# *Thank you for your commitment to green initiatives at the University of Illinois. One of the ongoing requirements listed in the terms of the funding agreement for your project is the submission of semesterly reports with key information about your project. In addition to this form, please provide additional financial documentation and/or progress photos if available.*

# *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*](mailto:sustainability-committee@illinois.edu)*.*

**Project Name:** Improved recycling at CEE

**Date of Report Submission:** Spring 2020

**Project Purpose:**

The aim of the project is to increase the scope of recycling capabilities and students' awareness of importance of recycling in Newmark Civil Engineering Laboratory. Currently, recycling in Newmark is limited to paper, bottles and cans. We need some help in changing it and, hopefully, initiating changes in other UIUC buildings.

We aim at building additional facilities to recycle materials that are currently not accepted by the University Waste Management such as plastic bags, tin and steel cans, batteries, glass, etc. These materials will be collected in bins provided by us and then taken to local recycling centers. Understanding the importance of collecting the food leftovers (compost) separately, we will work with the facility management at Newmark to construct special bins for compost and lately bring them to department of agriculture facilities and Sustainable Student Farm.

An additional component of the project is increasing environmental awareness and importance of recycling and reusing among UIUC students, faculty, and staff. Colorful posters will be placed near the recycling bins with tips on how to recycle on campus and at home and also relevant statistics on the effect of recycling and information about the campus Climate action plan because many students are unaware of it.

**Detailed Accounting of Expenditures to Date:**

No expenditures to report. Student who worked on the project was supported from CEE departmental funds.

**Project Progress to Date:**

1. We have brought containers for glass, metal, and batteries to the CEE building. They are located near the machine shop and CEE stuff volunteers to bring the collected materials to the designated recycling locations every two-three months.
2. We have designed posters to be put in the dorms, on the screens in student cafeteria, and in CEE department about proper recycling techniques and importance of recycling. This poster will start appearing in the designated places from January 2021.
3. We have created two videos and uploaded them to “Geomechanics and Sustainability” channel on YouTube. One is designated to recycling at UIUC (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LjBe5kbupEs>), another one – to the benefits of composting (<https://youtu.be/3ybjQfk7Pog>). More videos will be created as the student projects during Spring 2021 semester.
4. We started the work on developing proper compost containers where the weight of the food waste diverted from landfills will be measured. This work is in progress.

**Student Involvement and Outreach to Date:**

An undergraduate student (Bethany Lockhart) worked on the project from January till March 2020. Unfortunately, she had to leave for her home country right before the COVID19 lockdown. Two undergraduate students will be hired to continue working on the project during Fall 2020. One will be working on promoting the recycling activities at CEE by creating posters and videos. Another one will be fully dedicated to the making of the composting bins (in collaboration with CEE facilities manager). We plan on putting our videos and posters to the screens in student dorms and cafeteria to reach out to the student audience on campus about the recycling techniques.

**Marketing and Promotion Efforts to Date:**

There are no marketing or promotion efforts to report.

**Additional Comments:**

We would appreciate the approval of a one-year extension for the project. It was no one to help with the project for 5 months (March-July 2020) and it was almost no recycling to collect during this time.