

Campus Sustainability Fund Spring 2022 Mini Grant Proposal Application

Thank you for your interest in the new Campus Sustainability Fund! This application form may be used to apply for Spring 2022 Mini Grant funding in amounts of up to \$5,000 through March 31st, 2022. Only applications that include thorough and thoughtful responses will be considered. Incomplete proposals will not be reviewed.

Please review our Spring 2022 grant information, including our eligibility and evaluation criteria here: sustainability.arizona.edu/csf

Please have a completed Mini Grant budget ready to submit before starting this application. The template can be found here: <https://arizona.box.com/s/5wmduso6tz27pyskc822tknf6pxr002v>

After opening the link, click "Download" at the top right corner and it will download as an Excel Sheet.

All character limitations within this proposal include spaces.

For approved projects to receive funding, the project's department must have a STDFEE account as CSF funding can only be transferred to another STDFEE account. If your project's department does not have a STDFEE account set up, we recommend that it be a 265XXXX account. Although not required, we encourage you to use the same range to match the Sustainability Fee account: 2657605. Approved proposals will also be required to complete the Campus Sustainability Fund's Letter of Agreement before funding is dispersed where more details on this will be provided.

All funding must be used by Thursday, June 30, 2022. Unused funding as of this date will be returned to the Fund for reallocation for future funding opportunities.

** Please contact emilyhaworth@arizona.edu for questions, help in completing the budget template, or any other issues. **

Email *

swetherell@email.arizona.edu

Contact Information

Each project proposal requires a primary and secondary project manager as well as a fiscal officer. If the primary project manager is a student who graduates in May 2022, the secondary project manager must be a staff or faculty member OR a student who graduates AFTER May 2022.

Projects where the primary and secondary project manager are both students require the involvement of a staff or faculty member within the applicable department.

Primary Project Manager Name *

The primary project manager is responsible for completing this application, answering questions posed by the Campus Sustainability Fund's Committee, and completing all required reporting on project progress and outcomes.

Samantha Wetherell

Primary Project Manager Status *

Student

Staff

Faculty

Other: _____

Primary Project Manager Email *

swetherell@email.arizona.edu

Primary Project Manager Department Name *

N/A

Secondary Project Manager Name *

The secondary project manager is the back-up for the primary project manager if they are unable to complete any of the requirements of the Campus Sustainability Fund, particularly completing required reporting on project outcomes.

Esha Rajadhyaksha

Secondary Project Manager Status *

Student

Staff

Faculty

Other:

Secondary Project Manager Email *

esharajadhyaksha@email.arizona.edu

Secondary Project Manager Department Name *

N/A

Departmental Employee Contact Name *

Projects where the primary and secondary project manager are both students require the involvement of a staff or faculty member within the applicable department. The departmental employee contact must be a staff or faculty member within your department who is responsible for monitoring the project's budget and reporting if both project managers are unavailable. If this does not apply to you, type N/A for these responses.

Bryce Wilson

Departmental Employee Contact Email *

dbwilson@arizona.edu

Departmental Employee Contact Department Name *

Housing & Residential Life

Fiscal Officer *

The fiscal officer is a staff member within your department who is responsible for financial transactions and who will support reporting by pulling requested expenses against awarded funding and ensuring that funding is spent within awarded categories.

Bryce Wilson

Fiscal Officer Email *

dbwilson@arizona.edu

Fiscal Officer Department Name *

Housing & Residential Life

Tell Us About Your Project

Official Project Name *

Please be specific but concise as this name will appear on reports and our website. Creativity is encouraged!

Mask Recycling Initiative

Requested Funding Amount *

Please enter this amount after completing the budget sheet and populate the total amount here.

3,345

Primary Project Category *

Please select one category that best encompasses the nature of your project.

- Water
- Energy
- Waste
- Transportation
- Food
- Social Sustainability (including Social/ Environmental Justice)
- Natural Environment
- Campus Life (Health & Wellbeing, Behavior Change)
- Research and Academics
- Carbon Reduction
- Art
- Built Environment
- Policy

Secondary Project Category *

Please select a secondary project category. If not applicable, select the same category again.

- Water
- Energy
- Waste
- Transportation
- Food
- Social Sustainability (including Social/ Environmental Justice)
- Natural Environment
- Campus Life (Health & Wellbeing, Behavior Change)
- Research and Academics
- Carbon Reduction
- Art
- Built Environment
- Policy

Background & Context *

Please provide any relevant background about your organization/team including your mission and/or expertise. Please also lay out the rationale for the proposed project such as context on the issue that your project would address. This section is meant to give us more information about you, while also giving you more space below to talk toward your proposed project. Responses are limited to 3,000 characters including spaces.

