**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. All SSC funding is 100% from student green fees, so the projects funded by the students must benefit them.

**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 requests for food and prizes but will consider proposals on a case by case basis.
5. SSC can fund repairs and improvements to existing building systems as long as it works toward the goal of improving campus sustainability.
6. SSC can provide departments with loans for projects with a distinct payback. 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.

**Instructions**

*Submit this completed application and one map, graphic, or picture to* [*Sustainability-Committee@Illinois.edu*](mailto:Sustainability-Committee@Illinois.edu)*. Please adhere to the session word counts. The committee holds the right to decline applications over the designated word counts. If you have any questions about the application process, please contact the Student Sustainability Committee Coordinator at* [*sustainability-committee@illinois.edu.*](mailto:sustainability-committee@illinois.edu.)

**Project Name:**  Campus Compost Tumblers

**Total Amount Requested from SSC:** $2050

**Primary Project Leader Name & Email:**  Emily Dickett, [dickett3@illinois.edu](mailto:dickett3@illinois.edu)

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| **Project Abstract:** In less than 100 words, briefly describe your project. |
| iSEE focuses on environmental outreach and leads many campus sustainability efforts. There is high demand for additional public-facing composting/food-waste reduction drop-off opportunities, beyond what we can currently provide. We aim to add five compost tumblers to highly-visible campus locations to collect food waste, coffee grounds, shredded paper, etc., ultimately creating nutrient-rich compost used to fertilize the pollinator garden on the south side of the NSRC building with opportunities for further expansion. This project provides an educational opportunity intended to engage students, staff, and faculty and embed sustainable waste-reduction practices into daily life. |

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

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

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| Name | RSO/Department | Email Address |
| Emily Dickett | iSEE Intern | [Dickett3@illinois.edu](mailto:Dickett3@illinois.edu) |
| Sinead Soltis | F&S Intern | [ssolti2@illinois.edu](mailto:ssolti2@illinois.edu) |
| Meredith Moore | iSEE | [Mkm0078@illinois.edu](mailto:Mkm0078@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? | X\*\* |  |
| 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\*\* |

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| *\*\* F&S Interim Zero Waste Coordinator, Shantanu Pai, has expressed willingness to collaborate on compost expansion across campus and to help determine the most appropriate locations for additional tumblers*  *\*\*Meredith Moore received SSC funding for composting/pollinator garden construction*    **Project Timeline** |
| SSC funding agreements remain active for two years. Please list your project’s timeline and/or milestones. |
| **Summer 2021** – Conduct research (with F&S) to determine appropriate placement of five additional tumblers, create additional signage and order tumbler and indoor collection bins  **Fall 2021 –** Outreach availability of tumblers, conduct educational campaign, begin collection, with responsibilities of tumbler and compost maintenance assigned to Compost Working Team and other appropriate individuals and groups  **Ongoing –** Engage with iSEE interns, waste reduction RSOs, and other individuals who have previously reached out to iSEE with composting interest to maintain tumblers, education, and effective signage; conduct periodic education/engagement campaigns using campus digital signage and other communication means |

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| **Project Description** |
| In 250 words or less, describe your project. What does your project hope to accomplish? What are your project’s deliverables? Bullet points welcome. |
| Food/compostable waste makes up an estimated 30% of all waste generated on our campus. This project would significantly reduce this category from our waste stream while providing an engagement and educational opportunity on waste and sustainability best practices. Adding additional compost tumblers will allow more accurate data and inventory to better understand how much waste we are diverting from the landfill. This program provides environmental stewardship, education, and hands-on learning opportunities, which will be an advertised example of sustainability best practices. These efforts will encourage dorms, offices, and individuals to participate in order to better manage day-to-day waste and make alternative purchasing decisions (e.g., switching from K-Cups to using coffee pots). iSEE interns and environmental RSOs (Compost Working Team) will help maintain the tumblers, keep track of the metrics, and document the steps of this program to ensure easy replication and expansion. Adding composting opportunities ensures that individuals become more conscious of their overall waste and encourage long-term sustainable behavior. If every student on our campus becomes familiar with composting, they can then replicate similar programs in their future workplaces and homes. The existing tumbler outside of the National Soybean Research Center has experienced great success in a short period of time, with tremendous engagement from students and other campus community members. We prioritize education and engagement and as a result, have experienced little to no contamination. There is an established Compost Working Team periodically checking the tumbler to monitor contamination and assess the primary materials for tracking/research purposes. |

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| **Environmental Impact** |
| In 200 words or less, how does your project increase environmental stewardship at UIUC? If applicable, what is the carbon, water, waste, and/or energy savings? Does your project relate to the iCAP? Bullet points welcome. |
| A composting tumbler turns a waste product into a resource. Composting fulfills many iCAP 2020 objectives, including: #5.4: Promote food scraps reduction on campus through a behavior change campaign, and tracking and recovery of surplus food for donation, with at least five new areas tracking and reporting their food waste by FY22. The existing compost tumbler, as a pilot project, has received such positive feedback, that demand for additional composting opportunities is greater than what we can currently provide. As the first public-facing compost drop-off opportunity on campus, adding more tumblers in highly-visible and highly-populated areas will help embed waste reduction opportunities into our campuswide systems. Additional compost tumblers will engage students in particular on the necessity of waste consciousness and help promote a culture of sustainability on our campus. |

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| **Student Impact** |
| In 200 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. |
| This project will give students the opportunity to take ownership of their waste, environmental footprint, and overall consciousness of their purchasing choices. Our goal is that compost tumblers become a recognized practice on our campus. Students and RSOs will be highly involved, and key, to the success of this progress by “adopting a tumbler” to properly maintain, track, and help educate the campus on composting and sustainability pest practices. We also aim to develop collaborative partnerships with select courses on campus to empower students to utilize the composting program to conduct research projects.  Students will be instrumental in developing educational and engagement campaigns by providing clear direction on how to participate in campus composting efforts and how to interact with the tumbler. We aim to ensure that every individual on our campus, especially students, have the opportunity to responsibly and sustainably dispose of their food and compostable products because currently, we do not have the capacity of supporting the waste of the 60,000+ individuals on our campus (especially the students living on campus). |