

STUDENT ORGANIZATION SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE FUNDING PROPOSAL

Part I- General Information:

Name of Student Organization	Sustainable Food Corps
Contact/Responsible Person	Alex Darr
Contact Office Held/Title	Student Farm Manager
Contact Email Address	Dalex90@vt.edu
Contact Telephone Number	571-271-1998

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.

The Sustainable Food Corps (SFC) farm is a program designed to provide students an opportunity for experiential learning in sustainable agriculture while serving the community through diversion of surplus harvest to area food banks. Installation of perennial fruit species such as trees and brambles on the farm site will serve not only to produce a wider variety of learning experiences and produce, but will add a permaculture aspect to the project. The addition of perennial crops to the SFC site will provide a consistent transition framework for SFC student farm managers from year to year. Furthermore, perennial plants make a significant sustainable addition to the current annual crops grown because perennial species require low annual inputs after the initial installation investment.

In 2011, installation and use of the drip irrigation system—along with active labor and management support from the SFC student members—resulted in successful production of a wide range of vegetable crops. However, at times throughout the growing season, the SFC vegetable plots were severely damaged by deer and groundhog pests. In October 3, 2011, the SFC submitted a proposal to UDSA-SARE Sustainable Community Innovation Grant to improve soil health and weed management of the SFC farm in 2012 and establish a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) project at the site in 2013. The long-term objective is that the CSA project will generate sufficient funds annually to support all objectives of the SFC.

Based on the damage to this year's crops from animal pests, a permanent perimeter fence is needed if the SFC farm is to make the CSA project productive and sustainable.

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

Increasing the scope, visibility, and long-term sustainability of the student Farm will allow the project to provide more student research and learning opportunities, and service to the community. Additionally, it will allow Virginia Tech to take a place among the hundreds of other universities across the country with active, sustainable campus farms and garden.

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

Item	Estimated cost (\$)
<i>Purchase and establishment of perennial fruit crops:</i>	
Large trees that produce fruit the 1 st or 2 nd year (2 peach trees@\$150/tree)	300
Small-size trees that require 3-5 years to produce fruit (2 each of apple, pear & peach--@\$30/tree)	180
Brambles (1-year old primocane plants)	
Raspberry (150plants@\$2/plant)	300
Blackberry (50 plants@\$4/plant)	200
Total Perennial Crops	980
<i>Purchase of perimeter fencing materials:</i>	
Medal T-posts (10-ft high) (140 posts@\$12.50/post)	1,750
Carbon-black netted fencing* (7.5-ft high X 165-ft long) (7 rolls@\$187/roll)	1,310
Poultry wire netting (2-ft high X 150-ft long) (8 rolls@\$45/roll)	360
Gate & miscellaneous fittings	200
Total Fencing Materials	3,620
TOTAL REQUESTED	4,600

*Wire poultry netting will be partially buried (8-inches deep) in the soil to prevent groundhogs and other digging animals from digging under the perimeter fence.

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.

No.

E. Is this funding request an Ongoing or One-Time change (**please check one**)?

One-time

Ongoing

If ongoing funding is requested please explain how the initiative and resource needs may change in future years.

F. Is funding available for this request from another source? If yes, describe the funding (source, amount, etc.).
No.

Part IV- Requestors/Reviewers

Alexander Darr, Student Farm Manager, SFC Oct 10, 2011

Prepared By (Name of Contact for Student Organization) (Date)

Dennis C. Cochrane, Sustainability Program Manager, Office of Energy & Sustainability Nov 14, 2011

Reviewed By (Name of Office of Energy and Sustainability Representative) (Date)