Our proposed project is to recycle disposable masks on campus, specifically for on-campus residents. As UA students often wear masks day in and out, particularly surgical masks, due to old UA policy, there is an abundance of UA students wearing and disposing of recyclable masks day in and out; however, with mask-wearing has come improper disposal of masks and a lack of awareness as to the importance of masking. Thus, we believe that providing recycling bins for these masks would not only assist in waste disposal on campus but would help increase awareness of masking at UA. As seen in the UA rec centers, mask recycling has been incredibly successful so far, having recycled over 42,000 masks as of January. Therefore, considering that most people dispose of masks after several uses at their place of residence, we believe this could be an incredibly successful waste-reducing initiative for UA Housing. Furthermore, by promoting such an initiative, we will also be promoting masking on campus by discussing the importance of surgical masks specifically. In this way, we can combine these two unique aspects to create a mask recycling program that combines and promotes both sustainability and public health. Thus, considering the aspects of the project surrounding sustainability, public health, and housing, our team is uniquely suited for this project. I, Samantha Wetherell, the primary project manager, am a Resident Assistant at the Honors Village and have been involved in a recycling project previously, setting up a new recycling program for my entire high school, and have been deeply involved in environmentally focused projects, internships, research, and clubs including being apart of the first cohort of Liverman Scholars and the Biodiversity Project, thus having much experience in performing marketing and educational initiatives surrounding the environment and sustainability. The secondary project manager, Esha Rajadhyaksha, is also a Resident Assistant at the Honors Village and has extensive experience in healthcare. Esha has worked with EMS over the past two years and now is a personnel officer; thus, she spends her day to day helping to ensure the health and wellbeing of students on campus as a first responder and CPR instructor and has created her own non-profit to raise money for a student with cerebral palsy, thus having experience in health initiatives, health education, and marketing. Lastly, we have our Fiscal Officer Bryce Wilson, the Community Director of the Honors Village. Bryce, as the Community Director of the Honors Village, has connections with all other CDs on campus and plays an important role in UA housing as well has helped to already implement a mask recycling initiative at the Honors Village; thus, he plays an important role in housing and has financial experience in organizing a mask recycling initiative.

Project Description *

Please provide a description of your project. Please include information on the need your project fills and how it does so. Include objectives, an anticipated timeline, and expected impact(s). Responses are limited to 3,000 characters including spaces.

Our project is to employ mask recycling in UA Housing and to use this to promote sustainability and public health on campus. As residents and a CD of the Honors Village, we have all been well-versed on the previous masking policy in UA Housing and the importance of it; however, many residents are still unsure of the masking policy, what masks are appropriate, where they should be used, and why. Therefore, this project would allow us to discuss, in discussing how to recycle disposable masks, these issues and promote the masks across campus, and allow us to discuss why we have had such previous masking policies in place, including how surgical masks have proven more effective. Furthermore, while UA Housing no longer requires all on-campus students to wear disposable masks, most students wear their masks daily. Thus, with there being around 8,000 on-campus students who have to wear masks day in and day out, not including the thousands that are visiting these dorms, taking classes in them like the honors college, dining in them, and the staff who work there, there are thousands of masks that could be diverted from landfills to be recycled, which would help to decrease the unfortunate necessary waste that we have in a pandemic. Therefore, we plan to implement this initiative in a similar manner as done in the recreation centers on campus through Terracycle boxes. By buying at least one set of large Terracycle boxes for the largest dorms, those over 400 residents, and a medium-sized one for those under 400 residents, we can immediately have these boxes set up in the lobbies and have thousands of masks recycled over the last months of the school year. We plan to have this implemented as soon as we receive the funds for it, hopefully following Recyclemania in the dorms. This way, dorms will jump on the chance to reduce their waste as a follow-up will have a recycling initiative as an immediate follow-up to Recyclemania, using the steam from that to support this new initiative. We will then have the CDs and Resident Assistants simply put out these boxes and promote this initiative by setting up posters in their dorm, releasing information in the UA newsletters, and posting about this initiative on Housing and Residential Life's social media accounts. The project managers will provide initial materials, including an already made mask recycling informational poster. With the ease of this project and the desire for mask recycling shown by UA students, we expect this project will take no more than a couple of months at most, will immensely assist housing in having everyone informed on their policies, boost mask-wearing, and may save over 90,000 masks, only considering students who live on-campus and do not use one mask for more than five days.

