*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:** Project Paplet

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

**Project Topic Area(s):** [ ] Energy [x] Education [x] Food & Waste

 [ ] Land [ ] Water [ ] Transportation

# Contact Information

### Project Lead

Applicant Name: Lillian Bei Jia Lau

Unit/Department: Society of Women Engineers

Email Address: lbl2@illinois.edu

Phone Number: 217-305 1612

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

Contact Name: Susan Larson

Unit/Department: Dept. Civil and Environmental Engineering

Email Address: smlarson@illinois.edu

Phone Number: 217-244 3817

Organization Code: 1-901450-389005-142900

### Facilities Management Contact *(If Applicable)*

Contact Name: Name of Applicant or Project Lead

Email Address: Preferred Email Address

**Primary Project Team**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Department** | **Email** |
| Lillian Bei Jia Lau | Society of Women Engineers | lbl2@illinois.edu |
| Kaylin Moy | Society of Women Engineers | kmoy3@illinois.edu |
| Alexa Yeo | Society of Women Engineers | alexa2@illinois.edu |
| Name | Department/Organization | Email Address |

# Project Description

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

Project Paplet began in Malaysia as a paper recycling campaign aiming to take once-used paper and turn it into recycled notebooks for children in need. In Malaysia, we recently set the record for ‘The Most Number of Booklets Made from Recycled Papers’ in the Malaysia Book of Records. Through this program, we have reused more than 2,500lb of paper and made 10,114 booklets to be used as notebooks for orphanages and NGOs. To date, Project Paplet has donated to the Malaysian chapter of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Tree for Society of Malaysia. We hope to recreate the success that Project Paplet has had in Malaysia by taking the first steps in implementing it here at the University of Illinois on a smaller scale, and then slowly building up on the scale of the project to extend student involvement beyond that of the SWE community. For this stage, we hope to make a minimum of 100 Paplets to be donated to underprivileged schools and UNICEF. This project aims to educate the public on the social impact that recycling can have on the community. It also aims to increase awareness on the uses of recycled paper beyond its traditional applications.

The process of making the Paplets will begin with the sorting paper into piles of 20 sheets each. The paper will bound together using plastic ring binders. The cover of the project will be made from cardstock with the logo of Project Paplet, SWE, and all other related organizations printed on it. Volunteers will then be able to decorate the notebooks as they like. The $200 requested will be used to purchase the ring binders, binding machines, and miscellaneous decorations, as well cover the printing cost for the logos.

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

Currently, all waste paper from the university campus is sent to the recycling center on St Mary’s Street. According to the manager of the facility, the waste paper is sent to a recycling facility off campus where the paper is turned into mulch, and then processed into other products. However, after visiting the facility to collect paper, we have found that most of the paper discarded are one-sided and could have been reused instead of recycled. As reusing paper undoubtedly requires less energy than recycling, taking the waste paper from the facility and collecting it from around campus can reduce the amount of paper going to landfills besides reducing the amount of energy expended in reprocessing the paper. The project also aims to educate the University of Illinois community on the potential uses of reused paper. By donating the notebooks made to the Child Development Center, we also that the children will learn that there are creative ways to turn waste into useful products, and leave an impact on them.

**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.**

The project will be carried out in two phases; the first phase will be to sort the paper into sets of 20 sheets each. The second phase will be to decorate the notebooks for the children at the Child Development Center here on campus. Both phases will be tentatively carried out in the Engineering Hall where we hope to book a classroom so that volunteers will have a comfortable and convenient place to carry out this activity. No special permission will be required, except applying for permission to use the classrooms in Engineering Hall.

**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.**

Besides the project team from SWE, the only other organization involved will be the Project Paplet team from Malaysia. In this project, they are involved as observers. They are not providing any other means of support besides information regarding the process of making the notebooks. They will not be benefitting financially from this project.

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

Students will donate once-used paper to this project. Currently, we have collection sites in the SWE office and the PAR Hall. We will also be collecting paper from the university Facilities and Services Department. Once enough paper has been collected, we will organize a Paplet-making session where students can volunteer for about two hours to sort the paper and to make the Paplets. Student participation is anticipated to be mainly from SWE, but all students are welcome. News of the session will be announced on the weekly SWE news email. If possible, we will send student representatives to the donation sites to give the Paplets to the charities.

# 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?**

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.**

No, there will be no ongoing funding required.

**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.**

None.

# 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.**

Our project address the aspect of waste reduction and reuse by taking unwanted one-sided paper and turning them into notebooks for children that can be used for educational purposes, both implicitly and explicitly. We believe that this project can help achieve the iCAP goal of waste minimization by adopting three or more associated measures to reduce waste. Currently, the university policy for waste paper is to send waste paper to the recycling facility to be shredded and sent for reprocessing. Project Paplet aims to reduce the amount of paper that goes into waste and recycling, and instead reuse the paper for both community service and educational purposes.

**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?**

We will be measuring the mass of paper collected. From there, we will calculate the amount of carbon emissions saved by reusing that amount of paper. We will also record the number of notebooks made, and the number of children who use them. As for follow up, we will request feedback from the University Child Development Center on the practicality and use of the notebooks made.

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

This project will involve the members of the Society of Women Engineers. Both phases for making the Paplet notebooks will be posted on our weekly newsletter to inform our members and also request for volunteers.

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

Our goals are:

* To make 100 Paplet notebooks out of once-used paper
* To educate children on the uses of recycled paper

We will measure these goals by:

* Measuring the mass of paper collected
* Calculating the amount of energy saved from reusing this amount of paper
* Recording the number of children at the CDC benefitting from the use of the notebooks.

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

None.