling through these corridors at nearby buildings. That will, hopefully, encourage more students, faculty, and staff to use alternative modes of transportation (bicycling, walking, and transit) rather than single-occupancy vehicles.

What are your specific outreach goals? How will this project inspire change at UIUC?
Currently, the University of Illinois does not have a Master Plan for the preservation and improvement of our sidewalk network. We are conducting a thorough Walkability Audit of the campus, which will help us identify areas that are ideal for walking and areas that require improvement. The Eco-Counter data, along with the Walkability Audit data, will directly feed in to the Campus Walking Master Plan.

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