Project Summary Snapshot *

Please provide a short summary of your project. This summary will be used on our new website and other Office of Sustainability materials, if approved. Think of this as a hyper-concentrated summary limited to just a few sentences. Responses are limited to 800 characters (~60-100 words).

Taking both sustainability and public health head-on, UA's new mask recycling initiative tackles diverting the waste caused by disposable masks while also educating the student body on the importance of masking during COVID-19. By partnering with Terracycle, UA housing now offers the almost 8,000 on-campus students the ability to properly recycle their disposable masks at home by supplying mask recycling bins in all UA dorms and, with the help of UA Housing Staff, is spreading word of the effectiveness and importance of wearing surgical masks during a pandemic.

Project Feasibility & Logistics *

Please provide a description of the work that has been completed so far to make this project feasible. Have all relevant partners been contacted/coordinated with? Please identify them in your response. Have you received reasonable quotes for supplies? What research has been completed to lay the foundation for this project? Proposals that have not thoroughly pre-planned may be rejected outright. Responses are limited to 3,000 characters including spaces.

With our own anecdotal knowledge, as well as a survey from residents in Honors Village, we have confirmed that most residents do not have a completely clear understanding of our masking policy and would be interested in a mask recycling initiative if possible. Furthermore, we have evidence that previous mask recycling initiatives on campus have been incredibly successful, which we have seen through the rec centers. Thus, we have already started implementing the mask recycling initiative in the Honors Village, where we have bought a small Terracycle box that we are planning to put into the lobby, created promotional and educational materials, and are beginning to spread the word about the initiative. We are using this as a stepping stone to discuss the feasibility and relative easiness of this program with all of the other dorms' CDs. Bryce has already begun communicating with other CDs on campus and has so far received positive feedback from them in terms of implementing this initiative. Furthermore, we have a complete understanding of costs for our project since we know exactly how much each Terracycle Zero Waste Mask Recycling box costs, 125 dollars for a medium box and 215 for a large box, and we know how many dorms are with over 400 or under 400 residents, 5 for the former and 18 the latter, we have already calculated that our initial boxes will cost in total 3,345 dollars. All educational outreach materials created, including posters and social media posts, we believe will not need an allocated budget since all housing is supplied with printers and paper, and the students who will be making any additional marketing materials will be taking on this task as an additional one to the RA or Hall Council role, replacing other events they might have had to plan, and we will be creating the initial marketing materials which other dorms will work from.

Environmental Sustainability Outcomes *

Please provide a brief description of how you expect your project to advance environmental sustainability on campus. Responses are limited to 3,000 characters including spaces. A definition of environmental sustainability is provided in our Spring 2022 Information.

With thousands of students wearing masks every day and no foreseeable end to mask-wearing being a daily occurrence, this mask-recycling initiative could assist UA in becoming a leader in helping to divert the millions of tons of waste now produced by masks in the United States every year. However, there is the concern of students possibly throwing out contaminated masks or what is done with the recycled masks after they are sent back to Terracycle. Regarding the first question, we have already made and are going to continue to make materials that not only notify students of the new mask-recycling available but also how to recycle their masks. These materials will be a part of the overall advertising for the Terracycle mask-recycling boxes, including the posters also near the boxes so that students may see what qualifies as a contaminated and unrecyclable mask. Yet, even if some contaminated masks do make it into the box, Terracycle itself checks the content of the boxes at the TerraCycle Material Recovery Facility, where the boxes will be quarantined for 72 hours and then inspected by employees. Thus, we will not require any RAs or members of any of the dorm's hall councils to be inspecting these boxes so that their health is not at risk. Furthermore, after these boxes are inspected by employees of Terracycle, the usable waste is then sorted into categories based on material composition and is then sent to third-party processing partners that recycle the materials into usable forms. More specifically, the surgical masks are separated into three categories: metal, which is manually removed and sent locally for smelting into new bar stock and metal sheeting, the polypropylene-dominant mixture, which is densified into a crumb-like raw material that's used in plastic lumber and composite decking applications, and the elastane portion which is ground into a fine mesh regrind and mixed with recycled plastics as an additive to provide flexibility and malleability to products. Therefore, the addition of Terracycle boxes to UA dorms would not only help divert plastic waste but make sure every single component of a disposable mask is recycled and reused. Knowing how safe and simple mask recycling with Terracycle is and that masks have become a part of our daily reality, providing students an alternative to just throwing out their masks at UA Housing could help educate students on the importance of recycling and make UA a key player in waste diversion.

