

STUDENT
SUSTAINABILITY
COMMITTEE &
THE ILLINOIS
GREEN FUND

2022- 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



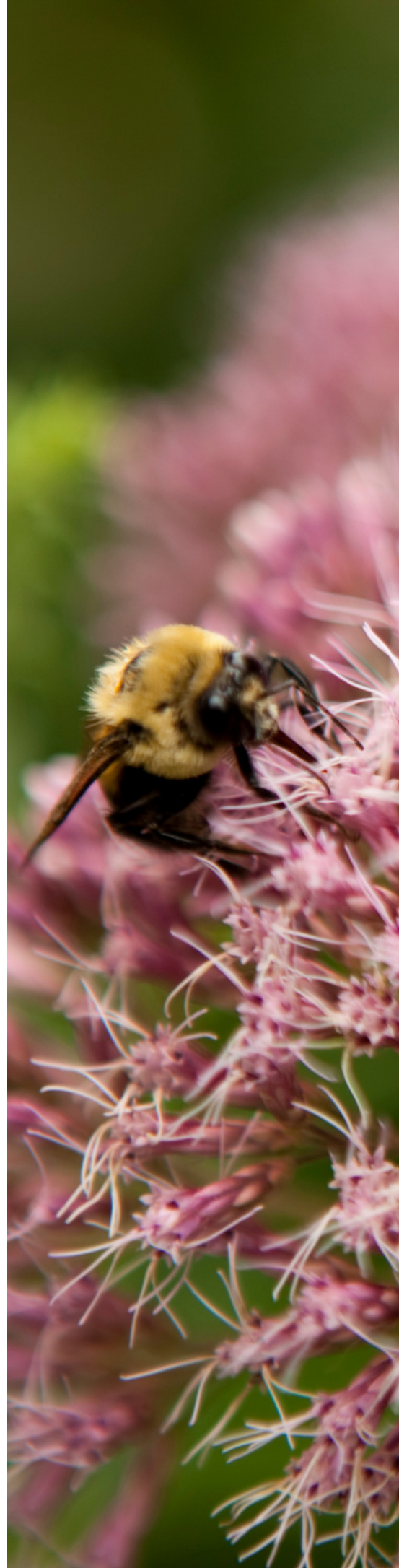
Student Affairs
Student Engagement



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the Chair	1
Land Acknowledgement	2
About	3
Financials	6
Funding Overview	7
Funded Projects	8
Education, Engagement, and Outreach	17
Collaborative Partnerships	19
Equity, Inclusion, and Justice	20

This report was prepared by Reed Thibaudeau, SSC Internal Intern



Jack Reicherts

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Last year, I had the great honor of serving as SSC Chair for the second consecutive year. It was a truly rewarding experience during my final year as an undergraduate, and I'm eager to see how the next generation of SSC members will build upon our achievements. I want to express my deep appreciation to the whole team for their outstanding work in the 2022-23 academic year, not only fulfilling their responsibilities but also fostering a strong community centered around our shared mission.

Despite facing challenges due to the absence of staff for most of the year, our team successfully met the expectations of our student body by allocating our funding to exciting new projects. What's even more impressive is how they expanded the program further, increasing student engagement and outreach with a highly successful career panel, two open houses, and numerous productive working group meetings. None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the unwavering support of the entire Student Engagement team and the invaluable assistance provided by Samuel Yoo and Maria Maring.

As always, SSC funded a diverse range of exciting projects, from a pumpkin composting event to ecofeminism summits, green walls to cutting-edge geothermal technology. The possibilities offered by the Illinois Green Fund continue to grow. Many of these projects were supported by strong partnerships with other environmental organizations on campus like Students for Environmental Concerns, Student Sustainability Leadership Council, and many more! Beyond the tangible impact of these projects, it's always thrilling to provide passionate students, staff, and faculty with a platform to enhance their community through innovative ideas.

Just as exciting was the final approval to renew and increase both of our sustainability fees for the 2023-24 school year. The additional funding, amounting to several hundred thousand dollars, will allow SSC to fund more projects of every scope. It also allows us to hire more dedicated staff members to facilitate new community-driven ideas and ensure that funded projects receive the support that they deserve.

On that front, it was very exciting to onboard our new full-time coordinator, Codie Sterner, at the end of the last school year. I'm certain that Codie's boundless enthusiasm for sustainability and dedication to amplifying student voices will be invaluable to our campus community in the coming years.

