




VIRGINIA TECH™

Vice President for Campus Planning, Infrastructure, and Facilities  
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# MEMORANDUM

TO: Student Organizations

FROM: Christopher H. Kiwus, Vice President for Campus Planning, Infrastructure, and Facilities 

DATE: September 21, 2020

SUBJECT: Academic Year 2020-21 Request for Proposal for Sustainability Initiatives from Student Organizations Program (Green RFP Program)

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Student engagement is an important factor in advancing sustainability at Virginia Tech. The university has created the Request for Proposal for Sustainability Initiatives from Student Organizations Program (called the “Green RFP Program”) to solicit proposals from recognized student organizations that supports the goals of the Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment and Sustainability Plan. Since its initiation in academic year 2010-11, the Green RFP Program has provided funds in excess of \$1.2 million for 83 approved student sustainability proposals.

The purpose of this memorandum is to present the proposal submission process, timeline, format, contacts, and the review criteria. Recognized student organizations should identify sustainability initiatives that are directly targeted to specific projects and therefore limited in size and scope. The university is especially interested in projects focused on energy reduction and conservation that produce achievable savings. Requests for one-time support are generally preferred over those requiring ongoing support.

The process and key dates for proposal submission and are shown in Attachment 1. The process begins with this memorandum and continues through the current academic year. Approved proposals will be formally announced during Spring Semester 2021.

Student organizations will submit a proposal(s) using the form titled “Sustainability Initiatives by Student Organizations Funding Proposal” shown in Attachment 2. All four parts of the form must be completed in detail. Part III, “Supporting Information” should be completed prior to addressing Part II, “Project Cost Information.” As shown in Part IV, all proposals must have an appropriate university official’s participation and concurrence prior to submission. The participation of the appropriate university official is essential, particularly if a proposal involves the purchase and installation of new equipment, a modification to an existing facility or grounds, or a new program.

The completed form must be signed and electronically submitted to Dennis C. Cochrane in the Office of Sustainability at [denniscc@vt.edu](mailto:denniscc@vt.edu) by 4 p.m. on November 20, 2020. If students have questions, need assistance in completing the form, or need assistance with identifying the appropriate university official for their proposal, please contact Mr. Cochrane via email or office telephone 540-231-5184. If technical assistance is needed in preparing a proposal, please see our subject matter contact list in Attachment 3. For a list of previously approved Green RFPs, please visit the Office of Sustainability website:

<http://facilities.vt.edu/sustainability/sustainability-programs/green-rfp-program.html>.

The Office of Sustainability will present select proposals to the university's Energy and Sustainability Committee for review and prioritization. This committee is a part of our university governance system and is comprised of faculty, staff, graduate students, and undergraduate students. The committee will consider and evaluate proposals based on the following criteria:

- Does the proposal help to achieve the goals of the Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment and Sustainability Plan? See: Presidential Policy Memorandum No. 262 Revision 1 "Update to the Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment" dated May 9, 2013.  
[http://facilities.vt.edu/content/dam/facilities\\_vt\\_edu/sustainability/climate-action-commitment.pdf](http://facilities.vt.edu/content/dam/facilities_vt_edu/sustainability/climate-action-commitment.pdf)
- Does the proposal generate savings that exceed the cost of implementation?
- Does the proposal pertain to energy reduction/conservation that produces cost savings?
- Does the funding request address a one-time or an ongoing need?
- Does the proposal leverage other sources of funding or volunteer effort?

Select proposals meeting these criteria will be prioritized and submitted by the Energy and Sustainability Committee to the Office of Budget and Financial Planning (OBFP) for further consideration. OBFP will assemble a budget committee to review proposals and determine potential funding strategies for those recommended for approval. The Vice President for Finance will announce the list of approved proposals and funding sources. The Office of Sustainability will oversee implementation.

