**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:**  Improving the sustainability of the freezer room at the Wildlife Veterinary Epidemiology Laboratory.

**Total Amount Requested from SSC:** $50,000

**Primary Project Leader Name & Email:**  Nohra Mateus-Pinilla; nohram@illinois.edu

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| **Project Abstract:** In less than 100 words, briefly describe your project. |
| The Wildlife Veterinary Epidemiology Laboratory is a multidisciplinary research laboratory where students can engage in different aspects of research, including collecting samples in the field, cataloging/organizing/storing samples, and lab work. As part of our efforts toward building a culture of sustainability in our lab, we participated for multiple years in the UIUC freezer challenge. However, to improve the building for sustainable and efficient storage of our samples, we need to improve the lab infrastructure where most of the ULT freezers, -20°C freezers, and refrigerators are stored—aiming to reduce energy consumption that will significantly enhance the lab sustainability performance. |

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|  | Education | Energy | Food & Waste | Land & Water | Transportation |
| Project Category |  | To improve the building infrastructure for sustainable and energy efficient storage of research samples. |  |  |  |

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

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Name | RSO/Department | Email Address |
| Evan London\* | Illinois Natural History Survey | elondon@illinois.edu |
| Nohra Mateus-Pinilla\*\* | Illinois Natural History Survey | nohram@illinois.edu |
| Nelda A. Rivera | Illinois Natural History Survey | river@illinois.edu |
| Eric M Schauber | Illinois Natural History Survey | schauber@illinois.edu |
| Shari Effert-Fanta | Prairie Research Institute | sfanta@illinois.edu |
| Matt Thompson | Illinois Natural History Survey |  |
| \*Student \*\*Faculty advisor | | |

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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. |
| * + **Meet with F&S and discuss options for improvement(s)**   **Winter 2022/2023** |
| * + **Begin work on improvements**   **Spring 2023** |
| * + **Assess efficacy of improvements and adapt with results**   **Summer 2023** |
| * + **Complete improvements**   **Fall 2023** |
| * + **Present energy savings findings**   **Winter 2023** |

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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. |
| Refrigeration units are one of the primary consumers of energy used in the labs. The best practices related to the freezer challenge led to safer, more efficient ways of managing samples at our lab and to win the freezer challenge 3 times. However, despite staff and students' efforts, there is currently no appropriate temperature regulation at the bay, forcing the freezers/refrigerators to work/consume more electricity. Even worse, in summer, some equipment may fail/get damaged during extreme heat.  With the funding provided by SSC, we want to improve the building for sustainable and efficient storage of research samples.  Our goals are:   * To convert a place with poor climate conditions (no A/C and temperature problems) to a more efficient room to reduce energy consumption and protect the equipment (extend the life of freezers). * To improve the laboratory infrastructure through direct heat removal to manage sample storage efficiently and sustainably. * To extend the life of our equipment by providing the appropriate environment. * And to make sure that the new energy-efficient equipment will last. |

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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. |
| This project will increase environmental stewardship through reducing stress on freezers thereby improving their energy efficiency and reducing the need for equipment replacement. The price of a high-performance -80°C freezer can be in excess of $30,000, so reducing the need for replacement would represent an immense savings of resources. |

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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. |
| * The students will have the opportunity to participate in/learn the step-by-step process of how old laboratory infrastructures at UIUC are evolving into environmentally sustainable buildings. * The lab has participated in the International Freezer Challenge for the past three years, with our lab consistently placing in the top five contributors to energy savings at the university level. Our students assist in taking and documenting freezer efficiency actions. * This project will demonstrate to our students that we are taking steps to further improve efficiency. |