



STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Funding Application – Step 2

Please submit this completed application, the supplemental budget spreadsheet, and any relevant supporting documentation by the deadline indicated in your Step 1 notification letter 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 SSC Program Advisor, Micah Kenfield, at kenfield@illinois.edu

General Information

Project Name: iSEE Collaboratory: A Transformative Teaching, Research, and Communication Space for Sustainability

Total Amount Requested from SSC: \$100,000

Project Topic Area(s): Energy Education Food & Waste
 Land Water Transportation

Contact Information

Project Lead

Applicant Name: Prof. Madhu Khanna, Associate Director for Education & Outreach, iSEE
Unit/Department: Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment (iSEE)
Email Address: khanna1@illinois.edu
Phone Number: 217-333-5176

Financial Contact *(Must be Full-time University of Illinois Staff Member)*

Contact Name: Jenny Kokini
Unit/Department: iSEE
Email Address: jkokini@illinois.edu
Phone Number: 217-333-5357
Organization Code: 508000

Facilities Management Contact *(If Applicable)*

Contact Name: Name of Applicant or Project Lead
Email Address: Preferred Email Address

Primary Project Team

Name	Department	Email
Madhu Khanna	iSEE	khanna1@illinois.edu
Evan DeLucia	iSEE	delucia@illinois.edu
Jenny Kokini	iSEE	jkokini@illinois.edu
Tony Mancuso	iSEE	tmancuso@illinois.edu

Project Description

Please provide a brief background of the project, the goals, and the desired outcomes:

Please address all of the above items including concrete examples of the desired outcomes

At the heart of iSEE's mission is training students to become the next generation of sustainability leaders. To help fulfill this mission, iSEE will develop a "collaboratory" — a new classroom, conference, collaboration, and communications space next to our offices in the National Soybean Research Center (NSRC). This new complex will include space for experiential learning, a collaboration incubator, and a communications laboratory.

Two major facets to iSEE's instructional mission include a new undergraduate minor in sustainability and a new undergraduate environmental writing certificate. Together, these activities will involve up to ~500 students annually. To serve these students, as well as to provide space for student sustainability groups and other RSOs, we will develop, for the first time, a central collaboratory designed to facilitate group activities, with state-of-the-art communications capabilities for research, collaboration, and conferencing. By providing advanced teleconferencing capabilities, the collaboratory will also provide access to virtual conferences and webinars for professional development, thus reducing campus carbon emissions derived from travel to offsite conference.

How will the project improve the sustainability of the Illinois campus and how will the project go above and beyond campus standards?

Any relevant opportunities for student involvement in your project

Currently, the southeast corridor of the campus where iSEE is located is isolated from such amenities available in the center of campus. A new collaboratory/media space in the NSRC building will be a cutting-edge facility to benefit not only the students matriculating on this side of the campus but throughout the campus.

The teaching/collaboration space will provide an i-flex classroom setting with dual-camera, high-definition (HD) video. Accompanying the cameras would be multiple large wide-screen HD monitors mounted to display either multiple remote sites or a video/data combination. These monitors would also provide enhanced presentation capabilities even without the need of conferencing system. The system will interface with the new campus Microsoft Lync system allowing for Lync videoconferencing in addition to the standards-based videoconferencing. The media/communications center will be used for the production of multimedia pieces describing new sustainability solutions and technical advances developed by students in iSEE. The media center will be equipped with full visual — still, graphic, and video — and audio communication capabilities, and will provide a focal point for journalism/communications students and faculty to develop new approaches to reporting complex technical solutions, and to disseminate this new knowledge through traditional and social media outlets. Full production capabilities will be built into the communications center, including the latest 5K camera systems featuring quad viewers with enough audio and video to film/interview multiple people at once, plus an area for students to be editing media simultaneously.

Where will the project be located? Will special permissions be required to enact the project on this site? If so, please explain and submit any relevant letters of support with the application.

If the project has a physical site, please include it here. Consider any special considerations that may be required for this location. A consultation between applicant and Facilities and Services can be arranged as needed.

The project/facility will be located on the third-floor west wing of the NSRC building, in what are currently rooms 351, 355, 337, and 339. Renovations and construction will begin as soon as this last portion of funding is released. We have already started meeting with Facilities & Services, i-flex classroom design IT people, and media-production people to address the needs of the collaboratory/media space. (See Attached Blueprint)

Other than the project team, who will have a stake in the project? Please list other individuals, groups, or departments affiliated directly or indirectly by the project. This includes any entity providing funding (immediate, future, ongoing, matching, in-kind, etc.) and any entities that will be benefitting from this project. Please attach letters of commitment or support at the end of the application.

