



## STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

### Final Report

*Thank you for your commitment to green initiatives at the University of Illinois. One of the final steps in completing the terms of the funding agreement for your project is the submission of a Final Report with key information about your project. You will also need to submit a detailed report of expenses (if you don't list it within this document) as well as supporting photos to showcase your project.*

*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).*

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**Project Name:** Beginning bike maintenance classes

**Date of Report Submission:** 4/15/2020

**Project Purpose:**

Since 2010, The Bike Project has been collaborating with the University of Illinois to provide an educational space on campus. Bicycle education taught through that space encourages the campus community to ride bicycles for transportation because the bicycles sold and worked on at the Campus Bike Center are reliable and safe. While some people are willing to volunteer to teach advanced level bicycle repair classes at the Bike Center, few are willing to teach very basic entry-level classes addressing such issues as adjusting brakes, lubricating chains, and fixing flat tires. This project funds two semesters of stipend for an instructor to teach classes at the Bike Center covering these topics. Combined class capacity over the two semesters would exceed 200 new cyclists. This proposal directly funds: 1) Two semesters of labor for a beginner-level bicycle class.

**Project Summary:**

The Student Sustainability Committee (SSC) awarded Facilities & Services \$1,000 to teach bicycle education at the Campus Bike Center to the University students, faculty, and staff in FY17. These classes would primarily focus on educating users to perform basic maintenance and bicycle safety. These classes were free for all students, faculty, and staff.

F&S hired a student Simon Pokorny to design and teach Fix-a-Flat beginner bike maintenance classes during mid-Fall 2017. He taught two Fix-a-Flat classes at the Campus Bike Center during second half of fall 2017. We are happy to report we had eight people on the first day and six people the second week. Ultimately, Simon taught 15 sessions with around 100 attendants

total, over the 15 weeks. The sessions were Mondays at 6:30 pm. The sessions began on 9/5/2017 and concluded at the end of the spring semester.

In February 2019, F&S reached out to Jake Benjamin, the Campus Bike Center Manager, to see if he had any students who would be interested in teaching the Fix-a-Flat class in spring 2019. Jake polled his students, and two of them were interested. F&S transferred the remaining funds to Campus Rec to cover the labor cost for the Fix-a-Flat classes at the Campus Bike Center. These classes were taught in the second half of the spring 2019 semester (max. 10 attendees per class).

All equipment and materials used to teach were provided at the Campus Bike Center. Students didn't have to bring their bicycles either.

#### **Summary of Project Expenditures:**

Labor cost during the Fall 2017 semester: \$540

Labor cost during the Spring 2019 semester (transferred to Campus Rec): \$460

#### **Problems/Challenges Encountered**

Project completed.

Campus Bike Center moving under Campus Rec, staff changes at F&S, and identifying students to teach the class were the major challenges during this project.

#### **Student Involvement and Outreach to Date:**

Students have been involved in this project from the beginning. These classes were taught by students hired by F&S (during fall 2017) and Campus Bike Center (spring 2019). The first instructor, Simon Pokorny, was a student. His supervisor at the time, shared "I am happy to report that our instructor is enthusiastic, punctual, and committed to teaching students anything they wish to know about cycling and encouraging the transportation mode."

The purpose of this project was to educate U of I students on basic bike maintenance to encourage bicycling as a healthier and eco-friendlier mode of transport. More than 100 students attended these classes during the two semesters. The Campus Bike Center has continued to offer Fix-a-Flat and Bike Maintenance 101 classes. They had organized monthly Fix-a-Flat classes in fall 2019 and spring 2020, and they organized the Bike Maintenance 101 classes twice in fall 2019 and twice in spring 2020 (one was planned in March which did not take place because of Covid-19).

The Campus Rec, Campus Bike Center, and F&S staff promoted the Fix-a-Flat and Bike Maintenance 101 classes at the tabling events. These classes were also promoted by Campus Rec on their website, Campus Bike Center, Bike at Illinois website, F&S Transportation Demand Management (TDM), F&S Sustainability, and AdBuzz (student-run Public Relations agency that collaborates with Bike at Illinois). F&S TDM in collaboration with AdBuzz promoted these

classes via digital advertisements at all residence halls, all Campus Rec facilities, Illini Union, and F&S facilities. These classes were promoted and advertised on the iCAP Portal as well.

**Marketing and Promotion Efforts to Date:**

The Campus Rec, Campus Bike Center, and F&S staff promoted the Fix-a-Flat and Bike Maintenance 101 classes at the tabling events. These classes were also promoted by Campus Rec on their website, Campus Bike Center, Bike at Illinois website, F&S Transportation Demand Management (TDM), F&S Sustainability, and AdBuzz (student-run Public Relations agency that collaborates with Bike at Illinois). F&S TDM in collaboration with AdBuzz promoted these classes via digital advertisements at all residence halls, all Campus Rec facilities, Illini Union, and F&S facilities. Social media included Facebook events and an advert in eWeek and GradLinks. These classes were promoted and advertised on the iCAP Portal as well.

**Additional Comments:**

We really appreciate SSC and their continued support towards encouragement of bicycle education on campus. We are grateful to the SSC for funding this project, as it has helped us recognize the need of such bicycle maintenance program and Campus Rec has continued to offer these as an ongoing program. We hope and look forward to working with SSC on more projects to improve our students' bicycling experience.

In addition to the above fields, please provide a detailed accounting of how the funding was spent as well as pictures of the final project in an email to [sustainability-committee@illinois.edu](mailto:sustainability-committee@illinois.edu). Thank you again for your commitment to sustainability.