Social Sustainability Outcomes *

Please provide a brief description of how you expect your project to advance social sustainability on campus. Responses are limited to 3,000 characters including spaces. A definition of social sustainability is provided in our Spring 2022 Information.

As we are in the midst of a pandemic, mask-wearing, and its importance cannot be underestimated. Even now that we no longer always require masking in UA buildings, it still is required in many places that students encounter in daily life. Thus, knowing the effectiveness of surgical masks, our school has promoted disposable masks for a reason, despite the waste they may cause. Therefore, recognizing that we must continue to wear disposable masks in order to protect our health and our community's health, our recycling initiative could be incredibly influential for social sustainability at UA. Addressing our current health needs in terms of masking and being conscious of the future consequences of the waste produced by masks, our mask recycling initiative takes into account the health and wellbeing of UA students now and in the future.

Student Leadership & Involvement *

Please provide a brief description of how you expect your project to benefit students on campus regarding the creation of leadership opportunities or student engagement. What leadership opportunities exist within your proposal? If you plan to hire/ or involve students, please describe in what capacity. For example, if you plan to hire students, create an internship, or seek student involvement, please describe relevant details thoroughly (wages, responsibilities, duration of job, extent of involvement, how you will solicit/ market these opportunities etc.). Responses are limited to 3,000 characters including spaces.

As both of our project managers are RAs, and our proposal is specifically aimed at UA housing, we believe this initiative could provide leadership opportunities to both hall councils in dorms and RAs. We plan to seek student engagement through the CDs at each dorm, allowing the CDs to disseminate opportunities to a few RAs or hall council members to promote our initiative through making posters, social media posts, or other educational outreach materials regarding mask recycling. Thus, by having CDs allow students who work in housing to take on educational outreach, we can promote the need for sustainability in housing and prop up student sustainability leadership by having RAs and hall council members take on this additional month-long task of making materials to promote mask recycling, which will be done instead of one of the other events that they would have had to perform for their jobs. Since this is a small initiative, we do not expect that there will be more than three students who participate in UA Housing at each dorm working on this task; thus, we expect only a range of 23 to 69 students helping to create these materials.

Education, Outreach, & Behavior Change *

Please provide a brief description of how you expect your project will communicate its impacts to the campus community. How will your project educate the campus community and/or incorporate outreach and behavior change? How are you reaching beyond the "sustainability choir?". Responses are limited to 3,000 characters including spaces.

By bringing mask recycling to where students live and promoting its importance of it, we believe this simple initiative could bring profound behavioral changes for the average student at UA. While most people wear disposable masks every day, not many think of the afterlife of these masks. Thus, by giving students an accessible and easy method to dispose of their masks in an environmentally friendly way, we could help encourage students to think of the ways in which they can take a more sustainable approach to everyday necessities and begin the conversation on how to properly recycle. That is why it is vital that we not only put out Terracycle boxes but also have educational materials promoting them. By having these materials, we will be able to educate people on the importance of not only disposable mask-wearing but proper disposal of these masks. Therefore, by having a vast array of materials expressing the importance of masking and mask disposal, we can appeal to students who ask about the problem of disposable mask waste and give them a simple solution to continuing to stay healthy in a sustainable way by simply switching out where they toss away their masks. Having these Terracycle boxes in the lobby of each building in housing will bring attention to the boxes and give students to dispose of their masks upon entry or exit to their dorm. As such, by heightening awareness of the issue of medical waste and also giving students a simple way to help stop it, we implement a low-cost sustainable measure that helps bring the issue of sustainability to the forefront of students' minds.

Timeline


We understand that for some Mini Grant projects, having a deadline of June 30th, 2022 is not enough time. Should you feel that your project cannot be completed and closed out by this date, please provide a thorough explanation as to why your project requires a project timeline extension. Timeline extensions will be granted on a case-by-case and limited basis. Responses are limited to 3,000 characters including spaces. This questions is optional, please omit if not relevant to you.

Project Budget *

Please provide a completed project budget using our Budget Template. The template can be found here:

<https://arizona.box.com/s/5wmduso6tz27pyskc822tknf6pxr002v>

Using the link, click "Download" at the top right corner and it will download as an Excel Sheet. You will need to sign into Box if you haven't used it prior. Please save your Excel sheet as: Project Name_Budget Template

 Mask Recycling I...

This form was created inside of University of Arizona.

Google Forms