SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES BY STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS FUNDING PROPOSAL

Part I - General Information

Name of Student Organization	Environmental Coalition
Contact/Responsible Person	Connall R. Pettit
Contact Office Held/Title	Co-Membership Chair
Contact Email Address	crpettit@vt.edu
Contact Telephone Number	540-487-0154

Part II - Project Cost Information

Estimate Cost of this Proposal	5,000	See Part III.C
Estimated Savings –	0	See Part III.D
Net Cost of this Proposal	**5,000**	

Part III - Supporting Information

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

Request funds in the amount of $5,000 for the purchase, delivery, and planting of native trees during Sustainability Week 2018 and Earth Week 2019. Our goal is to purchase at least one dozen "containerized" trees with a minimum caliper (diameter) of 2 to 3 inches for each of the two events, and to have the trees obtained from nurseries located in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Typically containerized trees have a large root ball and are easily transportable.

In 2008 Virginia Tech was one of the first universities to be awarded "Tree Campus USA" status from the National Arbor Day Foundation. The university achieved this special recognition by successfully demonstrating it met the required five core standards of tree care and community engagement to include: establishing a campus tree advisory committee; having a campus tree-care plan; having a dedicated annual expenditure on the campus tree-care plan; being involved in an Arbor Day observance; and having a service learning project aimed at engaging the student body. For program details see: www.arborday.org/programs/treecampususa/

Virginia Tech was one of nine institutions to be selected as a host site for the "Tree Campus USA Tour" national tour that year. We received $10,000 from Toyota Motors North America to purchase 100 native trees which were planted by over 250 volunteers that fall during Sustainability Week 2008.

Virginia Tech has received "Tree Campus USA" recertification for seven consecutive years with the most recent occurring on September 15, 2015. (See attachment). Our submission packet always features two on-campus signature tree planting events. The first takes place during Sustainability Week held in September and the second occurs during Earth Week in April that coincides with the Arbor Day. These are wonderful opportunities to bring faculty, staff and students together for a highly visible event that is well attended. Faculty and students from the College of Natural Resources and Environment educate volunteers on how to plant a tree and supervise the actual planting. Our most recent tree planting event occurred on September 17, 2015, as 6 Nuttal Oaks were placed along the east side of West Campus Drive near the Smith Career Center and Harper Hall. (See photos). Since 2008 we have planted over 600 trees during these events.

Sustainability Week is the university's flagship sustainability outreach program. In 2007 Virginia Tech, the Town of Blacksburg and the local citizen's group Sustainable Blacksburg formed a "green partnership" to plan and implement a program to promote sustainability awareness, education and practical application. The Office of Energy and Sustainability has the primary lead for this program which has received recognition at the state level. The student group Environmental Coalition has the overall responsibility for planning and implementing Earth Week.

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

Campus tree planting events directly supports several goals in the 14 point Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment to include:

Point #3: "Virginia Tech will establish a target for the reduction of campus Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions."

Point #10: "Virginia Tech will engage students, faculty, and staff through education and involvement."

Point #12: "Virginia Tech will continue to develop and implement innovative sustainability-related academic programs in instruction, research, and outreach, and will coordinate and communicate these programs to the university community and external audiences."

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

The total cost of this proposal is $5,000. We request $2,500 to purchase and deliver one dozen native trees for Sustainability Week 2018 and $2,500 to do the same for Earth Week 2019. The Facilities Department's Purchasing Office has obtained trees from nurseries located throughout the state since 2007

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.

Not Applicable

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

                    X One-time   ☐ **Ongoing**

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

Potentially? In their Pouring Rights contract with Virginia Tech the Coca Cola Bottling Company has agreed to provide funds to support the advancement of our sustainability program. For Sustainability Week 2015 they provided $1,000 for the purchase and delivery of 6 Nuttal Oaks which were planted along West Campus Drive.

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Part IV- Requestors/Reviewers	
Connall Richmond Pettit	**11/07/2017**
Prepared By (Name of Contact for Student Organization)	Date
Reviewed By (Name of Appropriate University Official)	Date
Reviewed By (Name of Office of Energy and Sustainability Representative)	Date