As I reflect on all the incredible things we've accomplished this year, I'm filled with gratitude. The unwavering passion that I witnessed across all sections of the university community has been nothing short of inspiring. I'm so excited to see how SSC and the campus community at large will continue to make strides towards a greener future!

Warm regards,

Jack Reicherts
SSC Chair, 2022-2023

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

SSC would like to begin its Annual Report by recognizing and acknowledging that we are on the lands of the Peoria, Kaskaskia, Piankashaw, Wea, Miami, Mascoutin, Odawa, Sauk, Mesquaki, Kickapoo, Potawatomi, Ojibwe, and Chickasaw Nations. These lands were the traditional territory of these Native Nations prior to their forced removal; these lands continue to carry the stories of these Nations and their struggles for survival and identity.

As a land-grant institution, the University of Illinois has a particular responsibility to acknowledge the peoples of these lands, as well as the histories of dispossession that have allowed for the growth of this institution for the past 150 years. We are also obligated to reflect on and actively address these histories and the role that this university has played in shaping them. This acknowledgment and the centering of Native peoples is a start as we move forward for the next 150 years.

For more information, visit

https://chancellor.illinois.edu/land_acknowledgement.html



ABOUT:

Purpose & Membership

The Illinois Green Fund (IGF) is currently the largest university sustainability funding pool in North America and is stewarded by SSC, a group of undergraduate and graduate students dedicated to building a more sustainable campus. With the partnership of a team of staff and faculty members, SSC allocates \$1.59 million annually toward the development and seed funding of projects that have an environmental impact on the university community. The fund is financed through the collection of two student-initiated fees, the Cleaner Energy Technologies Fee and the Sustainable Campus Environment Fee. By providing consultation, thought leadership, and funding, the IGF and SSC empower Illinois students, staff, and faculty to be changemakers in sustainability.

2022-23 Membership

Student Board

Jack Reicherts

Chair

Lucy Nifong

Vice Chair Internal

Scotlyn Belew

Vice Chair External

Tori Lawlor

Vice Chair of Communications

Johanna Strohschein

Communications Project Lead

Madison Gats

Communications Project Lead

Whitney Fowler

Communications Project Lead

Lily Perez

Community Outreach Lead

Hongxu Zhou

Professional Development Lead

Charleston Wang

Student Outreach Lead

Claire Keating

Education & Justice Working Group Chair

Tymon Duchnicki

Energy Working Group Chair

Tessa Clarizio

Floating Working Group Chair

Milan Patel

Floating Working Group Chair

Holly Hahn

Food & Waste Working Group Chair

Liz Witek

Land, Water, & Air Working Group Chair

Natalie Hill

Transportation & Infrastructure Working Group
Chair

Faculty Advisors

Jessica Brinkworth, Ph.D.

Barry Houser, M.M.

McKenzie Johnson, Ph.D.

Kevin McSweeney, Ph.D.

Esther Ngumbi, Ph.D.

Andrew Stumpf, Ph.D.

Staff Advisors

Codie Sterner

Maria Maring

Allison Cruz

Samuel Yoo

**Coordinator, Student Sustainability
Committee**

Staff Advisor, Student Sustainability

Intern, Student Sustainability

Assistant Director, Student Sustainability

Ex-Officio Members

James Hintz, Ph.D.

Lisa Peacock

Morgan White

Daphne Hulse

Amanda Wahba

David Guth

Eric Green

Meredith Moore

Associate Vice Chancellor for Student
Success, Inclusion, and Belonging

Facilities & Services, Sustainability

Facilities & Services, Sustainability

**Zero Waste Coordinator, Facilities &
Services**

Fraternity & Sorority Affairs

Director of Operations, Illini Union

iSEE Representative

iSEE Representative

FINANCIALS



SSC is charged with stewarding the budget for two student-initiated fees:

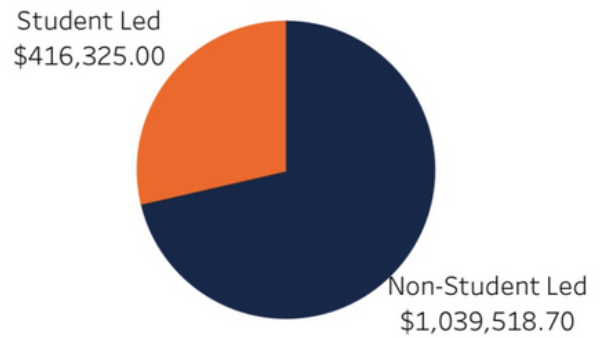
- **Cleaner Energy Technologies Fee |**
\$2.00 per student per semester
 - A fee used to purchase cleaner energy technologies for campus, including solar, wind, hydrogen, and geothermal projects; energy efficiency purchases; and the purchase of renewable energy from non-University producers.
- **Sustainable Campus Environment Fee |**
\$12.06 per student per semester
 - A fee to help establish a sustainable campus environment by financing initiatives such as green buildings, engagement of the University community, recycling, energy efficiency, and environmentally responsible purchasing.

