# *From time to time unforeseen challenges or opportunities can affect the planned budget, timeline, or overall goals of a project funded by the Student Sustainability Committee. Past examples of these situations include projects coming in under budget but having additional opportunities available, or inclement weather delaying the planting of agriculture projects.*

# *Below please include a brief project summary and your requested changes. Attach additional documents as needed. If you have any questions, please contact the Student Sustainability Committee at sustainability-committee@illinois.edu.*

# General Information

**Project Name:** Joint Pollinator Garden and Composting Systems to Offset Environmental Impact and Reinforce Responsible Stewardship in Research

**Total Amount Requested from SSC:** Original request $32,157. No new funds requested.

# Contact Information

Applicant Name: Jessica Brinkworth

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# Project Information

Please provide a brief background of the project, the goals, and the desired outcomes:

Pollinator and microfauna species are under increasing threat by habitat loss and climate change. For this project we proposed an expansion of the pollinator garden-composting system (“carbon garden”) funded by the SSC in 2019 to three additional student-managed gardens to foster environmental stewardship among UIUC students, decrease wasteful practices through behavior changes and increase landscape resiliency. Students and recent alumni from three departments have been engaged in the design, installation and maintenance three of four garden-composting systems, reducing food waste greenhouse gas emissions and supporting endangered pollinators/microfauna. In this way, the gardens have helped reinforce responsible stewardship increasing inclusivity of students in labs, as student volunteers meet to put hands to earth and learn of each other’s shared values. The hardens improve campus resiliency by converting disused/disturbed spaces into sustainable landscapes supporting local wildlife. Overall the project supports iCAP aims.

There are four gardening sites developed or planned since the original 2018 grant – Davenport Hall Southeast, Davenport Hall North East, Vivarium (front and back), and the Western side of the Institute for Genomic Biology. While the Davenport installations are complete (awaiting signage), the COVID-19 pandemic stalled the full installation of the Vivarium gardens, with Fall planting having occurred but all F&S work and Spring planting delayed until this year. It has also delayed the planned modifications for water drainage at the Institute for Genomic Biology and, by extension, the associated garden plantings that were planned for Spring/Summer of 2021.

Please provide a brief summary of how students will be involved in the project’s changes:

As planned, students will continue to be engaged in the design and maintenance of the garden-composting systems. They will also be engaged in promotion and use of the gardens over the extended timeframe. As planned, we will engage with students in other departments and labs, and cultural houses to help develop student caretakers for and extend the uses of the spaces. As we enter into Fall 2021, and navigate new COVID-19 related challenges with a full return to campus we plan to reinstitute the composting program (suspended by COVID) via student ambassadors in person or online class visits to in person classrooms (method will be determined by safety).

Please provide a brief summary of your requested scope change. How is your request different from your original plan?

We are asking for a year extension (to December 2022) on the grant to achieve the goals of the project.

Additional comments (Optional)

Any additional comments/relevant information for the project proposal