

## Land Acknowledgement

We would like to begin this event by acknowledging that we are on the lands of the Peoria, Kaskaskia, Peankashaw, Wea, Miami, Mascoutin, Odawa, Sauk, Mesquaki, Kickapoo, Ojibwe, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, and Chickasha 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 group of environmental organizations, it is necessary for us to acknowledge these Native Nations and work with them to promote indigenous rights, especially to land, water, and other natural resources.

## Student Sustainability Committee

- -the SSC is a funding body
- -every student at UIUC pays a \$14 fee that goes toward the Illinois Green Fund. It adds up to approx. \$1.4 million annually,
- -SSC allocates this money to student- or faculty-led sustainability projects that directly benefit campus
- -we've greenlit the Red Oak Rain Garden, the Solar Farm, and lots of programming like the Sustainability Grammys

## Eco Illini Supermileage

-design and build high efficiency gas and electric vehicles for competition in Shell Eco-Marathon and SAE supermileage

-teach students on campus to design and engineer with sustainability as the key design challenge

## Red Bison Ecological Restoration

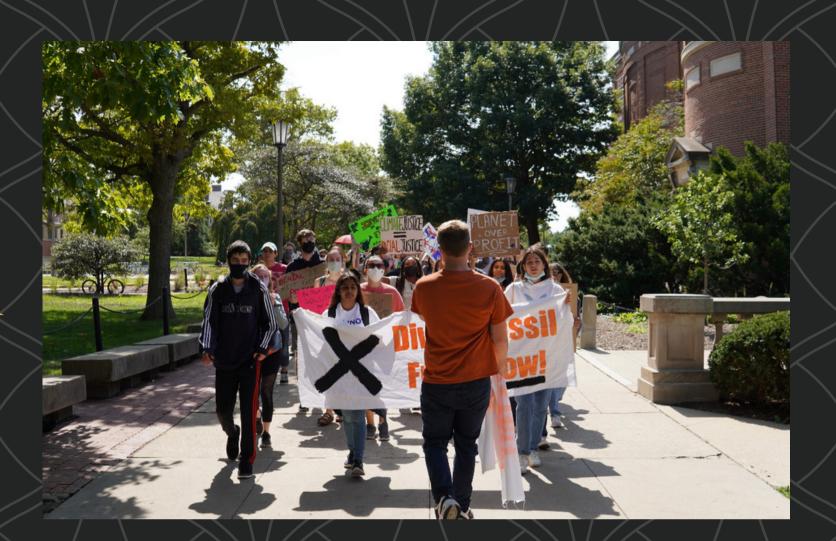
- -contributed around 300 person-hours of volunteering work this year improving the health of natural areas all around the state of Illinois, including right on campus at the South Arboretum Woods
- -established the first annual Red Bison Undergraduate Award, which supported a student in an environmentally-oriented major whose demographic is underrepresented in the field of ecology with \$500 with funds collected from a plant sale in collaboration with Matthis Helmick at Plant Mode in Champaign
- -started a sustainability book club, Red Bison Reads Books (RBRB), which is already broadening the group's perspective on matters such as the intersections of Indigenous and environmental justice



### verniCUlture

- currently using Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, Reddit, Involved@Illinois, and our website to raise awareness about climate change, as well as to recruit more members and attract potential collaborators
- -hosted five sustainability workshops, where we invited guest speakers from all over the country to talk about vermicomposting, sustainability, and climate change
  - -hosting a vermicomposting kits distribution, with a DIY session during Earth Week
- -distributed approximately 16 lbs of composting worms to students, faculty, staff, and community members to help reduce food waste in 75 households and helped five local businesses to divert nearly 50 bins from landfills
  - -helped local businesses to be more sustainable by helping them divert bins and other wastes (e.g., paper, cardboard, and food container) from the landfill
    - -sold compost, plants, soap nuts, wool balls, and environmentally-themed packages at their fundraising events

## Students for Environmental Concerns



- -involved with university wide divestment campaigns for over a decade and works to promote iCAP accountability
- -host sit-ins on the quad to engage students with divestment and environmental issues on campus
- -organize climate strikes with campus and community members
- -organize divestment teach-ins and educational trips to local elementary schools
- -host fundraisers and organize media campaigns and create infographics
- -work with campus administration as well as other RSO's

