



STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Funding Application – Step 2

Please submit this completed application, the supplemental budget spreadsheet, and any relevant supporting documentation by the deadline indicated in your Step 1 notification letter to Sustainability-Committee@Illinois.edu. The Working Group Chairs will be in contact with you regarding any questions about the application. If you have any questions about the application process, please contact the SSC Program Advisor, Micah Kenfield, at kenfield@illinois.edu

General Information

Project Name: Skip the Bag

Total Amount Requested from SSC: \$64,260

Project Topic Area(s): ☐Energy ☐Education ☐Food & Waste
☐Land ☐Water ☐Transportation

Contact Information

Project Lead

Applicant Name: Hannah Gutierrez and Sohinee Oswal
Unit/Department: Students for Environmental Concerns
Email Address: hmgutierrez999@gmail.com and oswal3@illinois.edu
Phone Number: 708-224-5430 and 510-673-2090

Financial Contact *(Must be Full-time University of Illinois Staff Member)*

Contact Name: Rob Kanter
Unit/Department: School of Earth, Society & Environment
Email Address: rkanter@illinois.edu

Phone Number: Preferred Contact Number
Organization Code: UIUC Organization Code (for CFOP) – Must not start with 9

Facilities Management Contact *(If Applicable)*

Contact Name: Name of Applicant or Project Lead
Email Address: Preferred Email Address

Primary Project Team

Name	Department	Email
Jessica Tang	School of Earth, Society & Environment	Jtang1203@gmail.com

Eric Green	Natural Resources and Environmental Science	ewgreen@illinois.edu
Katherine Pollman	Economics	Kpollma2@illinois.edu
Name	Department/Organization	Email Address

Project Description

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

Skip the Bag is a plastic bag waste reduction campaign that Students for Environmental Concerns (SECS) is leading. The campaign's goal is to collaborate with the university to eliminate plastic bag usage on campus and to receive funding for the Illini Union Bookstore to help them implement a shift from plastic bags to reusable bags. We want to receive funding to allow the Illini Union Bookstore to give away a free reusable bag for every transaction instead of giving away free plastic bags.

How will the project improve the sustainability of the Illinois campus and how will the project go above and beyond campus standards?

The Illini Union Bookstore gives out around 50,000 plastic bags over the course of a school year, and the majority of these bags end up in landfills or litter our environment and waterways. Eliminating 50,000 plastic bags that the Illini Union Bookstore would give out will significantly reduce the amount of plastic bag waste around campus in accord with the iCAP goal to develop long term zero waste policies. Given the input requirements for plastic bag production, 50,000 reusable bags will initially save 250 gallons of oil, 1933 gallons of water, 500 pounds of solid waste, and 1.33 tons of CO₂ emissions, and save even more with continued reuse.

Where will the project be located? Will special permissions be required to enact the project on this site? If so, please explain and submit any relevant letters of support with the application.

The project will be located in the Illini Union bookstore. We chose this location because the majority of students go to the bookstore for new school supplies and textbooks. Receiving a reusable bag at the beginning of the year will promote a sustainable lifestyle choice. The director of the Illini Union Bookstore, Todd Petry, is in support of the proposal, and has provided Skip the Bag with several recommendations for alternative bag options.

Other than the project team, who will have a stake in the project? Please list other individuals, groups, or departments affiliated directly or indirectly by the project. This includes any entity providing funding (immediate, future, ongoing, matching, in-kind, etc.) and any entities that will be benefitting from this project. Please attach letters of commitment or support at the end of the application.

Please list any other involved parties here as well as their role in the project, and attach letters of support as needed.

The Illini Union Bookstore and students at the University will be benefitting from this project. The Illini Union Bookstore will implement a switch from plastic to reusable bags with the funding provided, and students at the University of Illinois will receive a reusable bag with their transactions at the bookstore. Our Faculty sponsor, Rob Kanter, will also have a stake in this project, as will his home department of the School of Earth, Society & Environment. Finally,

Students for Environmental Concerns, has a stake in this project, as the Skip the Bag committee is housed within this RSO.

Please indicate how this project will involve or impact students. What role will students play in the project?

How will students benefit from this project? This could be direct benefits, indirect benefits, or student involvement opportunities during the implementation of the project.

This project will be almost entirely student led and organized and will serve as a model for other students groups hoping to make positive changes on campus. The project will also send a direct message from the university to the thousands of students-- returning, incoming, and prospective--who use the bookstore about the importance of being environmentally conscious. Students involved will benefit by learning how to work through administrative processes and committees to accomplish the goals of a large project. They will additionally learn how to conduct a large-scale public awareness campaign. Furthermore, all students on campus will benefit from the positive impact on the environment that will result, and incoming students will benefit from learning about the dangers of plastic bag waste through their introductory courses.

Financial Information

In addition to the below questions, please submit the supplemental budget spreadsheet available on the Student Sustainability Committee website. Submission of both documents by the submission deadline is required for consideration of your project.

Have you applied for funding from SSC before? If so, for what project?

A brief summary of project name and year of submission.

No.

