# *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:** Aquaponics System Demonstration Unit

**Date of Report Submission:** 8/10/2018

**Project Purpose:**

To establish a demonstrational aquaponics system on the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana campus and to educate the campus community on the fundamentals behind aquaponics, urban food systems, and nutrient cycling.

**Detailed Accounting of Expenditures to Date:**

SSC Grant: $4695.00

Aquabundance Modular Easy-Reach 3 Bed System (NC Machinery): -$3134.30

System plumbing supplies (Supplies – Other): -$49.67

Seeds and Fish transport contatiners (Farm and Garden Supplies): -$24.86

Fish Food (Food Supplies-Other): -$96.10

Reverse Osmosis filter and Chemicals (Scientific and Laboratory Supplies): -$290.36

Greenhouse space rental fee (Other General Services): -$193.31

Greenhouse space rental fee (Other General Services): -$104.71

Greenhouse space rental fee (Other General Services): -$105.86

Greenhouse space rental fee (Other General Services): -$117.96

Greenhouse space rental fee (Other General Services): -$116.68

Remaining balance: $461.19

**Project Progress to Date:**

The majority of our project’s listed target milestones were met during Fall of 2016 when we successfully completed the establishment of the aquaponics system. Since that time we have successfully raised over 60 tilapia, half of which were harvested during the summer of 2017. The remaining half of our fish were harvested in October 2017 and served in the Bevier Cafe. Our project has since begun to work closely along side Bevier Café. Bevier Café purchased freshwater prawns to replace the tilapia in our system, this shift has allowed our project to terminate the DARS protocol and thus allowed for greater freedom for student involvement in the project. These prawns have been the main focus of our efforts throughout the spring of 2018, in both raising and configuring our system to meet the prawns’ needs. We continue to tune our system and make logistical and mechanical improvements to increase yields from the system.

**Student Involvement and Outreach to Date:**

Being a student led project our aquaponics system has been primarily established and maintained by a dedicated group of students. Student volunteers and group members have divided the responsibilities of maintaining the system, researching improvements, and communicating with the various University entities associated with our project. This group has included at least 30 students who have actively engaged with our project. Beyond that level of involvement, at least 100 more members of the campus community have come into contact with the system through the guided tours we have provided. These tours were conducted during the Spring 2017 semester and during the Spring 2017 ACES Open House. Our project has recently begun working with several sustainability oriented student groups on campus including Urban Agriculture SECS subgroup, Illini Urban Farmers, and Enactus. We have held collaboration meetings with these groups and hope to create a space for students to think critically about food sustainability issues and develop creative solutions.

**Marketing and Promotion Efforts to Date:**

Current marketing and promotion efforts have been conducted through social media such as facebook and instagram.

**Additional Comments:**

As our system continues to develop a larger student involvement and will eventually be shifting management persons it is critical for our group to retain a dedicated set of students, we have thus been focusing on developing said group of students to ensure the long-term sustainability of the project.