

## View results

Respondent

23

Paul Davidson

10:57

Time to complete

## Project Questionnaire

Please provide proper and accurate information.

1. Is your project complete? \*

 Yes No

2. Name of project \*

Production of Safe Leafy Greens via Hydroponics by Recycling of Wastewater Nutrients

3. Date project received financial award letter \*

December 2020

4. Date of project completion \*

August 2024

5. Date of final report submission \*

August 2024

6. Please describe marketing and promotion efforts for the duration of the project. \*

This project was initially awarded in December of 2020. Due to setbacks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, activities were delayed for a period of time. We are finalizing the project this month. More details about project outcomes will be described in the following questions/sections. This project has received some media attention recently. Work completed by undergraduate students (this SSC project provided some funds to help with acquiring the hydroponic systems) was published and then picked up by various media outlets.

7. Please describe how your project faced challenges or obstacles during the duration of development. \*

The primary challenge was the delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Activities stopped during the pandemic and it took more time than expected to get things back up and running to the point where sufficient progress could be made. We also then dealt with the common issue of turnover of students due to the extended duration of the project. Fortunately, one of the undergraduate students who was actively engaged in this project has since joined the Ph.D. program at UIUC and been instrumental in maintaining the ongoing activities.

8. Please describe in detail how your project has integrated student involvement, community outreach, and campus sustainability. \*

Our project has involved numerous students throughout the project. Several undergraduate students have worked on this project and been compensated through the process of designing and building the hydroponics systems. A few of the students have even conducted a related undergraduate research project using the equipment that was purchased by this SSC grant. Student groups (of high school students, college students, and the community at-large) frequently tour our AESB building and view the hydroponics systems as part of that tour. This gives us an opportunity to bring awareness to this technology and educate the broader community about the sustainability of treating wastewater and using this treated wastewater to grow crops in a hydroponic system. This topic directly relates to sustainability and the circular bioeconomy.

9. If applicable, please explain how the project engaged individuals from underrepresented groups and/or promote diversity, equity, and inclusion. \*

The students who have been directly engaged in the project activities have included students from diverse (educational, gender, and racial) backgrounds. Engaging with others within this group of diverse individuals was always highly encouraged. By the nature of the project topic, it was possible to engage people from both urban and rural backgrounds, since it deals with agriculture in both urban and rural areas (hydroponics can ultimately be applied anywhere).

## Project Documentation


10. Please upload the final financial documentation for your project

<https://studentengagement.illinois.edu/student-sustainability/ssc/docs/SSC-Supplemental-Budget-Timeline.xlsx>

\*

 [Step-2-Supplemental-Budget-and-Timeline\\_Hydro\\_Paul Davidson.xlsx](#)

11. Please upload additional project photography (not submitted in semesterly report) \*

 [SSC media blank doc\\_Paul Davidson.docx](#)