

SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES BY STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS FUNDING PROPOSAL

Part I - General Information

Name of Student Organization	UAP 3354- Introduction to EPP
Contact/Responsible Person	Josey Wease, Matthew Hutchens, Cole Young
Contact Office Held/Title	Virginia Tech Department of Horticulture
Contact Email Address	Josey7@vt.edu, Matth15@vt.edu, cole14@vt.edu
Contact Telephone Number	703-350-2431; 276-692-8423; 540-292-9490

Part II - Project Cost Information

Estimate Cost of this Proposal	\$225	See Part III.C
Estimated Savings –	\$ 0	See Part III.D
Net Cost of this Proposal	\$225	

Part III - Supporting Information

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

Our sustainability initiative aims to provide habitats to pollinators on campus in hopes of mitigating the loss of habitat due to the continuous growth of infrastructure in Blacksburg. According to the USDA, pollinators provide one third of all agricultural output in the United States. Additionally, pollinators (especially migratory species) are being threatened by the changing growth cycles of plants due to climate change. By placing pollinator boxes (bug hotels) throughout the Hahn Horticulture Garden, pollinating insect populations would be encouraged to nest in that area, diversifying the ecosystem throughout the garden. As more insect species are using these habitats to nest and reproduce, an increase in other pollinator populations, such as bats and birds, will follow. The diversification of this area on campus will hopefully attract more visitors, and educational signs placed in front of each box would provide information on the importance of pollinators, as well as the challenges they are facing due to climate change. Attached is an image of pollinator boxes available for purchase. We are calling this new proposal: The Pollinator Project.

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

On page 16 of the C.A.C.R.S.P. section 1.C., the problem, responses, and solutions of the Climate Action plan are outlined. Section C states that solutions include "1. Educating students and the public for a future of climate change. 2. Developing new knowledge and technologies to mitigate and adapt to climate change." This initiative would aim to educate students on the importance of pollinators and how they are greatly impacted by climate change. These efforts would also inform the public of simple ways to support wildlife in their own backyard.

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

"Wooden Insect Hotel with stake- Insect nesting box for butterflies, lacewings, bees, ladybugs and other pollinators" is a pollinator box available from Gardeners Supply Company for \$39.95 plus shipping and handling (\$24.99). These boxes provide a safe and secure nesting site for pollinators to reproduce. Five boxes would be sufficient to place throughout the Hahn Horticulture Garden in hopes of increasing pollinator populations. Installation of the boxes can be completed by the Virginia Tech maintenance crews at their hourly wages.

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.

Although our sustainability initiative lacks monetary savings, these boxes will create a place to gather pollinators that are essential to plants. The Hahn Horticulture Garden houses a variety of native and non-native plants and trees while providing a place for students to come and interact with these plants. However, without pollinators, the Hahn Garden would be much less vibrant and diverse. These boxes will bring in a variety of pollinators and keep them in the area to pollinate the garden. Furthermore, as a school at the forefront of environmental thinking and sustainability, it is important for us to show our students the importance of pollinators and how they are constantly stressed by the changes in climate. These boxes will create an area where students and faculty can observe and teach about various native pollinators and their importance. As the climate changes keeping these pollinators on campus will hopefully show other universities and the community how important these insects are.

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.)

Funding options are available through corporate supporters of the Hahn Horticulture Garden. These green industries and allied businesses help supply the Hahn Horticulture Garden with donations. Pollinator boxes can be installed by reaching out towards potential supporters such as Bennett's Creek Nursery, Cole Nurseries Inc., and the Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association. These organizations along with many others help keep Hahn Horticulture Garden alive and functioning and may also potentially play an important role in funding our sustainability initiative.

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Part IV- Requestors/Reviewers

Josey Wease, UAP 3354

Prepared By (Name of Contact for Student Organization)

Date 11/12/2017

Scott Douglas, Director of the Hahn Horticulture Garden

Reviewed By (Name of Appropriate University Official)

Date 01/25/2018

Denny Cochrane, Sustainability Program Manager, Office of Sustainability

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

Date 01/25/2018

Sources: USDA- https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/pa/plantsanimals/?cid=nrcs142p2_018171



Figure 1: Image of Pollinator Box

Pollinator box available from Gardeners Supply Company : <https://www.gardeners.com/>