Student Sustainability Committee of The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign



Spring 2023 Mass Media Message

Subject: BOARD MEMBER APP OPEN, SUSTAINABILITY CAREER PANEL, & MORE!

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Hello from the Student Sustainability Committee!

Did you know that <u>all</u> UIUC students pay \$14 a semester for campus sustainability?

Since 2008, we've dedicated **\$16.19 million towards 334 individual projects** that have decreased UIUC's environmental impact, cultivated a culture of sustainability, and advanced <u>Illinois Climate Action Plan</u> (iCAP) objectives. How did we do it? Through the Illinois Green Fund, which is composed of two student-initiated fees (\$12.06 per student per semester for the Sustainable Campus Environment Fee and \$2 per student per semester for the Cleaner Energy Technologies Fee). We are a group of students made possible by students!

We want to see UIUC become a greener and more equitable place! SSC uses the Illinois Green Fund to finance student-, staff-, and faculty-led sustainability projects. These projects are reviewed by the relevant Working Groups: Energy, Transportation & Infrastructure, Education & Justice, Food & Waste, and Land, Water, & Air. Just look for the SSC logo around campus to see some of the amazing projects we've funded, like Eco-Illini, Solar Decathlon, Red Oak Rain Garden, the Illini Union's recycling bins, CIF's Geothermal system, and many more to come!

Thanks to the support of students and the Board of Trustees, a \$4 increase to our student fees has been approved! Though \$4 may seem like a small value, it adds up: The Illinois Green Fund will increase by nearly 30 percent! This great accomplishment will allow SSC to fund even more sustainable projects annually, continue to build engagement and community, and advance iCAP objectives. We thank you – students, staff, and faculty – for your support! Without you, our work would not be possible!

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APPLY TO BE A BOARD MEMBER!

Board member applications for 2023-2024 are open now!

As a board member, you will play a key role in the organization by leading or participating in Working Groups, the Communications team, or the Social Initiatives team. You will drive positive change on campus by voting on project applications each semester and spearheading SSC initiatives around campus.

The time commitment to be a board member is 3-4 hours per week. Board members have described their SSC careers as fun, rewarding, and great professional development! Participation has opened many fulfilling academic and professional opportunities for our past members!

If you are interested in becoming a board member, fill out the application HERE by MONDAY MARCH 6, 2023. We encourage every student – graduate or undergraduate – with a passion for making our campus a greener place to apply!

SUSTAINABILITY CAREER PANEL

Join us for a sustainability career panel featuring leaders from the Illinois EPA, Urbana Park District, Illinois Environmental Council, Prairie Rivers Network, Sola Gratia Farm, and more! This event will be broken into two 50-minute sections separated by a break, and there will be plenty of time for Q&A. Food will be provided, with vegetarian-friendly options included. Please feel free to arrive late or leave early as your schedule allows!

- February 15 from 5:30-7:30 pm
- Campus Instructional Facility, Room 2035

This event is co-hosted by the <u>Student Sustainability Committee</u>, the <u>Student Sustainability Leadership Council</u>, and <u>Students for Environmental Concerns</u>.

GET INVOLVED! Working Group Meetings

Interested in getting involved as a general member? Come to our Working Group meetings! These biweekly meetings are an opportunity for our Working Group Chairs to meet with project applicants and general members to discuss sustainable initiatives on and off campus!

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The schedule for Working Group meetings is as follows:

- Energy and Transportation & Infrastructure
 - o Every other Monday from 5:00-6:00 pm
 - o 2/13, 2/27, etc.
 - CIF Room 0018
- Food & Waste and Land, Water, & Air
 - Every other Tuesday from 5:00-6:00 pm
 - o 2/14, 2/28, etc.
 - CIF Room 2025
- Education & Justice
 - Every other Thursday from 5:00-6:00 pm
 - o 2/16, 3/2, etc.
 - o CIF Room 2025

For updated information on Working Group meetings, check out our <u>calendar</u> and our <u>Instagram!</u>

APPLY FOR FUNDING!

Do you have an idea for a project that promotes campus sustainability? We would love to fund you! Student-led project proposals <u>under</u> \$10K are accepted and evaluated on a rolling basis. For staff- and faculty-led projects, or student-led projects <u>over</u> \$10K, the deadline to apply is March 24. To learn more about the application process, click <u>here</u>.

RECAP! Here are some ways to get involved with SSC:

- Sign up for our mailing list and follow us on Instagram!
- Apply to be a Board Member!
 - As a board member, you'll take on a leadership role and make real change by casting votes on funding decisions.
 - Board member applications are DUE MONDAY MARCH 6.
 - CLICK TO APPLY HERE!
- Become a general member and attend biweekly working group meetings for Energy, Transportation & Infrastructure, Education & Justice, Food & Waste, Energy, and/or Land, Water, & Air. Click here to find the Working Group meeting schedule!

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- Come to our event! The Sustainability Career Panel is February 15 from 5:30-7:30 pm at the Campus Instructional Facility Room 2035. For more information on this and other upcoming events, click here!
- **Submit a project application** to transform your sustainable vision into a reality. The deadline to submit a Step 1 Project Proposal is March 24th. Student-led applications under \$10K are accepted on a rolling basis. To find out more about applying for funding, click here.

The Student Sustainability Committee Team