



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: Foreign Languages Building Garden Renovation

Total Amount Requested from SSC: \$20,000

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

Applicant Name: Joey Kreiling

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

From the Ground Up and Bee Campus at UIUC

Email Address: jwk5@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.): From the Ground Up and Bee Campus at UIUC

Project Team Members

Name	Department	Email
Blake Cedergren	Bee Campus at UIUC	blakerc2@illinois.edu
Taylor Hunter	Bee Campus at UIUC	taylorh2@illinois.edu
Lauren Brunk	From the Ground Up	lbrunk2@illinois.edu
Matt Ho	From the Ground UP	matthewho343@gmail.com

Student-Led Projects (Mandatory):

Name of Faculty or Staff Project Advisor: Brent Lewis

Advisor's Email Address: bcl@illinois.edu

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

Contact Name: Brent Lewis

Unit/Department: Campus Landscape Architecture / Facilities & Services

Email Address: bcl@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:

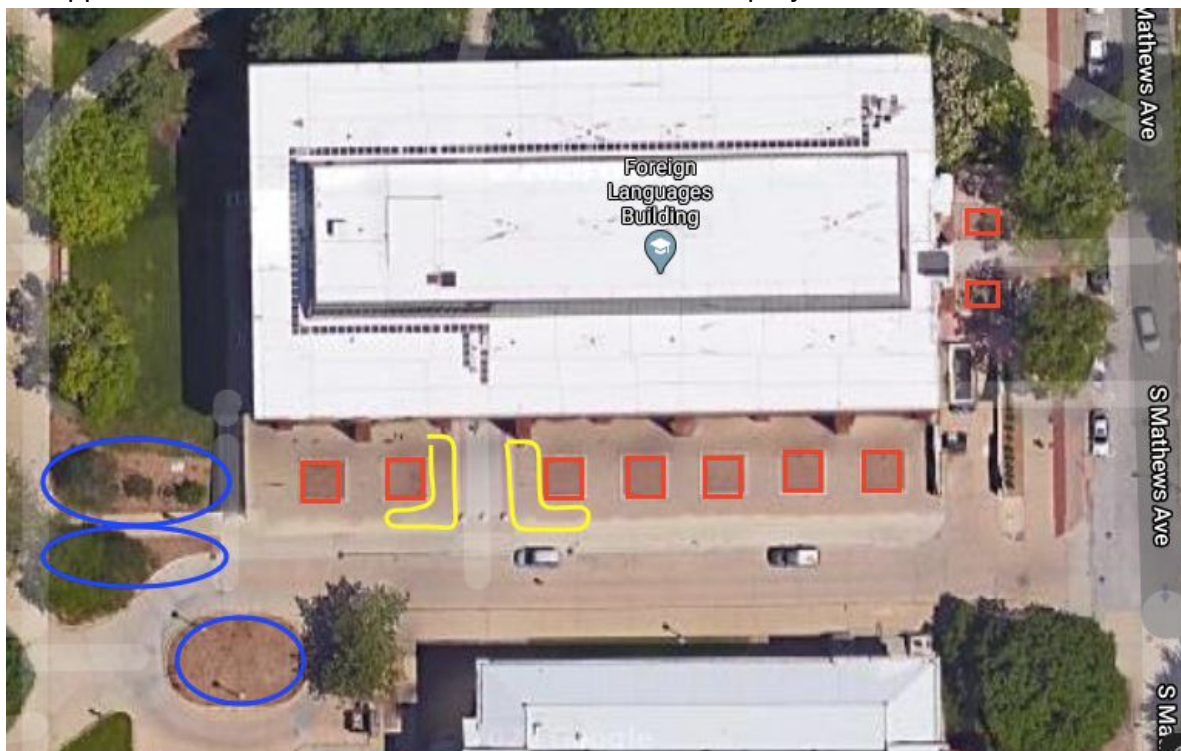
You may copy and paste your Step 1 application answer if nothing has changed.

The students of Bee Campus USA at UIUC and From the Ground Up believe that a perfect site for a highly visible pollinator garden is the area surrounding the Foreign Languages Building (FLB). The goal of this project is to turn the exterior “rock garden” at FLB into a series of native plant gardens and pollinator way stations that can be enjoyed by people and insects alike. Specifically, this renovation will encompass, first (in red on the photo below), the nine raised beds along the southern and eastern sides of the building, second (in blue), the center of the nearby roundabout and the mulched garden area between the basement staircase and the sidewalk next to Foellinger, and, third (in yellow), the rock garden space that immediately flanks either side of the southern entrance walk into the FLB. Once the planter beds are planted and growing, we will turn our attention to designing the second and third phases of the project, in hopes of turning all of this space into accessible, educational, and beautiful native plantings. The top priority outcomes of this project are to support our local and migratory pollinator communities and provide educational resources for campus and community courses and organizations.

