*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:** Baler for Plastics – Project Conceptualization

**Total Amount Requested from SSC:** $15-20,000

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

 [ ] Land [ ] Water [ ] Transportation

# Contact Information

Applicant Name: Morgan White

Unit/Department: F&S Sustainability

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**Project Team**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Department** | **Email** |
| Tracy Osby | F&S Waste Management | tosby@illinois.edu |
| Name | Department/Organization | Email Address |
| Name | Department/Organization | Email Address |
| Name | Department/Organization | Email Address |

# Project Information

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

The 2015 iCAP includes a goal to decrease waste going to landfills from our campus buildings. This is called Municiple Solid Waste (MSW), and our campus goal is to increase the diversion rate of MSW from 30% to 45% by FY20. To that end, the Purchasing, Waste, and Recycling Sustainability Working Advisory Team (SWATeam) submitted a recommendation to start recycling plastics 3-7 at the F&S Waste Transfer Station (WTS). The WTS staff collects and sorts commodity recyclables from the campus waste stream, bales the sorted material, and sells the bales to recycling vendors to support the waste handling operations.

The existing baler at the WTS is unable to handle the wider variety of plastics, so a new baler is required before we can increase the types of plastics collected. Tracy Osby at the WTS has identified an appropriate new baler (at a cost of approximately $300K), but the cost of installing the equipment is currently unknown. F&S can hire an engineering firm to identify the total construction/installation project costs, so that funding can be pursued to purchase and install the new baler, and thus expand the scope of plastic recycling on campus. We are requesting that the SSC provide funding for this initial project conceptualization.

It is likely that additional support from the SSC will be requested, in coordination with other funding sources, if the results of this conceptualization are favorable and campus agrees to move forward with the upgraded baler and additional plastic recycling.

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

There are two students on the related SWATeam who made the initial recommendation. There are also opportunities to include students in the conceptualization progress, and longer term follow up efforts to seek funding and implement the changes.

The real impact to the students will be if the baler can be approved and we expand the recycling collected on campus to include more types of plastic. Currently, we the only plastics we recycle centrally are plastics #1 and #2 that are shaped like bottles.

Please provide a brief summary of the project timeline:

This is a six month conceptualization project.

Additional comments

Attached files are a 2015 quote for a new baler and the related product brochure.