

**2013-14 STUDENT ORGANIZATION SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE (GREEN RFP) FUNDING PROPOSAL**

**Part I- General Information:**

<b>Name of Student Organization</b>	Virginia Tech YMCA Ytoss Program
<b>Contact/Responsible Person</b>	Katie Atkinson
<b>Contact Office Held/Title</b>	Ytoss Sponsorship Chair/Co-Chair of the YMCA Council
<b>Contact Email Address</b>	Katiea2@vt.edu
<b>Contact Telephone Number</b>	(804) 658-8836

**Part II- Project Cost Information**

Estimated Cost of this Proposal	\$9,050	See III.C. below
Estimated Savings -	~\$350	See III.D. below
<b>Net Cost of this Proposal =</b>	<b>\$8,700</b>	

**Part III- Supporting Information**

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

Ytoss, a student-run YMCA at Virginia Tech program, is one of the largest sustainability initiatives on campus. Each year during student move-out, several on and off campus collection points are installed in areas with high volumes of foot traffic. At these locations, students are encouraged to drop off any gently used items that they would otherwise throw away. The items collected are stored in several storage units over the summer. In the Fall during move-in, these units are opened up and the items are set up in a thrift-store fashion in McComas gym. The items are re-sold to freshmen who are moving in and anyone else who is seeking a discount on gently used furniture, electronics, etc. The profits made are funded directly into YMCA student programs, which foster leadership, responsibility, and community involvement. Ytoss is an extremely sustainable program, as last year about 11,600lbs (5.8 tons) of items were prevented from ending up in a landfill. By reducing the amount of waste being put into waste receptacle, Ytoss has the potential to prevent MRSWA from having to make multiple trips between campus and the recycling center, thereby reducing the amount of pollution output from machinery.

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

Ytoss is a quintessential example of the initiatives taken by the school in the past few years to reduce waste and to become a leader in sustainability. Virginia Tech was charged with the task of engaging "students, faculty and staff through education and involvement." Ytoss is an excellent platform for this to be achieved. Word of the program's mission reaches thousands of students, faculty, and Blacksburg residents through various relationships both on and off campus. Not only does Ytoss raise awareness of the negatives of landfill usage and waste production, but it also involves hundreds of students through volunteering and/or leadership opportunities. Within the last year, the Ytoss family has grown to over 300 volunteers and community partners. This is a huge accomplishment, and makes it one of the largest sustainability programs on campus.

Along with involving the residents of Virginia Tech, Ytoss also enforces the goal of reducing waste and increasing the recycling percentage rate set forth by the administration (50% by 2025). Spring move-out has the potential to be the most wasteful week on campus. The fact that the program prevented five tons of waste from entering landfills speaks volumes of its ability to raise the recycling rate percentage, as it diminishes the amount of trash factored into the calculation. Ytoss also prevents the school from having to pay for multiple trips to MRSWA, which reduces the amount of pollution output by default. With all of the aforementioned taken into account, Ytoss exemplifies many of the goals of the 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.

Currently Ytoss relies on the usage of PODS (Portable On Demand Storage) units for the storage of the items over the summer. Throughout the last year, 10 PODS were spread around both on and off campus locations. Each of these PODS cost well over \$500 after transportation has been factored in. Taking yearly inflation and the potential for increased item accumulation into account, Ytoss will need \$6,700 to cover the cost of storage facilities and visitor passes for on-campus storage, which cost \$700. In order to increase awareness of the program, thereby increasing its successes, \$2,000 will be needed to pay for advertising devices such as A-frames, flyers, signage, and advertising space in local newspapers. Finally, in order to promote Ytoss and the school's mission to be as environmentally friendly as possible, \$350 will be needed to rent fleet services hybrid vehicles for 10 days.

Summation:

Transportation/storage of items: \$6,700  
Advertising: \$2,000  
Vehicle rentals: \$350

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.

Throughout student move-out, dozens of trips to MRSWA are made each day in order to accommodate the amount of trash being produced. Each ton of garbage transported costs the school \$51. Along with this initial cost come the costs associated with physically moving the garbage off campus if internal vehicles are used. When school-owned equipment is used, it both risks damages and the potential for incurring extra fees. Ytoss prevented the school from having to transport about 5.8 tons of items to MRSWA, thereby saving the university \$295.8. When the fees from fuel costs and potential vehicular wear and tear are taken into account, Ytoss could save the school over \$350 throughout the year.

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

**One-time**

**Ongoing**

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

The Student Budget Board has given the program the maximum amount of money, \$1,000, to be used for advertising and supplies for a single event. However, the Budget Board is only able to fund certain aspects of events, and is limited by guidelines set forth by the school. Therefore, the Board unable to fully fund a program as dynamic as Ytoss. A proposal has been prepared for the SGA, however a great percentage of the money from this organization has already been allocated to other non-YMCA on campus programs, thereby limiting its ability to fund this program.

#### **Part IV- Requestors/Reviewers**

Prepared By (Name of Contact for Student Organization)

Katie Atkinson

Date: 10/5/13

Reviewed By (Name of Appropriate University Official)

Date

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

Date