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.

This project will take place on the Southern and Eastern sides of the Foreign Languages Building. Specifically we will be working in the nine raised beds (two on the East side of the building and five on the South side), three underutilized and currently mulched garden spaces to the SouthWest of the building, and some of the rock garden space that borders the entrance walk on the South side of the building. We have received site approval from Brent Lewis to move forward with this project.



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.

There are numerous stakeholders other than those who are directly participating on the project team. Considering this is a natural landscape on campus, the Facilities and Services (F&S) ground staff will likely be involved in both the development and future maintenance of the garden. We hope that the garden will become a learning space for the F&S ground crew members to learn about the care and maintenance involved with native Illinois plants. Although we as an RSO plan on maintaining this project for the foreseeable future, it would certainly be helpful for the F&S staff to be aware of the maintenance of the project. Similarly, there are faculty and staff who work in the Foreign Languages Building who will be in very close proximity to the project. We hope to consider their thoughts on the restoration project by accepting their feedback. It's important to us that the people who most prominently view the area are happy with it. It's our intention to benefit them greatly by providing a beautiful garden.

There are also many student stakeholders. The members of the Bee Campus and From the Ground Up organizations on campus, other than the project team, will hopefully be able to use this project as an inspiration for future beneficial projects. Gaining a fluency in planting and upkeep of native gardens is one of the main objectives of the two groups, so this is an important example for members, present and future. It's quite possible that future members will give tours of the garden and teach others of its benefits.

The garden also provides restoration-oriented classes and organizations a location to meet and study. These groups, along with the general student body, will be able to use the space as a gathering place. We also imagine that the educational purposes of the garden reach the local community and other campus visitors who happen to stop by. We intend that all of these visitors to the garden will learn of the benefit that the native garden will provide to the ecosystem itself. The local environment, after all, may be the most important stakeholder; our planned restoration has the well being of the ecosystem most prominently in mind.

How will this project involve and/or benefit students?

This includes both direct and indirect impact.

This project will directly involve students as students from clubs From the Ground Up and Bee Campus will be responsible for planning and executing this project in its entirety. Students will determine which native species will be planted, researching the impacts these plants have on pollinators and other native insect populations, creating educational signage that accurately reflects what the plants are and how they impact the environment, and be in charge of the physical labor of restoring some of the growing medium and planting and maintaining the native species. The designs and budgeting will also be student-led, which gives valuable experience in planning and executing sustainable efforts that can be used in future projects and jobs, small or large scale. Student volunteers, both involved in these clubs or other sustainable focused clubs willing to help, will ensure this project is successful and achieves its environmental and outreach goals.

Furthermore, the Foreign Language Building garden is an extremely high traffic area due to its centralized location, allowing students of all ages and majors to enjoy the gardens between classes or while passing by. Whether these students are knowledgeable about sustainability or not, they will be exposed to education about the native species and their impacts through the implemented signs, hopefully resulting in an increased awareness about the environment in the student body overall. Beyond this, access to nature has benefits on mental and emotional health, providing a peaceful and safe space. Being in nature is proven to reduce fear, anger, and stress, which are emotions a lot of college students experience that can have long-lasting effects on their physical and mental well being. Having this readily accessible resource will therefore benefit students emotionally and physically.

This garden can also be utilized by environmental and sustainability classes as it will possess native Illinois plant species. It will be open for class visits and other such education uses, supplying professors another resource to provide their students with hands-on experiences.

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

Awareness and publicity for this project will be broadcasted through the established online mediums of the RSOs From the Ground Up (FTGU) and Bee Campus. On the FTGU website, a detailed description of the project will be found. Progress of the project will also be reported to the blog section on the FTGU website. Additionally, the FTGU's Instagram and Facebook page will circulate information concerning the project like highlights and progress updates. We will also reach out to iSEE to assist us in distributing posts about the project. We are planning to promote information about the project through the iCAP Portal as well.

In addition to the plentiful online mediums, this project will be advertised offline as well. This project can be publicized through canvassing on the Quad where members of FTGU and Bee Campus will distribute flyers to inform the student body. Information concerning the project will be posted on a bulletin board inside the FLB as well, and updates on the project will spread through word of mouth at each RSO's meetings.

