# *Thank you for your commitment to green initiatives at the University of Illinois. One of the ongoing requirements listed in the terms of the funding agreement for your project is the submission of semesterly reports with key information about your project. In addition to this form, please provide additional financial documentation and/or progress photos if available.*

# *Please be as accurate as possible in describing the project (including possible setbacks or challenges in meeting the initial goals of the project). Not fully meeting your project's goals will not disqualify you from making future funding requests as long as your reports are as complete and accurate as possible. If you have any questions, please contact the Student Sustainability Committee, at* [*sustainability-committee@illinois.edu*](mailto:sustainability-committee@illinois.edu)*.*

**Project Name:** NSRC Composting Project

**Date of Report Submission:** 2/1/2021

**Project Purpose:**

The purpose of this project is to implement an on-site compost tumbler program at the National Soybean Research Center building to collect food waste, coffee grounds, and shredded paper. Secondly, a pollinator garden on the west side of the building will be constructed and supported by the end product of the office compost. In addition to reducing food waste, this project provides an educational opportunity intended to engage students, staff, and faculty. Using a compost tumbler reduces the amount of organic material that is thrown away, while providing an engagement and educational opportunity on waste and carbon reduction. This program provides environmental stewardship education and hands-on learning opportunities with the intention of expanding this single project to be embedded in campus operations across campus.

**Detailed Accounting of Expenditures to Date:**

See attached

**Project Progress to Date:**

We have purchased the compost tumbler and 10 countertop receptacles. We developed training guides and a presentation to engage and educate NSRC building occupants to ensure they understand how to use the bin correctly. We have created signage with clear examples of what can and cannot go into the bin to promote successful compost. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic and therefore the lack of people on campus and in the NSRC, we have not yet implemented the training or began using the bin on a building-scale; instead, we have engaged with a small group of students and RSOs to participate in this program in the meantime. The tumbler with educational signage with be placed at the building for use by these students. Discussions are in progress with F&S and the Red Oak Rain Garden team for assistance in constructing the pollinator garden. Construction is expected to begin in the spring 2021.

**Student Involvement and Outreach to Date:**

Starting in fall 2019, iSEE interns conducted research to help develop the compost guides and training. Several students and RSOs have expressed the need for composting on campus through feedback from the Waste Reduction Challenge and the Sustainability Training and they are included in discussions for engagement, on-site maintenance of the tumbler, and garden construction and maintenance. Project4Less is one RSO that has offered to help in these efforts.

**Marketing and Promotion Efforts to Date:**

Composting has been a popular point of interest among students and community members who have been in contact with iSEE in one way or another. We have promoted composting by initiating discussions to gage interest and discuss the possibility of eventually expanding this program across other buildings (e.g., Mumford) while we are stalled with our current program. iSEE Communications has also periodically included the NSRC Composting Project in the newsletter as upcoming items to be aware of, and the project was also included in the iCAP 2020 as an upcoming effort.

**Additional Comments:**

As previously expressed, the pandemic clearly delayed our project; however, this time has given us opportunities to plan and research in order to achieve success with this project. We are looking forward to getting back on track with our plans in spring 2021 with the construction of the pollinator garden.