Together, these two fees amount to an annual budget of over \$1.59 million, called the Illinois Green Fund. Since the inception of the fees in 2008, SSC has allocated \$16.7 million toward funding 353 projects.

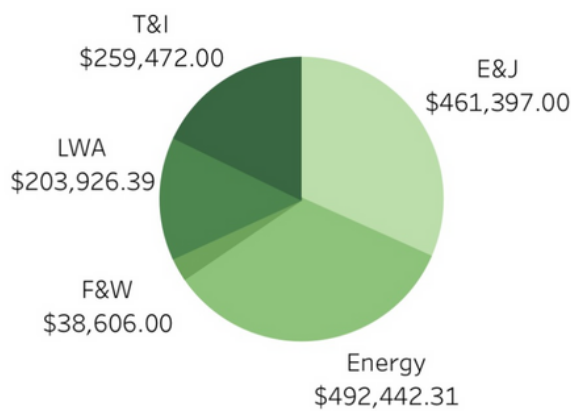
FUNDING OVERVIEW

Graph 1: Total 2022-2023 Funding Awarded to Staff/Faculty and Students

Student Led-2022-2023



Working Group-2022-2023



Graph 2: Total 2022-2023 Funding by Working Group



FUNDED PROJECTS

Education & Justice	9
Energy	11
Food & Waste	13
Land, Water, & Air	14
Transportation & Infrastructure	15

A Student-Driven Recensus of the Trelease Woods Forest Dynamics Plot | \$72,721.00



Student
Led

With SSC support the applicants previously trained 70 students that, over 3 years, mapped, measured and identified every tree. Inclusion of Trelease Woods in the ForestGeo network requires a recensus of Trelease Woods every five years. This allows researchers from around the world to synthesize data on how forest ecosystems are changing. Recensusing Trelease will also contribute to local-scale carbon monitoring efforts, helping campus determine carbon storage trends for this property.

College of Education, South Atrium Green Wall | \$50,000.00

This project builds a vertical green space in the College of Education at the University. This will create an environmental learning space for the students and educators to utilize. Beyond natural aesthetics, the environmental benefits are biological air filtration, biological sound dampening, biological thermal stability, and research for the iCAP.

Staff/
Faculty
Led

Ecofeminism Summit | \$9,999.00

The Ecofeminism Summit 2022 offered a month-long series of programs designed to connect social justice, environmental justice, and feminist theory. Keynote lectures, workshops, film screening, and lectures provided students with unique opportunities to further explore ecofeminist theory and praxis.

Staff/
Faculty
Led

F&S Rainwater Management Plan | \$200,000.00

Staff/
Faculty
Led

Develops a comprehensive Rainwater Management Plan for UIUC. The plan includes recommendations to protect the existing stormwater system, mitigate or fully resolve known problems on campus (such as areas that flood frequently), and create new rainwater management system improvements. Rainwater reuse and green infrastructure technologies will help solve flooding issues while enhancing the overall ecology and aesthetics of campus. This plan helps the University transition into the emerging paradigm that focuses on treating rainwater as an asset rather than a nuisance.

Seed Bomb Bash | \$497.00

Student
Led

Helped students give back to the community by creating seed bombs and having students distribute them throughout their communities. Planned a route to take as a group, bringing native plants to areas that may be deprived of them.

Illini Formula Electric SiCVerter & Powertrain | \$100,000.00

Student
Led

This project aims to create a well-resourced network of science educators dedicated to the teaching and learning of core sustainable education. The project members are creating a database of digital sustainability education resources that will be freely available to pre-service and in-service teachers.

ENERGY

Decreasing Energy Usage in the INHS Fish Collection (CETF) | \$171,599.00

Staff/
Faculty
Led

Dramatically improves the energy efficiency of rooms housing the Illinois Natural History Survey Fish Collection located in the basement of the Natural Resources Building (NRB). Creates ways to more efficiently control temperature and humidity levels in six rooms in the NRB basement and reduce the need to run industrial-size dehumidifiers.