If this project is implemented, will there be any ongoing funding required? What is the strategy for supporting the project in order to cover replacement, operation, or renewal costs?

Please note that SSC provides funding on a case by case basis annually and should not be considered as an ongoing source of funding.

If needed, please also address this in the supplemental budget spreadsheet in the relevant section.

This project is intended as a pilot program to see if a significant portion of University of Illinois students will reuse the free bags they are given. If the project proves the latter to be true, we would not ask the SSC for another year of funding and instead would ask the Illini Union Bookstore to purchase the reusable bags to hand-out to customers. If they cannot pay the total amount needed for the bags, we would recommend that they sell advertisements on the bag to local businesses in the area to help pay for the bags.

Please include any other sources of funding that have been obtained or applied for. Please attach any relevant letters of support as needed in a separate document.

Please list any other sources of funding you have secured here, referencing letters of support as needed.

Environmental, Economic, and Awareness Impacts

In addition to the below questions, please indicate specific measurable impacts as applicable on the supplemental budget spreadsheet.

Which aspects of sustainability does your project address, and how? Does the project fit within any of the iCAP goals? If so, how does the project go beyond the university status quo standards and policies.

Please address all of the above items including concrete examples of the desired outcomes

This project addresses several aspects of sustainability. The largest is waste reduction. Giving out 50,000 bags over the course of the school year will provide enough reusable bags for every undergraduate and graduate student. Since the bags can be used multiple times, the need for non reusable bags on campus will decrease, which will decrease the amount of non reusable plastic bags disposed of as waste. Our project therefore takes away every plastic bag used at the bookstore for every year that the student is on campus if they reuse this bag.

Since the campus wants to reduce waste by 90% as part of the iCAP goals, this project would help tremendously towards that by reducing the number of plastic bags that go straight to the landfill.

Not only will the bags reduce waste for purchases at the bookstore, but they will reduce waste on and off campus because students can use the same bags for other purchases on and off campus, further reducing waste in the local community, expanding on the iCAP goals. The presence of more reusable bags on and off campus will encourage more students and community members to use them, further reducing waste and negative environmental impacts, and will serve as the beginning of the larger campaign to make sustainable lifestyle choices.

The reusable bags as the Illini Union Bookstore are a significant educational opportunity for the campus because they will show that our University cares about the impacts our waste has on the planet. Since these bags can be used more than once and used for transporting various purchases, people all over campus can see the impact these reusable bags have.

How will the environmental impacts of your project be measured in the near and long term? What specific monitoring and evaluation processes will you be using to track outcomes and progress?

Please be as specific as possible. Also complete the related section in the Supplemental Budget Document.

This project will immediately reduce the plastic bag consumption by 50,000 bags on campus as stated above, immediately saving 250 gallons of oil, 1933 gallons of water, 500 pounds of solid waste, and 1.33 tons of CO₂ emissions and saving even more of these resources in the long term as it a part of the campaign to eliminate plastic bag usage worldwide. In one year, the

United States uses 100 billion plastic bags that require 12 million barrels of oil and create 10 million pounds of solid waste that fills landfills and pollutes the environment. If students reuse their reusable bags, this project would also save the Illini Union Bookstore money since they spend \$19,000 for plastic bags annually. To monitor this project's effectiveness we would measure the number of bags distributed spring semester of 2017 compared to fall 2017 semester.

What is the plan for publicizing the project on campus? In addition to SSC, where will information about this project be reported?

We will encourage awareness of the project among students through the introductory classes in their departments, as well as through advertisements in local newspapers, events on campus, and the publicity efforts of the Skip the Bag campaign. The SSC could pass out fliers to incoming students to inform them that they can get a free reusable bag with any purchase at Illini Union Bookstore.

We will give introductory course (i.e. ACES 101) instructors outlines to incorporate into a lesson plan with information about plastic bag usage and waste, with an emphasis on changing behaviors. Through this potential partnership, every incoming student will spend a class period dedicated to learning about Skip the Bag. A proposed lesson plan is attached with our application, titled "Education Proposal."

What are your specific, measurable outreach goals? How will these be measured?

Please be as specific as possible. .

The first goal of this project is to end plastic bag usage at the Illini Union Bookstore. We will begin by completely switching from plastic bags to reusable bags during the 2016-2017 school year. If this pilot program succeeds, we will work with the Illini Union Bookstore to establish a permanent program. To ensure that reusable bag usage gains support in the community, we are already spreading awareness on social media and are planning a plastic bag statement art exhibit at the Illini Union. We have already hosted a successful awareness event in the community, during which we gave out reusable bags at County Market. To further address plastic bag usage in the community, we will be reaching out to local businesses to encourage them to implement asking policies for plastic bags and to implement policies that encourage customers to use reusable bags. We will measure these outreach goals by comparing the amount of reusable bags given out at the Illini Union Bookstore during the Spring 2017 semester and the Fall 2017 semester. If the number significantly decreases, we will know students are reusing bags and are actively reducing plastic bag waste on campus.

Do you have any additional comments or relevant information to aid in evaluation of this application?

Please provide any additional information here.