



STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Funding Application – Student-Led Projects (Under \$10K)

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. 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: Eco Olympics
Total Amount Requested from SSC: \$4000

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

Applicant Name: Mark Toledano
Campus Affiliation (Unit/Department or RSO/Organization): Eco Olympics
Email Address: markjt2@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.): Eco Olympics

Project Team Members

Name	Department	Email
Mark Toledano	Eco Olympics	markjt2@illinois.edu
Madeline Barone	Eco Olympics	mbarone2@illinois.edu
Nirvani Jairam	Eco Olympics	njaira3@illinois.edu
Paul Foote	Facilities & Services	gfoote2@illinois.edu

Student-Led Projects (Mandatory):

Name of Faculty or Staff Project Advisor: Paul Foote
Advisor's Email Address: gfoote2@illinois.edu

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

Contact Name: Paul Foote
Unit/Department: Facilities & Services
Email Address: gfoote2@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?

Eco-Olympics is a 3-week energy conservation competition between campus residence halls. Our mission is to engage a greater percentage of the student population in establishing energy-conscious habits, by developing a sense of community in addition to offering incentives. We believe in the power of individual efforts. Our concrete goals include: 1) Outreach- get at least 500 students to demonstrate commitment via completion of a survey. 2) Energy reduction- double our reduction from last year as well as increase participation by one third every year of the competition. At the conclusion, we will offer a participation award to the hall with the most participants (a sustainable package prize) and an energy reduction award to the hall with the biggest energy reduction (celebration dinner).

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.

The project will be taking place in the residence halls incorporated within University Housing. We spoke to Housing, and we are permitted to proceed with our project just as any other registered student organization would.

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.

The University of Illinois Facilities and Services, along with the Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment are affiliated with this project. The students will also have a stake in the project (refer to our website <https://ecoolympics.wixsite.com/eco-olympics/history>).

How will this project involve and/or benefit students?

This includes both direct and indirect impact.

The students can help their residence hall reduce energy by turning off lights when they leave their rooms, taking the stairs instead of the elevator, washing their clothes with cold instead of warm or hot water, and unplugging their electronics, among other actions. It is our hope that the three-week period which the competition runs for will be sufficient time to form lifelong habits. Additionally, we provide opportunities for students to be a part of leadership teams within their residence halls, which create events that promote the competition. Students also have the opportunity to apply to be part of the team of directors the following year, which recruits other students, promotes the competition, secures funding, manages the metering data,

and plans the awards. Experience in leadership helps prepare students for life after college, while promoting the concept of environmental stewardship.

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

We aim to increase our participation by one third, every year of the competition. This means gradually reaching more students. To do this, we plan to advertise more on social media, CUMTD buses, and University Housing screens. By promoting energy-saving habits, we strive to make every Illini environmentally-aware.

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

The beauty of the Eco Olympics is that the lessons we emphasize go far beyond the three week competition. We instill behavioral changes, driven by the idea that they will produce a lifetime of benefits. By participating in our competition, students see the world in a new way. They become exposed to new ways of doing simple tasks in an energy-saving manner. They carry these little bits of knowledge with them for the rest of their lives. Every student who learns energy-saving behaviors through our competition contributes to a lower consumption of energy on campus, and ultimately, a more sustainable campus in the future.

Our underlying philosophy is that not everyone can do everything, but everyone can do something. Each little action you take adds up to a big difference when everybody does the same. This is our message to the student body.

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

We aim to improve the communities we serve. Our competition is accessible to all, and our mission is doable for all. We want to show the world that, no matter your circumstances, you can be a part of the sustainability cause by doing a few simple things every day.

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.

The competition will take place from March 24 to April 13, 2020. Results, including announcement of the hall with the biggest energy reduction and the hall with the most number of participants, will be published by April 20, 2019. The award night will take place on April 30, 2020. The final semester report will be submitted to the SSC by May 29, 2020.

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.

We want to both increase the visibility of and establish the validity of this competition by providing substantial incentives. Participants in the hall that reduces its energy consumption by the largest percentage will be provided with a catering event (~\$10/ person). Though we are familiar with the funding criteria, continuing the tradition of bringing together students to celebrate sustainable efforts builds comradery and community. Students in the hall that has the most participants will each receive a "Sustainable Prize Package", which includes a biodegradable, 100% cotton backpack (~\$19.99), an aluminum water bottle (~\$2.93), and a notebook made from recycled paper (~\$2.69). We estimate that there will be about 60-70 participants from each of the winning halls, and thus we ask for 100 of each item. This brings the total cost to \$1999 (backpacks) + \$338 (water bottles) + \$323 (notebooks) + \$1000 = \$3660.00. Note that the taxes and shipping have already been included.

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

We will not consider SSC as an ongoing source of funding; although we will continue this project next year, we plan to use the energy reduction generated from the competition this year as a basis for appealing Housing's decision to retract their support. Additionally, we will research alternative funding for the upcoming year; we are now seeking support from the SSC because University Housing has not reinstated their support.

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.

Eco Olympics is in the process of securing funding from an ISEE (Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment) grant. We are also in talks with University Housing about what they are willing to contribute, and if they will once again reinstate their former level of support.

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

Yes, Eco Olympics applied to SSC last year for the competition.

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

In past years, we have relied mainly on University Housing to publicize our project- posters were pinned on bulletin boards within residence halls, and Eco-Olympics updates were sent through the Housing newsletters. This year, we have a plan that we feel will be more successful and reach more students, primarily through social media. We have already been contacting RSOs, such as American Chemical Society, to give brief presentations about what the competition is and where students can register. Last year, we also went to large service greek life meetings, including Alpha Omega Phi. This year we have plans to reach more service organizations and spread the message. We have been and will be contacting professors who teach large lectures (primarily consisting of first-year students) to put up a slide about our competition with the sign-up link at the start of class. By February 11th, we will be contacting various campus departments to ask permission to have a graphic about our competition used as the screensaver or desktop background, as well as asking if we can be included in their newsletters.