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Week	# Boxes	Lbs of food	Lbs/box (small)	Lbs/box (big)	Total Lbs
09/08/21	25	86.81	2.61	3.47	1875.59
09/15/21	25	86.81			
09/22/21	25	86.81			
09/29/21	25	86.81			
10/06/21	19	65.97			
10/13/21	36	125.00			
10/20/21	92	240.00			
10/27/21	50	245.40			
11/03/21	62	185.00			
11/10/21	44	145.00			
11/17/21	43	144.00			
12/01/2021	46	225.00			
12/08/2021	44	153.00			

#### Project 4 Less

-takes action to combat food waste and food insecurity in the Champaign-Urbana community -package pre-consumer excess food from University Dining every Wednesday night at Lincoln Avenue Dining Hall that otherwise would have gone to waste and send it to Wesley and Uniplace food pantries, where it is distributed to those in need

-recovered over 3,000 pounds of food this year alone, providing thousands of meals to the community while keeping perfectly good food out of the landfill

-Volunteers can see how much excess food is created even at one of the smaller dining halls on campus and be directly involved in making a positive impact on the community

#### Grow2Give

- -planted and maintained produce garden beds and donated all harvests to pantries in the area
- -donated to the Food Assistance and Well-being Program for campus individuals in the Activities and Recreation Center to best serve students
- -surplus got donated to community pantries like Solidarity Gardens and Sola Gratia
- -volunteers/members of Grow2Give can expect to learn how to incorporate sustainability into urban gardening
- -donated approximately one hundred pounds of produce to the local community within a year
- -hosted educational workshops, inviting guest speakers from the university community to talk about a range of sustainability topics
- -seeks to develop the campus and surrounding communities by providing accessible green spaces that are both sustainable and visually appealing





## Society of Women Engineers

-4 chair positions currently devoted to environmental events

-work with the Champaign County Adopt-A-Highway program to pick up trash along Green Street 4 times per year

-started their own garden plot outside of Engineering Hall last fall and have hosted several events for planting and maintaining the garden

-keep recycling boxes for unconventional items such as plastic bags, masks, batteries, and printer cartridges in our RSO office for our 400+ members to have a convenient place to recycle these items -encourage all members to bring reusable plates or containers to our monthly general meetings to use for food, instead of using disposable plates and utensils

-incentivize people to participate by raffling off sustainable prizes (i.e. tote bags, reusable utensils) for people who bring reusable items

## Illini Urban Farmers

- -hosting educational workshops that promote sustainable activities, many of which can be done or supported by a student living in a dorm or apartment
- -hosted an apartment-friendly composting workshop in the fall
- -educated members on what compost is, how it forms, why it's important, and how you can compost at a small scale in your own apartment, connected our members to composting resources and organizations
- -hosted a two-part mushroom growing workshop in the fall and spring
- -encouraging members to reuse containers to grow their mushrooms and limiting the water used in pasteurizing the straw substrate
- -hosted a presentation on regenerative/sustainable agriculture taught participants about regenerative agricultural practices and the Indigenous traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) that regenerative agriculture is rooted in





#### 2022

#### SUSTAINABILITY GRAMMYS

Our organization has been awarded "Impact" by the Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment for our sustainability efforts!

Red Bison

RedBison

Madhu Khanna







#### 2022

#### SUSTAINABILITY GRAMMYS

Our organization has been awarded
"Engagement" by the Institute for
Sustainability, Energy, and Environment for
our sustainability efforts!

Project4 Less

Project4Less

Madhu Khanna





#### 2022

#### SUSTAINABILITY GRAMMYS

Our organization has been awarded
"Initiative" by the Institute for Sustainability,
Energy, and Environment for our
sustainability efforts!

Grow2 Give

Grow2Give

Madhu Khanna



# Congratulations! Thank you for attending!

Subscribe to the iSEE
Newsletter to hear more
about sustainability initiatives
around campus!

Any questions? Please reach out to iseegreenoffice@gmail.com