
University of Illinois at Chicago
Sustainability Fee
2013-2014 Annual Report

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Sustainability Fee History

In 2011, the Board of Trustees approved the UIC Sustainability Fee as an initiative to improve the quality of campus operations, reduce UIC's environmental impact, and, most importantly, generate awareness about sustainable issues by creating opportunities for students' involvement on campus.

\$3 fee per semester paid by all professional, graduate, and undergraduate students:

1. Fully funds small, short-term student-initiated projects
2. Subsidizes larger, long-term student-initiated projects
3. Supplements student travel to sustainability-related conferences
4. Research prizes for students at the annual Student Research Forum
5. Subsidizes annual student memberships to the Divvy Bike Sharing program
6. Opportunity for students to work on grant-writing and project management skills

Sustainability Fee Advisory Board

THE 2014-2015 BOARD IS COMPRISED OF 6 STUDENTS AND 5 FACULTY/STAFF.

THE BOARD MEETS APPROXIMATELY TWICE EACH SEMESTER TO:

- REVIEW PROPOSALS
- SUGGEST COLLABORATION/FEEDBACK
- APPROVE FINAL PROPOSALS
- FOLLOW UP WITH CURRENT AND PAST PROJECTS
- MENTOR STUDENTS THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER

Request for Proposals

- High visibility and educational exposure on campus
- High levels of student involvement, engagement, and/or employment
- Long-term cost benefits
- Interdisciplinary collaboration and research
- Incorporation of the **three pillars of sustainability**: environmental protection, social justice, and economic benefits

Additional considerations include:

- Direct energy and sustainability impact
- Budget effectiveness, cost sharing, and leverage of external funds
- Likelihood for success
- Creativity

Who applies for Sustainability Fee funding?

All UIC students or recognized student groups can apply for this funding

Student Organization

- College of Cycling
- EcoCampus
- Zeta Psi Fraternity
- Mental Health and Disability Alliance
- Mexican Students de Aztlan
- Urban Planning & Policy Student Organization
- Public Health Student Association
- Biology Colloquium

Students

- Engineering
- Psychology
- Urban Planning
- English
- Philosophy
- Earth and Environmental Science
- Management
- Biology

HERITAGE GARDEN

The Heritage Garden is a year-round, paid internship program that has created eight (8) satellite gardens around east campus in conjunction with the Centers for Cultural Understanding and Social Change. Student interns work with faculty, staff, and community members to connect horticulture with environmental sustainability, cultural diversity, and social justice. Since the garden's inception in Summer 2013, it has employed over 55 student interns and hosts 3-4 workshops for UIC students and the surrounding community each semester. Budget: \$60,000/year.



SSB RENOVATION

SSB Renovation project installed permeable pavers and native plants on the northeast corner of SSB. Budget: \$80,000



BIG BELLY TRASH COMPACTORS

Ten solar powered recycling and trash compactors are placed throughout the east side of campus. Budget: \$60,000



WIND TURBINES

The “Wind Flames” project features two vertical axis wind turbines located on the south campus recreational field. These turbines capture wind and solar energy to supply outdoor light fixtures.

This is the Sustainability Fee’s first project on south campus and it was completed in May 2015.

These turbines received recognition from the Green Sports Alliance Conference held in Chicago in June 2015.

Budget: \$90,000



RECYCLING EVENT

This event held a campus-wide event to recycle the personal electronics of UIC students, staff, and faculty. Budget: \$250



WATER FOUNTAIN RETROFIT

This project sought to retrofit 10 water fountains on the east side of campus and are based on high trafficked student areas.



SPROUTING INSPIRATIONS

The goal of this project is to rejuvenate the two landscaping and flower gardens in front of the School of Public Health East building with low maintenance, sustainable, perennial plants, and trees.

Budget: \$5,000

**SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC HEALTH**



Additional Student Funding

CONFERENCE FUNDING: The Sustainability Fee also helps to fund students who attend and/or present at sustainability related conferences. During the academic year, the fee sponsors up to three students who attend or present at conferences. These conferences include, AASHE (Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher education), the Clinton Global Initiative, and the Climate Reality Project. (\$2,250/year)

Proposals and Funded Projects

