

SCIF 5 YEAR REPORT

2010-2015



Sustainable Campus
Initiative Fund



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Initiative Fund

5 year annual report 2010-2015



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INTRODUCTION

"What makes SCIF a truly special program is that it empowers students to use their creativity and problem solving skills to design projects that bring attention to and advance sustainability at the University. We are all the better for their efforts." - Amy Wildermuth, Chief Sustainability Officer.

Campus, in many ways, is a living, learning laboratory that offers both a literal and metaphorical landscape in which students, faculty, and staff have the opportunity to experiment. The Sustainable Campus Initiative Fund (SCIF) provides the means to conduct experiments that bring us closer to a sustainable campus. Grants from the program invite actions that create a microcosm for the larger sustainable efforts around the globe.

SCIF was created with a vision for a campus that thrived in harmony with the natural environment. Initially, SCIF was designed as a loan program that could fund projects with utility savings that would eventually payback the loan.

These projects would make the campus a more energy-conscious and environmentally aware place of higher learning and could contribute to the University's goal to be carbon neutral, established in the 2010 Climate Action Plan. Over the years SCIF has taken a more holistic view of sustainability—living in-step with the ecological needs of the planet demands that we approach all problems from multiple perspectives and disciplines. This multidirectional approach means investing in both our technological capital and our intellectual and innovative capacities. The fund has become much more encompassing by allowing students to spearhead projects that involve every aspect

of sustainable living, including efficiency, food, transportation, social justice, and more.

Over the past five years, SCIF has made possible a variety of sustainable projects that collectively make the campus a leader in a region that faces many challenges. Each project has asked in its own way, what does it mean to be sustainable? The answers and results, much like the projects themselves, varied. Some projects grew to become their own entities, while some projects were met with the frustrating reality of how hard it is to experiment. Either way, each project provided valuable input to the larger sustainable efforts here on campus by adding to the conversation.

FOUR STRATEGIES

Student Success

The Sustainability Office, through the use of SCIF, works hard to ensure student success. SCIF enables success by placing students in a real-world setting where they can apply their knowledge. Whether it be the creation of a group such as the Friends of Red Butte Creek or the installation of a solar plaza, SCIF provides students with the opportunity to collaborate with peers, as well as faculty and staff. These projects offer invaluable experience to students by putting them in a project executive position that takes charge of all necessary logistics.

New Knowledge and Innovation

The Sustainability Office team understands that new knowledge and innovation comes from our own students. SCIF supports the idea that the U is a living, learning lab by having students work on projects that experiment with sustainability. One of SCIF's main goals is to provide students with the means to conduct sustainable research. SCIF has allowed students to explore the viability of green roofs, the effects of tar sands mining, and other research possibilities.

Improving Health and Quality of Life

One of the fundamental goals of SCIF is to improve both the quality of life and the health for all those living in the University of Utah community. SCIF funds projects that allow students to explore ideas that will make the University a thriving campus where problems like air pollution and rainwater management are met with effective strategies and solutions. With projects like the Air Quality Monitoring Center, SCIF is investing in the well-being of residents of the Salt Lake City Metropolitan area. Additionally, various projects have addressed health issues on campus that span from toxin-free infant toys to events that encourage healthy-commuting choices.

Ensuring Long-Term Viability

SCIF enables projects that change campus for the better in the hopes of becoming a place that is in harmony with the natural world in order to maintain healthy, successful systems into the future. The grant fund was designed with long-term viability in mind when implemented five years ago. A group of students came up with the idea for a fund that could help make the U campus a more sustainable place to work, study, and play. In the five years that SCIF has been available to students, there have been many long-term changes that have improved campus. These changes range from small-scale projects that collectively made the U more bike-friendly to renewable energy installations that reduced the U's overall emissions.