Demonstration of Enerdrape Thermal Energy Exchange System in Steam Tunnel | \$50,000.00

Student
Led

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, this project collaborates with the company SafeTraces to verify ventilation and filtration performance in indoor spaces with real-world data. The project is: identifying potential hotspots, assessing ventilation and filtration, verifying area isolative efficacy, and informing remediations for the sake of both energy efficiency and human safety.

Solar-Powered Workstation for New Campus Recreation Green Space | \$10,000.00

Student
Led

This will provide a shaded area for staff, faculty, community members, and Illinois students. The SSC previously approved a Campus Recreation outdoor facility which has no shelter from the sun, and this aims to bridge that gap. The solar powered table will provide a solution to this specific issue while also aligning with the University's sustainability goals.

ENERGY

Temple Hoyne Buell Hall DDC Upgrade of Room Equipment | \$80,151.95

Staff/
Faculty
Led

An HVAC controls upgrade at Temple Hoyne Buell Hall that will reduce building energy footprint and increase indoor air quality for students and staff. This project will replace old equipment with digital Siemens controllers which allow more functionality to reduce airflow and better control space conditions.

Improving the Sustainability of the Freezer Room at the Wildlife Veterinary Epidemiology Laboratory | \$50,000.00

Staff/
Faculty
Led

This project aims to reduce energy use in the freezer rooms, one of the largest consumers of energy in the building.

South Campus Center for Interdisciplinary Learning (SCCIL) | \$100,000.00

Staff/
Faculty
Led

A state-of-the-art building that will prepare Illinois students for futures of purpose and impact as well as a partnership between Gies Business and campus, this hybrid educational facility will house collaboration spaces, traditional and flexible classrooms, informal learning environments, content creation studios, academic offices and support spaces. This project aims to install a district-scale geothermal field providing heating and cooling for the building, a campus first, with expansion potential to surrounding facilities. The project is targeting LEED platinum certification with aspirations to achieve net zero energy and net zero carbon within its first year of operation.



FOOD & WASTE

ISTC-UIUC Waste Characterization Study & Opportunity Assessment | \$18,979.00

Staff/
Faculty
Led

Studies and analyzes waste stream characterization for eight campus buildings. Includes a summary of themes discussed at stakeholder focus group sessions, which will assess how well stakeholders understand current waste practices and solicit their feedback for ways F&S can improve waste reduction and diversion initiatives.

LW004 Monarchs Need Milkweed | \$7,000.00

Student
Led

This project purchases Milkweed seeds to plant. This is intended to boost the Monarch Butterfly population. The project is optimized to start when the air and soil conditions are optimal for successful flora development. The project will begin in the Summer of 2023, and conclude after the satisfactory growth of Milkweed.

Myco-Cycling Spent Coffee Grounds into Food for Fungi | \$6,552.00

Student
Led

This project aims to investigate the possible use of Spent Coffee Grounds, a common urban waste by-product, as substrate in the production of novel mycelium based composite materials. The goals of this are two-fold: 1) divert Spent Coffee Grounds from entering the waste pipeline and 2) to investigate a possible framework for environmentally friendly materials production in dense urban areas where fresh food may be hard to access.

LAND,
WATER,
& AIR

Foundations for Cultivating Indigenous Gardens within the Southern Arboretum Woodlands | \$149,320.00

Staff/
Faculty
Led

This project is a collaboration among Tribal and UIUC collaborators to establish forest gardens within the Southern Arboretum Woodlands. Activities will focus on establishing a shared vision and written plan among the collaborators, followed by site preparation, and then planting assemblages of selected native plants. The plant assemblages will include exemplars of those traditionally used by indigenous people for food, fibre, fuel, construction, and medicinal purposes. Outreach/instructional/research activities will illuminate sustainable land management practices and provide a service to tribal partners in the recovery, preservation, and production of Native Knowledges related to plants, language, and cultural practices.

Towards a Battery-Free Environment Sensing System for Urban Heat Island Identification | \$39,994.00

Staff/
Faculty
Led

This project aims to develop low-cost and battery-free sensing systems for heat islands to reduce deployment and maintenance costs. By harnessing power from existing radio frequency signals, they can deploy battery-free tags that cost cents per unit, are scalable, and are environmentally friendly. They can leverage public transportation to collect the data from these tags.



TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Eco Illini G6 | \$10,000.00

Student
Led

Eco Illini Supermileage is a student design team that competes twice a year to design and build the highest efficiency vehicle possible. Through this competition, members develop a lot of practical engineering skills to help them further their career as well as highlight the engineering challenges related to efficiency.

