**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.

**Thank you for supporting environmental stewardship at UIUC!**

*Please submit this completed application and any relevant supporting documentation by April 1st 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.*

**Project Name:**  Equipping Campus with the Tools for Sustainability

**Total Amount Requested from SSC:** $14,500

**Primary Project Leader Name & Email:**  Micah Kenfield, kenfield@illinois.edu

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| **Project Abstract:** In less than 100 words, briefly describe your project.  |
| **iSEE is requesting SSC support to digitize key portions of ENVS 301: Tools for Sustainability and adapt that content into a free, interactive online training in sustainability available to the entire UIUC campus population. This 1-3 hour-long online training would equip students with a comprehensive overview of what sustainability is, an understanding of their own environmental footprint, and the tools they need to live a greener lifestyle. While this course would not initially be mandatory for all students, it provides the foundation for an eventual campus-wide training built directly into all students’ experiences at Illinois.** |

Which topic(s) does your project mainly address?

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|  | Education | Energy | Food & Waste | Land & Water | Transportation |
| Project Category | X |  |  |  |  |

**Project Team Member List** (student projects must include their faculty/staff advisor’s information)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name | RSO/Department | Email Address |
| Micah Kenfield | iSEE | kenfield@illinois.edu |
| Prof. Gillen Wood | iSEE | gdwood@illinois.edu |
| Prof. Madhu Khanna | iSEE | Khanna1@illinois.edu |
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| Questions | Yes | No |
| Is this a student-led project? |  | X |
| If applicable, have you received approval from Facilities & Services and/or site manager? | n/a |  |
| Do you have a plan for ongoing funding beyond SSC? (SSC cannot guarantee ongoing financial support) | X |  |
| Beyond SSC, do you have sources contributing funding or support (ex. staff time, external grants, etc.) to this project? | X |  |
| Have you applied for SSC funding previously? | X |  |

**Project Abstract:** List all budget items for which funding is being requested.

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| Item | Cost |
| Online Curriculum Digitization and Preparation (via CITL on campus) | $10,000 |
| Online Hosting Costs (to make materials available to campus at large + public) | $2,000 |
| Additional supplies, equipment, and materials (teaching supplements, limited multimedia equipment rental/purchase, et cetera) | $2,500 |
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| **Project Timeline** |
| SSC funding agreements remain active for two years. Please list your project’s timeline and/or milestones. Bullet points welcome. |
| * **May 2019:** Secure SSC Funding
* **Summer 2019:** Begin consultation process with Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning to identify structure, functionality, and action items
* **Fall 2019:** Begin dual-track course development process
	+ **ENVS 301:** Develop syllabus for online content and generate plan and timeline for digitizing course
	+ **Student Training Module:** Work with Student Affairs, Enrollment Services, and the Dean of Students to begin to identify the ideal format for a student training from their perspective
* **Spring 2020**
	+ **ENVS 301:** Digitize lectures from in-person section of class on an ongoing basis to reduce project overhead and faculty time
	+ **Student Training Module:** Using key lecture content from ENVS 301, finish development of course and, by semester’s end, work with students to test and evaluate the program.
* **Fall 2020**
	+ **ENVS 301:** Launch online/blended course available for formal credit for students at UIUC
	+ **Student Training Module:** Launch MOOC and make it available to all students as a smaller, 1-3 hour experience
* **Beyond Fall 2020**
	+ Work with partners and departments across campus to expand the reach of the program and potentially make it a required (or strongly encouraged) activity for students in their areas
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| **Project Description** |
| In 400 words or less, describe your project. What does your project hope to accomplish? What are your project’s deliverables? Bullet points welcome. |
| For years, students at the University of Illinois have clamored for a comprehensive online training for sustainability – similar to existing mandatory FYCARE training required for all students. While there have been a number of efforts to achieve this in the past, they have all suffered from a lack of resources or continuous institutional support.Rather than put forth another effort to build a whole new course from the ground up, iSEE is requesting that SSC fund efforts to digitize key portions of the core course in the SEE Fellows Program (ENVS301) and build those into a standalone 1 to 3 hour-long open online course, hosted through Coursera at Illinois or a similar system. This course would be available free of charge to all UIUC-affiliated students from the very beginning. While we cannot guarantee that the course will eventually become mandatory for all students, by making the opportunity available and heavily promoting it, we can address a key area of student demand. We can also begin to work from a bottom-up approach of asking individual departments and programs to require their smaller student populations to take the course, building a transitional model with a coalition that can eventually expand to the full campus.Creating online courses is a very intensive undertaking, and will require buy-in not just from iSEE and the Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning (CITL), but also external departments and colleges involved in the administration of the course. The full cost to digitize a course like ENVS 301 could rise as high as $45,000. Additionally, the sort of learning modules and interactive components that work for a 14-week course may not be as effective for a shorter, self-guided online course. Support from SSC will guarantee that iSEE is able to create the separate Introduction to Sustainability module and make it available free of charge to all UIUC students as well as faculty, staff, and campus affiliates. |

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| **Environmental Impact** |
| In 400 words or less, how does your project jumpstart environmental stewardship at UIUC? Does this project conserve energy or water? Reduce waste? Address environmental/social injustice? Bullet points welcome. |
| Offering a free and robust online student training in sustainability will impact environmental stewardship at UIUC in a number of valuable ways:* All students will finish the course with a better sense of their own environmental footprint, how their behavior impacts their footprint, and easy changes they can make in their lifestyle to live sustainability.
* All students will finish the course with a better understanding of campus sustainability at UIUC, ranging from what can and can’t be recycled on campus to how they can contribute to the Illinois Climate Action Plan
* Finally, all students will finish the course with a comprehensive definition of all aspects of sustainability – economic, environmental, and social.

While direct impact is at present hard to measure, the course will feature surveys on students’ environmental behaviors and attitudes, and could include an opt-in follow up survey sent several months after course conclusion to determine how much their behaviors changed. |

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| **Student Impact** |
| In 400 words or less, how will this project benefit students? How will students be involved with this project? What educational components are in your project? Bullet points welcome. |
| Students will be the primary recipients of all benefits from this project:* A self-guided training in sustainability open to everyone will allow students with a keen interest in sustainability to learn more about the program and their opportunities without committing to a 14-week class.
* All students who participate will also be connected to specific sustainability resources for students at UIUC – including how to get involved in environmental student organizations and places they can volunteer to help turn concepts into action.
* An expanded online or hybrid version of ENVS 301 will allow more students to enroll in the SEE Fellows Program and allow more students interested in sustainability but unable to take on the full minor to still take the course.
* Finally, if this training is successful on its own, it has the potential to become a core part of the student experience for every student
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| **Outreach Efforts** |
| In 200 words or less, what is your outreach strategy? How will you reach your targeted audience? Bullet points welcome. |
| We have a number of avenues for outreach for this program:* We will heavily promote the course through existing channels as well as at major traditions like Quad Day
* We will partner with student organizations like those in SSLC to make sure students find out about the course from their peers
* We will offer incentives for participants in the Certified Green Office, Lab, Greek Chapter, and RSO programs to have their members/coworkers take the course
* We will work with academic departments and programs to promote the course to their students – and potentially even make it a requirement for their programs.

Information about how the program was funded by the Student Sustainability Committee will be included in the introduction to the course so all participants receive information about SSC as well. |