UIS Green Projects Application

Full Project Proposal- **Step 2**

To complete your Full Project Proposal, **download this word document and type all answers** to the questions below. Save your completed word document along with any supporting documentation (excel spreadsheet of budgeted itemized items, letters of support, and so on) as new files. Supporting files in Word (.docx) format should be attached to the end of this application in order to create only one Word document. Supporting files in all other formats (pdf, excel, PP) may be submitted as separate documents.

Once completed and saved to your device, return to the Green Projects website at <http://www.uis.edu/greenprojects/get-involved/>

Click the hyperlink titled, *“****Submit your completed UIS Green Project Proposal****”*

This can be found under **Step 2** of the “Submit a Green Project Proposal” section.

You will be redirected to an external WebQ. Upload your completed application along with any supporting documentation by the deadline found in the “**Timeline**” section of the Green Projects website.

**NOTE: Please do not submit this application unless you have been formally invited to do so by the UIS Green Fee Committee.**

If you have any questions regarding the application or submission process, please contact us at greenprojects@uis.edu.

**Project Name:**

**Contact Information:**

Project Team

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Name* | *UIS Student/Faculty/Staff & Department (or Office)* | *UIS Email* | *Phone #* |
| Zane Nyhus | student | znyhu2@uis.edu | (309) 648-5579 |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

Organization/Affiliation:

**Project Information:**

*Provide a brief description of the project, its goals, and the desired outcomes:*

The intention of this project is to bring composting to UIS. A goal of this project is to decrease the amount of waste that UIS produces and to improve its overall carbon footprint. Another goal is to increase the available compost for use by UIS grounds and to reduce the overall cost of tipping fees for UIS to dispose their garbage. Finally, this could be used by students to learn more about waste and sustainability and would help students to become more conscious of these concepts as they relate to their lives.

*How will this project improve sustainability at UIS?*

This project is important to me because I believe the issue of waste in our society is often overlooked but is tremendously important in creating a more sustainable society. In the long-term, I’d like to see UIS dining services faculty embrace composting and utilize the system as a means to divert as much food waste as possible from garbage disposal and to re-direct it to create compost that can be then used to improve soil quality on campus or elsewhere. I also believe it will help students reflect on their own production of waste, how we can be vehicles of change in this system, and even as an educational opportunity in waste diversion measurements, projects, etc. Long-term, I also like the idea of starting with strictly food waste but then introducing compostable cups, plates, etc. to the unit. Being that these items are more expensive for the dining services to provide for students, it seems counterintuitive that we end up throwing out most of them.

*Please indicate how this project will involve or impact students. What role will students play in the project?*

Students could use this compost unit in school projects. Opportunities involve learning about composting and how the specific unit works, working to discover how much food waste is diverted within a certain period of time, etc.

Further, students will need to play a role in maintaining the system. I believe that the garden employees would be a good option for those responsible with the composting process, however if this isn’t an option then maybe the Biology club or SAGE.

*Where will the project be located? Do you need special permissions to enact the project at this site? If so, please explain and attach a letter of support to your application. If you are not sure, let us know! We can help.*

The project will be located at HSB receiving. I talked with Chuck Coderko and Brian Beckerman who helped me determine this to be a good location.

*Other than the project team, who will hold stake in the project? Please list other individuals, groups, or departments indirectly or directly affected by this project. This includes any funding entities (immediate, future, ongoing, etc.) and any entities that will be benefiting from this project. Communication with affected departments is encouraged ahead of time. List the names of who you spoke with and their comments.*

Dining services will be directly impacted by this project. I spoke with Geoff Evans, who was on board with this idea. He told me that they would be able to use buckets to collect the food scraps in the kitchen, and these could then be transported via Gators to HSB receiving. He told me that because the food service employees are union jobs with very specific job descriptions, they wouldn’t be able to transport the materials or assist in the composting process directly. For this reason, I believe that the garden coordinators would be a good option to take on this task. If this is not possible, student volunteers from the Biology club or SAGE would be helpful in implementing this project. UIS grounds will also be necessary to this project in providing woodchips and cover materials that help to speed the process. Once the compost is cured, the garden club or UIS grounds can use the fertile material for landscaping, application in the garden, etc.

*Have you applied for funding from the Student Green Fee previously? If so, for what project?*

No.

**Scope, Schedule, and Budget verification**

*Do you have a plan for project implementation? Describe the key steps of the project.*

The first step will be purchasing Earth Cube(s). Once they are shipped here, we will have grounds and facilities employees assist to assemble and install the cube(s). At this point, the operations should begin. Dining services will collect food scraps which will be periodically transported to HSB receiving where they will be composted. Initially, I believe it is best to use only food scraps that aren’t meat or dairy, as these slow down the process and will give us a good idea as to the volume the machines are able to handle. While they say 50 lbs per day can be handled, it takes 21-30 days once the material is in-vessel to reach the final stage. I would assume that as the material is getting composted, it will shrink and more can be added. However, this would likely delay the expected time that it will be cured. Ideally, if we get multiple cubes we can alternate between cubes for maximal output*.*

*List all budget items for which funding will be required. Include the cost for each item requested. Please be as detailed as possible, to the best of your ability. If you know where you would like to purchase materials from, please list the contact information of the retailer(s) below, along with the URL addresses to each item you will be requiring. If you need suggestions for how and where to purchase materials, please contact the Student Sustainability Projects Coordinators by email.*

Each Earth Cube costs $3,995. This price includes shipping

When I initially talked with Chuck & Brian, we discussed purchasing an Earth Tub. This would have required laying down concrete in the HSB receiving area due to the size of the unit, however the company no longer offers this particular product. The Earth Cube is smaller in diameter and weight, and therefore wouldn’t require this additional cost. Other optional attachments including freeze protection system and plug-in aeration system are listed on the url below, however I don’t feel that these are necessary to purchase (initially).

[*http://compostingtechnology.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Earth-Cube-DIY-Cut-Sheet-July-2018.pdf*](http://compostingtechnology.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Earth-Cube-DIY-Cut-Sheet-July-2018.pdf)

[*file:///C:/Users/zaneg\_000/Downloads/Earth%20Cube%20Cut%20Sheet%20July%202018%20(1).pdf*](file:///C%3A/Users/zaneg_000/Downloads/Earth%20Cube%20Cut%20Sheet%20July%202018%20%281%29.pdf)

*Will this project require ongoing funding? Do you have a plan for supporting the project in order to cover replacement, operation, or renewal costs?*

If a part breaks, it would have to be replaced. As Geoff Evans explained to me, UIS would have to pay for any part being replaced, so they would have to approve the compost unit being installed. However, he also explained that the cost of the unit itself is a drop in the bucket with regard to the annual operating expenses of food services and all the different things which break down & need repairing. \*\*Further, he told me that while food services couldn’t offer money to assist purchasing a composting unit for this year, they submit an expense report to the university for the upcoming school year every summer which gets approved by the financial office. Therefore, because the cost of a composting unit is comparatively small to all the expenses they have on an annual basis, it is realistic that they would be able to assist purchasing a compost unit this upcoming year.\*\* For this reason, I propose that the Green Projects committee invest in one Earth Cube for the upcoming semester and ask that dining services submit the costs for a second Earth Cube for the 2019-2020 school year. This way, each group matches the funds being put forward and by the time the second one arrives, those working with the compost unit will be well acquainted with how it works.

*Every project must be publicized! Where would you like to see information about this project reported?*

School paper

Student union around dining services and Starbucks