Please list any other involved parties here as well as their role in the project, and attach letters of support as needed.

This open collaboratory/media space will benefit graduate and undergraduate students interested in sustainability, taking related courses, working on research projects, and applying principles to projects that will make campus more sustainable. When not scheduled for formal courses, the collaboratory will be readily available to RSOs and other student groups that will benefit from state-of-the-art communications and conferencing space. The iSEE office will manage scheduling for this space.

Please indicate how this project will involve or impact students. What role will students play in the project?

How will students benefit from this project? This could be direct benefits, indirect benefits, or student involvement opportunities during the implementation of the project.

This space will support iSEE's teaching mission as described above and also will be open to SSC and other student sustainability organizations needing collaboration/meeting space. The "collaboratory" will also provide a focal point for new programs featuring training in environmental and sustainability communications. The capstone projects affiliated with the Sustainability, Energy, and Environment (SEE) Fellows program, which is a minor offered by iSEE, will take place in this new space. Furthermore, iSEE has just announced the Certificate in Environmental Writing (CEW), a joint venture in undergraduate curricular enrichment to be hosted by iSEE and co-sponsored by the School for Earth, Society, and Environment (SESE), and the English Department. CEW courses will be taught in the "collaboratory," a space designed to conduct diverse classroom activities to simulate the editorial office of a real-world magazine. Students will work with the iSEE production staff on the design and production of their article/magazine in the collaboratory/media room area. It will be a space dedicated to student-centered learning and interactions on topics in sustainability.

Financial Information

In addition to the below questions, please submit the supplemental budget spreadsheet available on the Student Sustainability Committee website. Submission of both documents by the submission deadline is required for consideration of your project.

Have you applied for funding from SSC before? If so, for what project?

A brief summary of project name and year of submission.

No, we have not.

If this project is implemented, will there be any ongoing funding required? What is the strategy for supporting the project in order to cover replacement, operation, or renewal costs?

Please note that SSC provides funding on a case by case basis annually and should not be considered as an ongoing source of funding.

If needed, please also address this in the supplemental budget spreadsheet in the relevant section.

The total cost of the project is \$1,000,000. iSEE already raised \$900,000 toward the project through philanthropy and from the office of the Provost (per below breakdown). If we receive the \$100,000 we request from SSC, no additional funding will be needed for the successful completion of the project. Ongoing maintenance and replacement of equipment located in the collaboratory will be covered by iSEE's operating budget.

Please include any other sources of funding that have been obtained or applied for. Please attach any relevant letters of support as needed in a separate document.

Please list any other sources of funding you have secured here, referencing letters of support as needed.

The following funding for the "collaboratory/media" has been provided by:

Caterpillar, Inc.: \$500,000

Office of the Provost: \$100,000

Racheff Funds: \$300,000

Environmental, Economic, and Awareness Impacts

In addition to the below questions, please indicate specific measurable impacts as applicable on the supplemental budget spreadsheet.

Which aspects of sustainability does your project address, and how? Does the project fit within any of the iCAP goals? If so, how does the project go beyond the university status quo standards and policies.

Please address all of the above items including concrete examples of the desired outcomes. Use of teleconferencing equipment in this space, instead of traveling to conferences or meetings, will allow for students and faculty to reduce the campus carbon footprint. The media space, meanwhile, may be used to produce electronic campaigns to further the campus mission to reduce energy and resource use.

How will the environmental impacts of your project be measured in the near and long term? What specific monitoring and evaluation processes will you be using to track outcomes and progress?

Please be as specific as possible. Also complete the related section in the Supplemental Budget Document.

Metrics to be used to assess the impact of this project will be the number of students who will be enrolling to both the Sustainability, Energy, and Environment (SEE) Fellows Program, as well as the Certificate in Environmental Writing (CEW) course.

What is the plan for publicizing the project on campus? In addition to SSC, where will information about this project be reported?

Note any opportunities for cross promotion, and if there are ways for SSC to be involved, please list them here.

The availability of the “collaboratory/media” space will be advertised to the campus, with priority of the facility to be used by iSEE, SSC, SWATeams, RSOs, and other students whose focus is on any topics of sustainability.

What are your specific, measurable outreach goals? How will these be measured?

Please be as specific as possible. .

As per the above, metrics of the facility will be enrollment, how many students are using the facility for their capstone projects and magazine development, as well as, the number of times it is used for virtual conferences and webinars for professional development.

Do you have any additional comments or relevant information to aid in evaluation of this application?

Please provide any additional information here.