UIS Green Project Letter of Intent- Fall 2018

Project Name: Campus Solar Stations

Contact Information:

Name	*UIS Student/Faculty/Staff & Department (or Office)*	*UIS Email*	*Phone #*
Nick Edwards	**ENS 271 Student, ENS major/BIO minor**	**Nedwa4@uis.edu**	**217-691-5402**

Organization/Affiliation: **Class assignment for ENS 271, I am also a voting member of the Green Fee Committee**

Project Information:

Please provide a brief description of the project. What are the goals and the desired outcomes of the project? Please address all of the above items including concrete examples of the desired outcomes.

For my proposed project I would like to see solar powered device charging stations on campus. These would be a great way for students to utilize renewable energy. An added benefit would be broadening people's knowledge about what solar power can do. I think many people have an understanding that solar power is only viable on a large solar farm, or that only buildings and homes can use it. These small-scale solar stations would be perfect for cell phones, laptops and tablets, all of which students use on a daily basis.

The best outcome would be decreasing our reliance on the fossil fuel energy grid. Students and faculty alike all have personal electronic devices they use every single day. When you walk around the inside of the buildings on campus you will most certainly see someone charging some kind of device. Getting solar stations outside would give people more incentive to sit outdoors within nature and give them a greater respect for renewable energy.

Please describe why this project matters to you and how it relates to sustainability.
How will it aid in promoting the sustainability culture on campus? Describe your long-term vision.

Reducing consumption of non-renewable fossil fuels has been one of the most sought-after goals for sustainability activists, myself included. Fossil fuels are a finite resource, and our consumption only rises with each passing year. Fossil fuel consumption is also one of the leading causes of environmental pollution and climate change. Implementing renewable energy projects lowers the level of reliance on fossil fuels, not to mention that they are cleaner for the environment as well.

Where will the project be located?

Outside throughout campus, preferably in higher traffic areas where students may be likely to sit for a period of time. For example, the tables outside PAC or Brookens Library.

Please provide a brief summary of how students will be involved in or affected by the project:
Are there any relevant opportunities for student or multidisciplinary involvement with your project?

Student involvement in implementation would be limited. However, their benefit from this project would be great. They would be able to use a clean energy source to charge their devices while remaining outdoors. A positive externality of being outdoors is gathering a more solid appreciation of nature. With the hopes of the students becoming more environmentally conscious.

Please provide a brief summary of the project timeline (Most approved projects are proposed in the Fall and implemented in the Spring)
A brief summary of total project timeline and key milestones

I would like to see the charging stations installed in the spring semester.

Please provide a brief itemized breakdown of the funds needed.
We will help you factor in the cost of labor and installation. If you have a plan for where you would like to purchase supplies from, provide it here and include a URL link to each item on the desired retailer's website.

I have found a few different approaches to this project:

1. **There is a company called SolarSynthesis (solarsynthesis.us) that manufactures small stand-alone stations that resemble decorative garden pillars. They are to be placed next to existing seating areas outdoors. The prices for a single unit range from $199.00 to &1249.00 depending on the model**
2. **A company known as General Recreation Inc. (generalrecreationinc.com) produces poles or benched with integrated solar charging capability**
3. **The last company I found is called ZON (zon-technology.com). Their main products are umbrellas that can be slid into a table that act as shade cover as well as a charging station for devices**

Unfortunately, the last two require contact with the companies to get quotes on pricing.

Do you have any suggestions for how we could measure the success of this project?

One Way would be to get info on what utility bills are typically like on campus and then compare after implementation. I don't think that would be the most viable because the amount saved at first is likely to be very small in comparison. The best way would be to observe the amount of people using the new charging structures too see how many there are. A survey on what students think might also be a viable option

Additional comments:
Any additional comments/relevant information about the project proposal