# *Thank you for your commitment to green initiatives at the University of Illinois. One of the final steps in completing the terms of the funding agreement for your project is the submission of a Final Report with key information about your project. You will also need to submit a detailed report of expenses (if you don't list it within this document) as well as supporting photos to showcase your project.*

# *Please be as accurate as possible in describing the project (including possible setbacks or challenges in meeting the initial goals of the project). Not fully meeting your project's goals will not disqualify you from making future funding requests as long as your reports are as complete and accurate as possible. If you have any questions, please contact the Student Sustainability Committee, at* *sustainability-committee@illinois.edu**.*

**Project Name:** Allerton Solar Array

**Date of Report Submission:** 4/23/2021

**Project Purpose:**

The solar array was meant to push Allerton closer to achieving its climate action goals of being carbon neutral by 2035. The energy produced will be used to offset energy use for the park’s facilities.

**Project Summary:**

Going into the project, we had a company already in mind for installation. Hardt Electric laid the foundation and installed the solar array totaling 60 panels in all. This system is a 23kW ground based system utilizing the Sunpower 390 panels. The goals laid out going into this project were met pushing Allerton one step closer to carbon neutrality.

**Summary of Project Expenditures:**

Funding spent on the solar array went mostly to Hardt Electric to pay for the 60 panels and installation. This totaled around $74,000 funded using the $55,000 provided by SSC and an additional $25,000 by our donor. The rest of the funding left went towards lodging, concrete, and other important supplies for the foundation and installation.

**Problems/Challenges Encountered**

The progress of the project was slow as the economy was shut down. Businesses slowed or stopped for a period of time before resuming toward the late summer, early fall. By then, the winter further slowed the project meaning our original timeline was greatly underestimated. We originally believed we could achieve a quick turnaround from funding to completed project within several months. This was not the case; however, I believe looking back we had done our best with the given situation. When setting our timeline, we could never have foreseen a pandemic that would result in the shutdown of everything.

**Problems/Challenges Encountered**

When we applied for the funding, we weren’t under any COVID restrictions. During the process of procurement, bidding, and installation we were under intense COVID restrictions. Procurement during the pandemic was a major hurdle, as it took a lot of coordination to get the process moving. It’s been hard to celebrate the success of installation and engage with the public as a result of the current health guidelines.

**Student Involvement and Outreach to Date:**

Student involvement was limited as a result of the pandemic. However, the project was led by Joshua Frerichs who is a U of I senior. Allerton continues to reach out to the community through social media, e-newsletters, and their Annual Review and encourage students and community members to visit.

**Marketing and Promotion Efforts to Date:**

Allerton utilizes social media, an e-newsletter, and their Annual Review to market and promote the park and its sustainability efforts. Although in-person efforts have been limited or restricted over the last year, promoting online is an ongoing effort.

**Additional Comments:**

After the completion of the solar array in mid-March, the park supervisor, Peter Lichtenberger, added a mixture of native, pollinator friendly plants around and underneath the panels. This is near the visitor’s center complex and will add beautification and natural benefits around the new solar array.

In addition to the above fields, please provide a detailed accounting of how the funding was spent as well as pictures of the final project in an email to sustainability-committee@illinois.edu. Thank you again for your commitment to sustainability.