



## 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](mailto:sustainability-committee@illinois.edu).*

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**Project Name:** Aquaponics System Demonstration Unit

**Date of Report Submission:** 9/3/2017

**Project Purpose:**

To establish a demonstrational aquaponics system on the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana campus and to educate the campus community on the fundamentals behind aquaponics, urban food systems, and nutrient cycling.

**Detailed Accounting of Expenditures to Date:**

SSC Grant: \$4695.00

Aquabundance Modular Easy-Reach 3 Bed System (NC Machinery): -\$3134.30

System plumbing supplies (Supplies – Other): -\$49.67

Seeds and Fish transport containers (Farm and Garden Supplies): -\$24.86

Fish Food (Food Supplies-Other): -\$96.10

Reverse Osmosis filter and Chemicals (Scientific and Laboratory Supplies): -\$290.36

Greenhouse space rental fee (Other General Services): -\$193.31

Greenhouse space rental fee (Other General Services): -\$104.71

Remaining balance: \$801.69

(Complete accounting document can be found attached in email)

**Project Progress to Date:**

The majority of our project's listed target milestones were met during Fall of 2016 when we successfully completed the establishment of the aquaponics system. Since that time we have successfully raised over 60 tilapia, half of which were harvested during the summer of 2017.

The remaining half of our fish continue to grow and will be harvested later on during the Fall 2017 semester.

**Student Involvement and Outreach to Date:**

Being a student led project our aquaponics system has been primarily established and maintained by a dedicated group of students. Student volunteers and group members have divided the responsibilities of maintaining the system, researching improvements, and communicating with the various University entities associated with our project. This group has included at least 30 students who have actively engaged with our project. Beyond that level of involvement, at least 100 more members of the campus community have come into contact with the system through the guided tours we have provided. These tours were conducted during the Spring 2017 semester and during the Spring 2017 ACES Open House. Our project has recently begun working with the SECS group, and many of the students from that group are excited to participate in the project.

**Marketing and Promotion Efforts to Date:**

Current marketing and promotion efforts have been conducted through social media such as facebook and instagram.

**Additional Comments:**

Our project is coming toward a shift in its existence, renting greenhouse space is not indefinitely sustainable for our project thus we are in search of a new space to house the system. We have been conversing with the management at the Student Sustainable Farm and believe there may be a space to house the project there, but the future of the system remains uncertain. With new student involvement we are excited to see what new ideas they will bring. As we harvest the remainder of our fish later this fall we are planning on a final series of events where we will host tours to educate people about the system and finally host an event with our prepared fish and produce. In the future we do not plan to use fish in our system, but potentially invertebrates such as shrimp.