*Please submit this completed application and any relevant supporting documentation by the deadline listed on the SSC website 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 at* *Sustainability-Committee@Illinois.edu**.*

# General Information

**Project Name:** Green Labs Pilot Program

**Total Amount Requested from SSC:** $85,000

**Project Topic Area(s):** [x] Energy [x] Education [x] Food & Waste

 [ ] Land [x] Water [ ] Transportation

# Contact Information

Applicant Name: Morgan White

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**Project Team**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
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| Ximing Cai | iSEE | xmcai@illinois.edu |
| Marian Huhman | ECBS SWATeam Chair | mhuhman@illinois.edu |
| Name | Department/Organization | Email Address |
| Name | Department/Organization |   |

# Project Information

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

The Green Labs Pilot Program will be an interdepartmental collaboration led by a full time visiting Green Labs Coordinator with guidance from a Steering Committee and assistance from student interns. Over the course of the three-year pilot, the Green Labs Coordinator will complete a detailed inventory of campus research labs, develop and track behavior change initiatives (like Shut the Sash, the Freezer Challenge, and a Certified Green Lab program), and work with campus stakeholders to recommend policies and procedures for the university to enhance the sustainability of campus labs.

This project was originally envisioned by the Energy Conservation and Building Standards (ECBS) SWATeam in support of iCAP objective #2.3, which includes the potential strategy of a “Campus Fume Hood Efficiency Program,” and objective #2.4, “Engage and incentivize the campus community in energy conservation.” The SWATeam recommendation led to several discussions with stakeholders across campus, including safety professionals and new faculty who were shocked we did not already have a program in place. Additionally, inquiries were made with peer institutions that are successfully running a Green Labs program (some focused on fume hoods, others more wholistic). Through these discussions the program was broadened beyond fume hoods to include other energy and water consuming equipment, zero waste efforts (including Styrofoam and glove recycling), and goals for building a stronger culture of sustainability around campus.

This pilot has specific deliverables expected by the conclusion of the program:

1. A detailed inventory of research laboratory space on campus, beyond the campus-level space use database. This inventory will focus on equipment and occupant behavior, as well as opportunities to enhance sustainability and related education.
2. A set of policy/procedure recommendations to guide our campus to be recognized for prioritizing Safe and Sustainable behavior throughout this tier one research university.
3. A financial report to campus administration describing resources saved through the program, with the intent that the results 1) improve campus sustainability as a whole and 2) can be demonstrated to clearly pay for themselves.

Please provide a brief summary of how students will be involved in the project:

While the Green Labs Coordinator will be a full-time member of staff, much of the work will be done with the assistance of student interns. A combination of paid interns and students taking ENVS 491 for credit will be involved in the execution of laboratory audits and the Certified Green Lab Program. They will gain hands-on experience in how to create a more sustainable environment on campus.

Additionally, students involved with research at all levels will be impacted by the Green Labs Messaging. Thousands of future faculty and researchers will learn how to make their research environment both Safe and Sustainable.

Please provide a brief summary of the project timeline:

Given the vast number of laboratories on campus, the level of detail required for analysis, and the time needed to develop and revise policies, a three-year timeline is required to fully execute all goals of this position. Additionally, a 3-year pilot guarantees that the Coordinator will be able to be fully involved in the drafting of relevant sections of the 2020 Climate Action Plan.

Additional comments

The funding requested is for 50% of the project three year costs. The other 50% will be requested from the Carbon Credit Sales funding.