# *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**.*

**Project Name:** Project 4 Less

**Date of Report Submission:** 5/13/2022

**Project Purpose:**

Our goal is to reduce food waste and food insecurity both on campus and in the greater Champaign-Urbana area. We intend to spread awareness of local resources for food-insecure individuals and work alongside University Dining to help ensure that pre-consumer food waste is redistributed to individuals in need.

**Detailed Accounting of Expenditures to Date:**

No expenditures to date. Purchasing cold carts has been delayed because of slow communication with dining, and expansion restrictions.

**Project Progress to Date:**

This semester, Project 4 Less has made progress in maintaining and improving our relationship with University Dining and working on expanding to more packaging nights a week. It is our goal to expand to more nights and more dining halls to increase the amount of food we recover, but this expansion is dependent on University Dining. We had a promising meeting with them this semester, and it seems like they are interested in working with us to expand. We have reached out after the meeting to keep the progress going, but we are still waiting for them to further figure out logistics of expansion with us.

P4L maintains strong relations with its partners Wesley Food Pantry and UniPlace, who act as mail distributors on a weekly basis. Throughout the semester, we have been able to donate nearly 2,000 pounds of food to Wesley and UniPlace, and they are able to connect this food to those who need it most. We are continuing to work out the logistics of our partnership with Salvation Army, though we are also facing the issue of slow email responses with them. Hopefully, this partnership will be finalized over the summer, so they are ready to receive food by the fall semester.

We have been working to improve our outreach to interested students by continuing to use the MailChimp mailing list we created last semester to send out meeting reminders and updates. We have also started a newsletter with the Metropolitan Food & Environmental Systems Student Association (MFSTSA), the group with whom we are part of the Food Recovery Network. This newsletter is meant to highlight the work that we are doing and engage the campus community in our food waste/insecurity efforts.

**Student Involvement and Outreach to Date:**

This semester, we have increased student involvement by recruiting new students to work on Project 4 Less's logistics and support our food recovery goals and expansion. With our bi-weekly meetings, we encourage engagement with students without requiring a large time commitment. Students involved in our bi-weekly meetings take upon the responsibility of media content creation, partnership communication, and planning. Any student interested in getting more involved with leadership and other roles is provided with the opportunity to do so. Additionally, we hold open volunteer sessions for students, and members of Project 4 Less act as supervisors at these sessions. We have continued to increase interaction with other organizations, such as MFSTSA. We participated at several tabling/recruitment events, such as Quad Day and the Green Quad Day events in October and April. Through these events, we have increased our membership so Project 4 Less can continue and grow its work in the future.

**Marketing and Promotion Efforts to Date:**

We have continued to grow our social media accounts, including promotional information, project updates, member spotlights, and informational content on Instagram and Facebook. We have a website jointly with MFSTSA that includes information about both of our organization and the Food Recovery Network. This website showcases our food recovery stats and includes a link to sign up for our mailing list and to volunteer. This semester we have also spread the work about volunteering opportunities by publishing it in the GIES honors student newsletters, as well as pre-health RSOs. We have created a joint food waste and insecurity newsletter that is published monthly. In addition, we have been sending out emails to people who are involved or potentially want to be in the future via our new MailChimp email list.

**Additional Comments:**

We are so grateful for the funding you have provided us and we are looking forward to using it to expand our food recovery efforts next semester. Thank you again and have a great summer!