**Funding Criteria**

**A. General Rules**

1. Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to submit requests for funding. Student-led projects require a faculty or staff sponsor in order to have funds awarded.
2. Funding can only go to university-affiliated projects from students, faculty, staff, and departments.
3. All SSC projects must make a substantial impact on students. All SSC funding is 100% from student green fees, so the projects funded by the students must benefit them.

**B. Things SSC Can Fund, On A Case-By-Case Basis**

1. SSC can fund feasibility studies and design work; however, it must work toward ultimately addressing a sustainability need on campus.
2. SSC can fund staff positions that are related to improving campus sustainability. Strong preference will be given to proposals receiving matching funding from departments and/or plans for maintaining continuity of the position after the end of the initial grant.
3. SSC can fund outreach events with a central theme of sustainability, provided their primary audience is the general campus community.
4. SSC discourages requests for food and prizes but will consider proposals on a case by case basis.
5. SSC can fund repairs and improvements to existing building systems as long as it works toward the goal of improving campus sustainability.
6. SSC can provide departments with loans for projects with a distinct payback. Loans will require a separate memorandum of understanding between SSC and departmental leadership pledging to repay the award in full and detailing the payback plan.

**C. Things SSC Will Not Fund:**

1. SSC will not fund projects with a primary end goal of generating revenue for non-University entities.
2. SSC will not fund personal lodging, food, beverage, and other travel expenses.
3. SSC will not fund any travel expenses.
4. SSC will not fund tuition or other forms of personal financial assistance.

**Instructions**

*Submit this completed application and one map, graphic, or picture to* [*Sustainability-Committee@Illinois.edu*](mailto:Sustainability-Committee@Illinois.edu)*. Please adhere to the session word counts. The committee holds the right to decline applications over the designated word counts. If you have any questions about the application process, please contact the Student Sustainability Committee Coordinator at* [*sustainability-committee@illinois.edu.*](mailto:sustainability-committee@illinois.edu.)

**Project Name:** ISTC-UIUC Waste Characterization Study & Opportunity Assessment

**Total Amount Requested from SSC:** $18,979 (with F&S matching these funds for a total of $37,958)

**Primary Project Leader Name & Email:** Daphne Hulse, dlhulse2@illinois.edu

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| **Project Abstract:** In less than 100 words, briefly describe your project. |
| Nearly a decade after the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center and Facilities & Services partnered on their first campus waste audit, the two units aim to complete an audit during Fall 2023. The project has three deliverables:   * Waste stream characterization for eight campus buildings. * A summary of themes discussed at stakeholder focus group sessions. The focus groups will assess how well stakeholders understand current waste practices and solicit their feedback for ways F&S can improve waste reduction and diversion initiatives. * A report detailing the above, as well as current and planned waste initiatives, serving as a resource for campus. |

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|  | Education | Energy | Food & Waste | Land & Water | Transportation |
| Project Category |  |  | X |  |  |

**Project Team Member List** (student projects must include their faculty/staff advisor’s information)

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Name | RSO/Department | Email Address |
| Daphne Hulse | Facilities & Services | dlhulse2@illinois.edu |
| Pete Varney | Facilities & Services | pvarney@illinois.edu |
| Shawn Patterson | Facilities & Services | spttrsn@illinois.edu |
| Dan Hiser | Facilities & Services | dwhiser@illinois.edu |
| Joy Scrogum | Illinois Sustainable Technology Center | jscrogum@illinois.edu |
| Savannah Feher | Illinois Sustainable Technology Center | sfeher@illinois.edu |
| Zach Samaras | Illinois Sustainable Technology Center | zsamaras@illinois.edu |

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| Questions | Yes | No |
| Is this a student-led project? |  | X |
| If applicable, have you received approval from Facilities & Services and/or site manager? | X |  |
| Do you have a plan for ongoing funding beyond SSC? (SSC cannot guarantee ongoing financial support) | X |  |
| Beyond SSC, do you have sources contributing funding or support (ex. staff time, external grants, etc.) to this project? | X |  |
| Have you applied for SSC funding previously? |  | X |

