# *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.

The Davenport Hall and Vivarium installations are now complete, and the IGB garden delayed indefinitely due to COVID-related campus construction delays. The installed gardens experienced multiple delays and failures due to the COVID shutdown and subsequent years of altered work load and habits across the university.

After several revisions, we acquired approvals for the signage for Davenport Hall and the Vivarium in November 2022. These signs describe the purpose of the gardens and maintain a QR code and website information so that viewers can learn more about the purpose of the gardens, how to local pollinators, and how to start trench composting. The order for these signs was submitted in November in 2022. We are asking for an extension in the length of the grant until the signs are installed and charges for the signs and installation are run.

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 over this time and beyond it. The signs and website will ease promotion of the spaces and systems, and students will be engaged website building and promotion over and after the extended timeframe.

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

We are asking for an extension in the length of the grant until the signs are installed and charges for the signs and installation are run. We believe this work will be completed by end of January, 2023, but ground conditions may impact installation so we are proposing an extension of the grant until April 30, 2023 with the proviso that we will file a final grant report and return funds when the signs are installed and charged if those events occur before April 30, 2023.

Additional comments (Optional)

Any additional comments/relevant information for the project proposal