Thank you for your interest in the university's sustainability efforts. I encourage your participation in this very popular student program.

c: Dennis C. Cochrane  
James S. Hillman  
Timothy L. Hodge  
Travis W. Hundley  
Kenneth E. Miller  
Angela S. Page  
Frank X. Shushok Jr.  
Jonathan C. Teglas

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE PROPOSAL  
PROCESS AND TIMELINE

DATE	ACTIVITY
Sep 21, 2020	Associate Vice President and Chief Facilities Officer announces the 2020-21 Green RFP Program and the Office of Sustainability (OS) notifies student organizations.
Nov 20, 2020	Proposal submission deadline to OS.
Dec 1, 2020	OS coordinates a proposal review for feasibility and completeness.
Jan 25, 2021	Energy and Sustainability Committee receives select proposals, and appoints Subcommittee to review and recommend a priority order.
Feb 22, 2021	Subcommittee presents proposed priority recommendations to the Energy and Sustainability Committee for approval.
Mar 5, 2021 (estimated)	Energy and Sustainability Committee presents proposals to the Office of Budget and Financial Planning for review and funding consideration.
Mar 2021 (estimated)	Office of Budget and Financial Planning, in coordination with other university offices, determines potential funding options for proposals and seeks the appropriate approvals.
Apr 2021 (estimated)	Vice President for Finance announces the approved proposals and funding sources.
May 2021 (estimated)	The Office of Budget and Financial Planning transfers funds to the appropriate Green RFP funding codes for proposal implementation.
May 2021 (estimated)	OS initiates Green RFP implementation.

STUDENT ORGANIZATION SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE PROPOSAL FORM

**Part I- General Information:**

Name of Student Organization	
Contact/Responsible Person	
Contact Office Held/Title	
Contact Email Address	
Contact Telephone Number	

**Part II- Project Cost Information**

Estimated Cost of this Proposal  See III.C. below

Estimated Savings -  See III.D. below

Net Cost of this Proposal =

**Part III- Supporting Information**

A. Please describe your sustainability initiative and attach supporting documentation.

B. How does this initiative help to achieve the goals of the Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment Resolution and Sustainability Plan?

C. What is the cost of your proposal? Please describe in adequate detail the basis for your cost estimate.

D. Will your proposal produce cost savings for the University? If so, how much? Please describe in adequate detail the basis for your savings estimate.

E. Is this funding request for a One-Time need or an Ongoing need (please check one)?

One-time  Ongoing

F. Is funding available for this request from another source? If yes, describe the funding (source, amount, etc.)

STUDENT ORGANIZATION SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE PROPOSAL FORM  
(Continued)

**Part IV- Requestors/Reviewers**

Prepared By (Name of Contact for Student Organization)

Date

Reviewed By (Name of Appropriate University Official)

Date

Reviewed By (Name of Office of Sustainability Representative)

Date

STUDENT ORGANIZATION SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE FUNDING PROPOSAL  
CONTACT LIST

In the preparation of your Green RFP form, student organizations are encouraged to seek input and guidance from the following list of university employees. These individuals are familiar with the form and the process. They can address the feasibility of your proposal, provide a technical review, and evaluate the cost & potential savings.

<u>Area of Expertise</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Email Address</u>
Engineering & Operations, Energy Management	Kim Briele	Director Engineering & Assessment	<a href="mailto:sbriele@vt.edu">sbriele@vt.edu</a>
Facilities: Housing & Residence Life	Todd Pignataro	Associate Director of Facilities	<a href="mailto:ptodd@vt.edu">ptodd@vt.edu</a>
Facilities: Buildings & Grounds (Small Renovations)	Jim McDaniel	Project Coordinator	<a href="mailto:jmcdani@vt.edu">jmcdani@vt.edu</a>
Exterior Lighting	Rob Glenn	Director VT Electric Service	<a href="mailto:RobGlenn@vt.edu">RobGlenn@vt.edu</a>
Student Engagement & Campus Life	Spencer Stidd	Associate Director for Events Services	<a href="mailto:ssidd@vt.edu">sstidd@vt.edu</a>
Dining Services & Housing (Student Affairs)	Blake Bensman	Sustainability Mgr.	<a href="mailto:bensman@vt.edu">bensman@vt.edu</a>
Alternative Transport (Bus, Bike & Walk/Electric Vehicles)	Nick Quint	Transportation Network Mgr.	<a href="mailto:nquint@vt.edu">nquint@vt.edu</a>
Landscape Architecture	Melissa Philen	Site Planner	<a href="mailto:mnphten@vt.edu">mnphten@vt.edu</a>
Hahn Horticulture Garden	Scott Douglas	Director/Instructor	<a href="mailto:dsd1@vt.edu">dsd1@vt.edu</a>
Recycling and Waste Management	Denny Cochrane	Director Office of Sustainability	<a href="mailto:denniscc@vt.edu">denniscc@vt.edu</a>
Other Sustainability Topics	Nathan King	Sustainability Mgr. Office of Sustainability	<a href="mailto:naking@vt.edu">naking@vt.edu</a>