*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*](mailto: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*](mailto:kenfield@illinois.edu)

# General Information

**Project Name:** Zero Waste Coordination

**Total Amount Requested from SSC:** $75,062.00

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

Land Water Transportation

# Contact Information

### Project Lead

Applicant Name: Morgan Johnston

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

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

Contact Name: Tracy Osby

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**Primary Project Team**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Department** | **Email** |
| Bart Bartels | Illinois Sustainable Technology Center | bbartel@illinois.edu |
| Ryan Welch | F&S Grounds | rbwelch@illinois.edu |
| Name | Department/Organization | Email Address |
| Name | Department/Organization | Email Address |

# Project Description

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

One core need for increasing the amount of recycling on campus is an educational effort to spread awareness and increase participation in various Zero Waste events and programs.  This funding would support a one year effort to increase awareness of recycling options and expand some of the new recycling programs on campus, including the dual bins on the quad and special item recycling (gloves, EPS, etc.).  This would be a partnership between F&S and the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center.

There is great confusion throughout campus about the waste management and recycling processes. This is due both to the long-standing history of using a dirty Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), where the recyclables are hand sorted out of the mixed-waste garbage stream, and to the complexity of waste materials and available options for disposal, which varies tremendously by location both on and off campus. The aspirational goal of this project is for “individuals to take personal responsibility regarding the final destination of their own waste products,” as described in the 2015 iCAP. As recognized by the 2015 iCAP, the zero waste coordination efforts need to be both campus-wide and building specific. This project will therefore use a multi-pronged approach.

1. Campus-wide infrastructure: Exterior waste bins are collected by the F&S Grounds department, and delivered daily to the Waste Transfer Station (WTS). The waste is then processed through the dirty-MRF and recyclables are salvaged from the landfill stream. With SSC’s funding support, F&S was able to implement dual bins on the Main Quad, with excellent results (see <http://icap.sustainability.illinois.edu/project/recycling-quad>). The next phase of implementing the dual bin system will require sandblasting existing lids, purchasing new bins, and modifying the collection operations to accommodate the changes. We are requesting funding to implement this project in both the area north of Green Street, from Green to Wright to University to Goodwin, and in the area to the east of the Main Quad, from Green to Goodwin to Nevada to Mathews. Upon funding approval, the revised bin locations and the exact quantity of bins will be finalized in collaboration with the Purchasing, Waste, and Recycling SWATeam, so the figures included in this proposal are best estimates at this time.
2. Campus-wide education: The key message of personal responsibility for waste management needs to be communicated through multiple channels on campus, in order to effect the culture shift that we deeply need on campus. ISTC will create educational materials to explain the recycling options available to the campus community, to reduce confusion. This will include 8 monthly presentations throughout campus, digital display signage, development of educational materials (which will be used in future years as well), and promotional materials on MTD buses. All materials will thank SSC for their funding support.
3. Building specific solutions: Per the completed Waste Characterization Studies, there are various changes that can be implemented in the studied buildings to improve waste diversion. These changes need to be approved and implemented in coordination with building occupants, so there is a need for a staff coordinator to work with the individual units. We are requesting funding for two weeks per building, for eight buildings.
4. Special recyclables expansion: There are new programs available for interested units on campus to recycle nitrile gloves, styrofoam, alkaline batteries, and glass. Unfortunately, very few units are aware of these opportunities. We are requesting funding for student employees under the direction of ISTC to reach out directly to potential participants and help them incorporate the applicable programs.

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

The aspirational goal of this project is for “individuals to take personal responsibility regarding the final destination of their own waste products,” as described in the 2015 iCAP.

**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 dual bins for Grounds will be north of Green Street, from Green to Wright to University to Goodwin, and in the area to the east of the Main Quad, from Green to Goodwin to Nevada to Mathews. The building specific solutions will be for BIF, LAR, RAL, the Illini Union, the Illini Union Bookstore, HAB, Swanlund, and Alumni.

**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.**

The Purchasing, Waste, and Recycling Sustainability Working Advisory Team with the Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment will be involved in guiding these efforts.

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

All students traveling on campus will benefit from the dual bin recycling program for Grounds. The campus-wide education will be implemented in collaboration with students who are vital participants in spreading awareness throughout campus, and students will also be hired to increase the participation in special recyclable programs.

# 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?**

We have applied for SSC funding several times before. Regarding Zero Waste, SSC has funded Waste Characterization Studies, the Recycling Bins for the Quad, and Net Zero Game events.

**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?**

This project is designed as a one-time kick off for the promotional and awareness efforts needed for changing the waste management culture on campus.  **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.

**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.**

F&S will contribute in-kind support for this program, through using administrative time for operational discussions and providing the support of the Superintendent of Grounds at no cost to the project budget.

# 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.**

This project is directly tied to the Purchasing, Waste, and Recycling goals from the 2015 iCAP. The diversion rate for Municiple Solid Waste (MSW) on campus was 31% in FY14, and the iCAP goal is to bring the MSW diversion rate up to 45% by FY20. This requires a major change in personal actions of individual campus users.

**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?**

The impact of the project will be measured through the actual MSW diversion rates by year. We will also track the number and location of education events, materials, and messages.

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

This project is primarily about publicizing information. We will share the info throughout campus digital signs, both in academic buildings and in student affairs facilities. The project will be included in the iCAP Portal. The events will be shared on the Sustainability Calendar. The presentations will be held in key campus sites, such as the Union, Lincoln Hall, and iSEE.

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

This will include 8 monthly presentations throughout campus, digital display signage, development of educational materials (which will be used in future years as well), and promotional materials on MTD buses. We will count attendees at the presentations, and building specific meetings.

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

This project is submitted as a multi-pronged project, and it can be reduced in scope as fits SSC’s preferences and funding availability.