



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: Idea Garden Solar Project

Date of Report Submission: 8/2/2018

Project Purpose:

The primary purpose of this project is to advance Idea Garden's mission and provide an opportunity to "learn to grow" through the use of environmentally responsible practices, like solar-powered electricity generation. This project will involve installing solar panels on the roof of the Idea Garden shed or in an adjacent area at the garden to supply a source of electricity since the shed and garden does currently have power.

Detailed Accounting of Expenditures to Date:

To date, we have spent \$7,818.59. These expenditures were for initial engineering surveys and design work from UofI Facilities and Services.

Project Progress to Date:

To date, we have worked with F&S and the Arboretum Staff to identify existing electrical infrastructure and coordinate our project with others that will occur in the arboretum this fall. F&S has completed the initial engineering surveys of the site and designed our PV system. We are currently waiting to break ground on our project as we work to coordinate several other construction projects at the arboretum. This coordination has worked to lower all of our costs with F&S to benefit all, but may result in some slight delays in the estimate timeline for installation beginning on Sept 1st.

Through the Solar Urbana-Champaign 3.0 group purchasing program, we have a quote from Straight Up Solar for the PV System and they have us on their fall 2018 schedule for installation.

We have identified a vendor for the educational sign and are currently working on the pricing and design work. The Arboretum will also be ordering signs this fall, so we are working together to receive a discounted price on multiple signs from a single vendor. I anticipate our goal of 8/15 for ordering the sign to be a possibility, but may not happen as quickly since we are working to organize a larger order.

Student Involvement and Outreach to Date:

So far, we have not involved students yet as we are still working on construction details with Facilities and Services. We plan to invite interested students to educational events later this fall.

Marketing and Promotion Efforts to Date:

We do plan to do marketing and promotion campus-wide for our educational events, but they are not planned until later in fall.

Additional Comments:

We are pleased with the progress on this project to date. Although we've experienced some minor delays, we feel that coordination with the Arboretum has benefitted our project greatly by reducing costs and fostering our great relationship as neighbors on campus.