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. Our club was awarded funding in the Fall of 2019 for the Restoration of the Low Mow Area at Orchard Downs Housing Facility. This project's goals included engaging students and the community about restoration practices in addition to establishing at least 25 species to a plot that currently has low biodiversity and functionality.

We recently applied for a microgrant to fund the purchase of bee-house making materials. This was meant to be an event with and for campus and community members, families and children to educate them about bee habitat. In this event, attendees would construct and take home "bee houses" for their own garden.

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.

We do not anticipate needing ongoing funding. Once the project is implemented, the native Illinois plants will be able to sustain themselves with the rainwater and the nutrients of the soil.

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.

There are no other sources of funding that we have applied to or obtained. We anticipate that SSC will be the sole funding source for this project. We have considered the possibility of applying to SORF and/or F&S for maintenance funding, but we have no reason to do so at this point.

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 will improve environmental sustainability on campus in a number of ways. We will enhance local biodiversity with the native flowers and grasses that are planted during this project, and the presence of these plants will in turn support a diverse collection of insects, birds, and other animals. It is especially important nowadays to support local insect, pollinator, and bird populations as they have all seen precipitous declines in population in recent years. Additionally, the plants in this garden will absorb rainwater and carbon from the atmosphere, which helps with flooding issues as well as carbon sequestration. The Illinois Climate Action Plan emphasizes implementation and maintenance of native plant gardens — as well as green infrastructure more generally — as direct objectives or a means to reach other objectives. Carbon sequestration and integration of sustainability in campus planning are other iCAP goals that this project focuses on. Furthermore, this garden will help students and community members mentally and emotionally by virtue of being another (native) green space on campus for people to take advantage of and enjoy.

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 project will be monitored through frequent visits by the student organization, From the Ground Up (FTGU). The purpose of these visits will be to remove weeds, litter, and report on the gardens condition and health. The outcome of these visits will be posted on the FTGU/Bee Campus website and blogs for others to view.

Our short-term impacts include immediate improvement in local biodiversity, such as pollinators, insects, and flora. The renovation of the gardens will remove litter and create a cleaner space. Our long-term impacts include increase in pollinator populations and increased education and awareness about sustainable gardens. The gardens will also perform decomposition as plants grow and die between seasonal changes.

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

The first outreach goal includes spreading the word about our mission and goals to like-minded students interested in sustainability efforts. This includes telling people via environmentally oriented club meetings, listservs for clubs and majors, newsletters from environmental groups on campus, and iSEE communication. The outreach goals also plan on extending beyond students on campus to those in the community. This includes going to the Urbana farmers market and having a booth to talk about the benefits of native plant gardening and how community members can adapt this to their gardens. The education outreach team from From the Ground Up will also utilize this project to reach children of many ages, ranging from grade school to highschool. Furthermore, From the Ground Up can use this project as a means of applying the sustainable practices they teach in workshops and seminars. For example, one workshop planned to take place this spring would demonstrate how to make and maintain beehomes, addressing the goal of this project to create beehomes for the garden. By using the same model they teach, From the Ground Up can showcase the success and application of their projects to those involved.

Our main outreach goal is education through signage posted around the garden. This signage will provide information about the plants within the garden and their impacts on the environment. Specifically, project leaders intend on including the name of the plant, the scientific name, how this plant benefits the

ecosystem overall (i.e. if it prevents erosion, provides effective carbon sequestration) and how it benefits other organisms within the ecosystem (i.e. pollinators, insects, birds, mammals), and other fun facts about them. An example of this kind of sign is included here below.



This project will inspire change at UIUC in many ways. First, it will inspire other people and groups, whether with a sustainability focus or not, to implement and maintain pollinator gardens in the community. It will inspire people to care about native landscaping and pollinators on campus and in the community. This can be seen through more pollinator gardens in both settings and more yards with native plants. Furthermore, it will hopefully inspire the university to landscape with more native grasses and flowers if they see the success and impact of this project.

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

This project will combat environmental injustice, as it will provide a free, readily accessible natural space for people of all socioeconomic levels and backgrounds. Every student on campus will have the capability to enjoy the garden equally, and it will provide many students with their first chance to experience the true natural environment of Illinois before human development.

This project will also combat shifting baseline syndrome, which is when individuals believe the way in which the environment exists in the present is how it has existed forever. This can be an injustice as individuals from families with more wealth have more access to varying levels of natural environments and are better educated about the environment. By presenting students who have very little experience or knowledge about the environment with the way in which a healthy ecosystem should look and function, the project may educate the student body with an example of what sustainability looks like and how it benefits everyone.