



STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Semesterly Report

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.

Project Name: Project For Less

Date of Report Submission: 5/15/2023

Project Purpose:

Our goal is to reduce food waste and food insecurity both on campus and in the greater Champaign-Urbana area. We work alongside University Dining to help ensure that pre-consumer food waste is redistributed to local individuals in need. Further, we spread awareness of local resources available for food-insecure individuals.

Detailed Accounting of Expenditures to Date:

No expenditures to date. Purchasing cold carts has been delayed because of slow communication with University Dining, and expansion restrictions.

Project Progress to Date:

This semester, Project 4 Less has made progress in maintaining and improving our relationship with University Dining and working on expanding to more packaging nights a week. In fact, we had a few weeks where we packaged food two nights a week instead of just one. However, it turned out that there was simply not enough pre-consumer food to keep this up, so we went back to one night a week of packaging.

It is still our goal to expand to more nights and more dining halls to increase the amount of food we recover, but this expansion is dependent on University Dining. Further, we just recently found out that University Dining has financial constraints that may prevent us from expanding through them. Thus, we are now considering options to expand through local restaurants and hope that this avenue will be more promising going forward.

P4L maintains a great relationship with Wesley Food Pantry, but we are no longer giving

food to UniPlace due to staffing issues at UniPlace. We hope to get in contact with them soon and hope to be able to donate to them in the future. In the meantime, Wesley has been kind enough to take the food that would have normally gone to UniPlace. Further, we also have paperwork set up to donate to Salvation Army. We hope to begin to donate to them next school year.

Additionally, we have been working to improve our outreach to interested students by continuing to use the MailChimp mailing list to send out meeting reminders and updates.

Student Involvement and Outreach to Date:

This semester we encouraged engagement in our bi-weekly meetings with students without requiring a large time commitment. Students involved in our bi-weekly meetings take upon the responsibility of media content creation, partnership communication, and planning. Any student interested in getting more involved with leadership and other roles is provided with the opportunity to do so. Additionally, we hold open food-packaging volunteer sessions for students, and members of Project 4 Less act as supervisors at these sessions.

Further, this semester we were invited to present to a local elementary school to educate students on food waste. We presented to three different grade levels, and prepared a Kahoot for the students. This went extremely well as the students were very engaged. In the future, we hope to participate in another education project.

This semester we also had our first ever fundraiser. The money we raised was donated to Wesley Food Pantry, to aid them in reducing food insecurity. We raised \$210 for Wesley by selling trail mix, a variety of baked goods, and beeswax wraps. The fundraiser also promoted our club to everyone who bought from us.

We have continued to increase interaction with other organizations, such as Food Justice Alliance (FJA) and the Zero Waste iCAP Team. As a club, we also attended the Green Globes on 4/20, where we were able to interact and celebrate other green organizations. Further, we participated in Green Quad Day on 4/21.

Through these events, we have increased our membership so Project 4 Less can continue and grow its work in the future.

Marketing and Promotion Efforts to Date:

We have continued to grow our social media accounts, including promotional information, project updates, member spotlights, and informational content on Instagram and Facebook. We previously had a joint website with Food Justice Alliance, but that website is currently down. We are in the process of starting this website back up to further spread the message of our club.

In addition, we have been sending out emails to people who are involved or potentially want to be in the future via our MailChimp email list.

Additional Comments:

We are so grateful for the funding you have provided us and we are looking forward to using it to expand our food recovery efforts next semester. Thank you so much again.