# *Thank you for your commitment to green initiatives at the University of Illinois. One of the final steps in completing the terms of the funding agreement for your project is the submission of a Final Report with key information about your project. You will also need to submit a detailed report of expenses (if you don't list it within this document) as well as supporting photos to showcase your project.*

# *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:** BIF Solar Panel Installation

**Date of Report Submission:** 10/15/2020

**Project Purpose:**

As a goal for both the University of Illinois and the Gies College of Business, attracting and attaining exceptional faculty is a top priority. In order to achieve this goal, the College must provide faculty with office space that allows them to maximize their productivity. The fourth floor of BIF has proven to be an excellent location where faculty can focus on their research while also being near their colleagues to collaborate. As part of this project, the College constructed 17 additional offices that offer quality of space, an ideal location, and added security. Gies Business was able to install a PV solar panel system on top of the new structure to enhance the expansion of offices, utilize the new roof space, and preserve sustainability efforts as part of a LEED certified facility.

**Project Summary:**

The ultimate goal for this project was to offset the energy consumption for the newly constructed addition as well as increase the overall percentage of renewable energy supplied to the building. The Student Sustainability Committee agreed to fund $60,000 toward the initial cost of $116,290 funding $48,000 direct construction and equipment costs for the 12.5 kW array and $12,000 for general conditions and contingency. Upon project completion in June 2019, the funding directly supported the following: 1) solar panels and inverters, 2) limited installation costs, and 3) some contingency and general condition expenses.

**Summary of Project Expenditures:**

Please see the attached information from the F&S project manager regarding the PV costs.

**Problems/Challenges Encountered**

For this project, the notice to proceed date was delayed from January 2018 to March 2018 due to legal issues related to the general contractor bidding award. Once those issues were resolved at the state level, the project was able to proceed and construction began on May 21, 2018. The substantial completion was initially scheduled for July 23, 2019, but the project team was successful in completing it for continuous occupancy on June 3, 2019.

**Problems/Challenges Encountered**

During project design, there were extensive discussions related to safety regulations and the installation of a parapet vs. tie-offs. For optimal PV functioning in this location, the roof tie-offs were approved. At the conclusion of the project, there were some issues in getting the metering and monitoring up and running (setup of the IP address as well as owner training), but the system was powered on and in use in June 2019.

**Student Involvement and Outreach to Date:**

Not applicable to date. With the roof top being a designated maintenance space, access to this space is not permitted to ensure safety and liability measures are adhered to for all parties.

**Marketing and Promotion Efforts to Date:**

The Gies Business Marketing and Communications team provided the attached press release, which was released on Earth Day (April 22, 2019). Additionally, WCIA covered the story including an interview with Dr. Mohamed Attalla discussing the solar panels.

<https://www.wcia.com/news/local-news/ui-continues-going-green/>

The press release was also shared for publication in the AASHE newsletter.

**Additional Comments:**

Please see the attached construction pictures.

In addition to the above fields, please provide a detailed accounting of how the funding was spent as well as pictures of the final project in an email to sustainability-committee@illinois.edu. Thank you again for your commitment to sustainability.