Understanding and Learning Electric Vehicle Charging Behaviors on Campus | \$20,000.00

Staff/
Faculty
Led

This project aims to develop a campus-wide survey to estimate current levels of electric vehicle (EV) adoption and gather data on prospective ownership. The data will characterize EV charging behavior on campus and will be used to provide recommendations on future charger deployment needs and efficient and environmentally friendly shared-charging management practices.

Level-2 EV Charging Stations for F&S Fleet Vehicles | \$134,000.00

Staff/
Faculty
Led

Installs improved charging stations for F&S's electric vehicles.

EDUCATION, ENGAGEMENT, AND OUTREACH

Our Social Initiatives (SI) Team continued to do great work in engaging the campus community and promoting new and existing sustainability initiatives on campus. Once again, we had an exciting slate of larger events in celebration of Campus Sustainability Month in October and Earth Month in April. Beyond this, the SI team sought to program many events, both social and educational, throughout the year. Supporting this goal, our working group chairs frequently invited expert speakers and representatives from many organizations to present at their biweekly meetings. Thus, working group attendees were consistently rewarded with thought-provoking discussions every week, even if project applications were not on the agenda. None of this would have been possible without cultivating strong partnerships with the Student Sustainability Leadership Council (SSLC) and other organizations both on and off campus to create even more exciting opportunities for students and community members. Check out some of the events we offered or supported during the 2022-2023 academic year below:

- Fall Open House (9/15)
- Green Quad Day (10/13)
- Sustainability Research Symposium (10/25)
- Sustainability Trivia Night (11/17)
- Tuesday Talks (10/4, 10/11, 10/18, 10/25, 1/31, 2/28, 3/28, 4/11, 4/18, 4/25)
- Sustainability Career Panel (2/15)
- Waste Transfer Station Tour (2/28)
- Citizens Utility Board Letter Writing Event (3/9)
- Green Globes (4/20)
- Solar Farm 1.0 Tour (4/27)
- Arbor Day Celebration (4/28)

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Illinois continues to be a vibrant center for sustainability efforts and programs. These efforts involve a wide range of student organizations, academic departments, and research labs. Each year, we see a growing number of these initiatives taking shape. The SSC plays a crucial role in fostering collaboration on campus. Its aim is to build meaningful connections among students, faculty, and staff to collectively work toward a more sustainable campus environment. This helps reduce redundant efforts among isolated groups of passionate individuals. In the 2022-2023 academic year, the SSC worked in partnership with the following organizations to pursue this goal:

- **Student Sustainability Leadership Council (SSLC)**
- **Students for Environmental Concerns (SECS) RSO**
- **Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment (iSEE)**
- **Facilities & Services (F&S)**
- **Illini Union & Illini Union Green Team**
- **Illinois Student Government (ISG)**
- **ISG's Committee on Environmental Sustainability (ESC)**
- **Bevier Café**
- **Illini Urban Farmers RSO**
- **Sustainable Student Farm (SSF)**
- **Citizens' Utility Board (CUB)**
- **Reimagine Our Future Undergraduate Sustainability Competition**
- **Urbana Park District**
- **Illinois EPA**
- **Illinois Environmental Council**
- **Sola Gratia Farm**
- **Tree Campus Advisory Committee**
- **Grand Prairie Friends**
- **Prairie Rivers Network**
- **Waste Transfer Station**

EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND JUSTICE

"Sustainability should be science based and justice guided."

One of the highest priorities of SSC is to broaden the scope of sustainability programming on campus to include all three pillars of sustainability—the environment, society, and economy. The second pillar, also known as social sustainability, is often neglected as a peripheral issue, but we are determined to make it a priority on our campus.

Social sustainability is the "development (and/or growth) that is compatible with the harmonious evolution of civil society, fostering an environment conducive to the compatible cohabitation of culturally and socially diverse groups while at the same time encouraging social integration, with improvements in the quality of life for all segments of the population." Based off a desire to be better in regard to creating these types of conditions in our community, SSC created a diversity statement to guide our current and future ambitions:

"The SSC is committed to diversity in all forms. This stems from our core belief that engaging with a wide range of ideas, perspectives, cultures, and peoples facilitates a culture conducive for greater growth. We will find ways to support one another and strive to build a community of care and solidarity towards changing the trajectory of our future for the better."

Polese M, Stren R, 2000 The Social Sustainability of Cities: Diversity and Management of Change. University of Toronto Press, Toronto, pages 15- 16.



Stay Green!



Student Affairs
Student Engagement