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| **Project Timeline** |
| SSC funding agreements remain active for two years. Please list your project’s timeline and/or milestones. |
| **Task I – Stakeholder engagement and review of current practices: August 2023 – November 2023**   * Review historical hauling data to understand the flow of waste at a macro level on campus. * Facilitate interviews and walkthroughs with staff from various operational departments. * Evaluate current and planned initiatives addressing waste reduction and diversion. * Conduct focus group sessions with representative students, faculty, and staff that regularly use buildings designated for auditing to help gauge knowledge of current practices and expectations. Collate stakeholder suggestions for ways to improve recyclable collection and waste reduction strategies.   + One focus group will be conducted per activity zone, for a total of four focus group sessions.   **Task II – Waste characterization study and final report preparation: October 2024 – February 2024**   * Coordinate waste characterization sampling and sorting.   + Provide the necessary training, equipment, and supplies for student volunteers. * Complete the assessment and opportunity report.   + Summarize waste characterization data and detail opportunities for improving recycling and organics diversion. Include sections on current conditions/practices and feedback from the focus group sessions. * Facilitate a meeting between ISTC and F&S to discuss the waste characterization and opportunities for improvement. Recommendations will be organized by location (campus wide or specific activity zones) and potential for impact (low, medium, or high). * Provide supporting raw data (tables, graphics, and photos) created during the project. |

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| **Project Description** |
| In 250 words or less, describe your project. What does your project hope to accomplish? What are your project’s deliverables? Bullet points welcome. |
| In 2014, F&S and ISTC began collaboration on a two-phase waste characterization study and waste reduction opportunity assessment through the waste sampling of eight campus buildings and surveying of building occupants. ISTC assessed the buildings’ waste stream and occupant knowledge and satisfaction of current practices.  Nearly a decade later, F&S and ISTC aim to again characterize a sample size of waste on campus, engage stakeholders via focus groups, and propose opportunities for waste reduction and/or diversion. A key deliverable of this study is the forward-facing report, intended to serve not only as a guideline for F&S strategic implementation, but also as a public resource detailing the current waste management processes and initiatives at the U of I.  New to this study, ISTC will integrate an “activity zone” approach: classifying a building according to its primary purpose. Two representative buildings were identified for each of the four activity zones (academic, academic + laboratory, multi-activity, and student living), for a total of eight buildings. Results from and recommendations for each activity zone can be extrapolated and applied to other buildings that exist within the same zone.  From the waste characterization and stakeholder engagement results, F&S strives to:   * Compare 2023 results to 2014 results to understand how campus waste has evolved over time. * Strengthen its relationships with campus buildings in the realm of waste management. * Gauge stakeholders’ (students, faculty, and staff) suggestions for ways to improve recyclable collection and waste reduction strategies. * Integrate ISTC recommendations for high-impact waste reduction strategies into F&S operations. |

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| **Environmental Impact** |
| In 200 words or less, how does your project increase environmental stewardship at UIUC? If applicable, what is the carbon, water, waste, and/or energy savings? Does your project relate to the iCAP? Bullet points welcome. |
| Characterizing campus waste and soliciting feedback from students, faculty, and staff on how F&S can better reduce or divert waste relates to iCAP Objective 5.2, “Reduce the total campus waste going to landfills from 5,049 tons in FY19 to 4,544 tons or less in FY24, which is a decrease of at least 10%.”  Campus began achieving this objective starting in 2020, when total landfilled waste fell below 5,049 tons. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, achieving this objective may be attributed to this anomaly, or a sudden and drastic shift in operations. Only recently has campus activity started to resume to its usual frequency.  Integral to reducing landfilled waste on campus is understanding what characterizes that waste, and how its producers (students, faculty, and staff) interface with the waste management process. First, gauging stakeholders’ knowledge of current practices empowers F&S to effectively focus education and outreach initiatives to target audiences. Second, soliciting feedback from the campus community on how F&S might improve its waste management process enables the community to voice concerns and strengthen their existing relationship with F&S. A community-oriented approach to waste reduction and diversion is imperative for both achieving and maintaining the targets of iCAP objectives. |

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| **Student Impact** |
| In 200 words or less, how will this project benefit students? How will students be involved with this project? What educational components are in your project? Bullet points welcome. |
| Completing the waste characterization and opportunity assessment will benefits students in the following ways:   * Students from the two identified “student living” buildings will be given an opportunity to voice their thoughts on current campus waste practices and suggest ideas for how F&S can improve waste reduction and diversion. * Results from the final report will be used as a guideline for how F&S can more effectively target outreach and education initiatives regarding waste to the U of I student population.   Students are involved with this project in the following way:   * Student volunteers (supervised by ISTC staff) will be the primary audience ISTC recruits from for waste sorting. Students will gain experience with waste sorting and directly contribute to the results of the project in a supervised and controlled environment.   The educational component of the project is the end deliverable: a forward-facing report designed for public consumption. It will include the following:   * Results from the waste characterization. * A summary of themes discussed at the stakeholder focus groups. * Current practices of waste management. * Planned initiatives which address waste reduction or diversion. * Recommended action items for waste reduction and diversion with low, medium, and high impact on campus. |