TOTAL IMPACT FROM 2010-2015

SCIF by the Numbers



SCIF Supported Savings

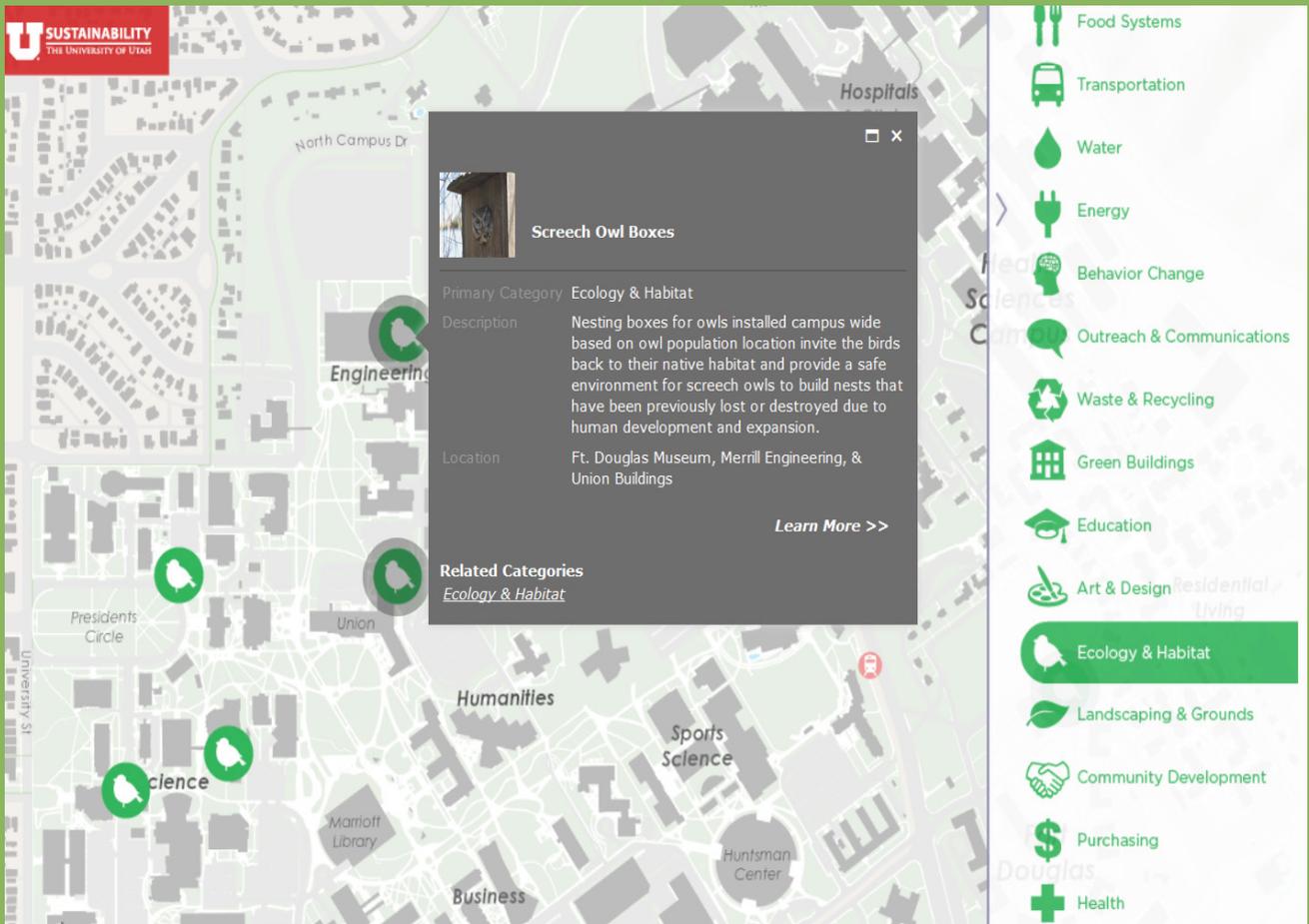


Associated Emissions Equivalencies

savings from SCIF are equal to the following figures



GREEN MAP



The Campus Green Map catalogues and displays 'green' projects on campus. It also offers an interactive experience online to engage users with the sustainable initiatives on campus. Check it out at greenmap.utah.edu.

PROJECT ADVISORS

THE MENTOR SIDE OF SCIF

Project advisors are extremely important to the SCIF process. Without their knowledge and experience, SCIF would not be what it is today. Faculty and staff mentors play large roles in each and every SCIF project. Faculty members have coached students on many projects; their guidance ensures that student ideas become implementable realities. Staff members have used their professional abilities and knowledge to make projects happen. Mentors are often the glue that connects students, faculty, and other necessary departments together to turn a sustainable idea into an executable project.

ADVISOR SPOTLIGHTS

KARREN NICHOLS

Karren Nichols, administrative officer for the Sustainability Office, is proof that staff are a valuable resource when it comes to SCIF. Through her efforts as both project executive and project advisor, Nichols has helped pave the way for many processes that are now commonplace for SCIF projects. When she was a Marriott Library staff member, Nichols had a ground-level point of view that enabled her to see improvements in waste reduction and building efficiencies, such as efficient lighting and water-bottle filling stations. Her projects have been some of the most successful in establishing campus processes, and her knowledge and position within the Sustainability Office continues to inform projects that follow in her footsteps.



STEPHEN GOLDSMITH

Stephen Goldsmith, director of the Undergraduate Studies Capstone Initiative, has helped to inspire students to use SCIF as an experiment for what is possible. Over the years his ideas and nudges have helped guide students in their explorations. He has been an advisor on eight projects to date, and he shows no sign of stopping. In addition to his direct involvement, he has been instrumental in spreading the word about SCIF. By including SCIF in his syllabus, he has helped to make sure that students are connected to important resources on campus.



"Using our campus as a laboratory, SCIF projects provide students with ways to meaningfully and tangibly engage their creative responses with the problems and opportunities of our time" - Stephen Goldsmith

AMY SIBUL

Amy Sibul, an associate instructor in Biology, has been a key advisor when it comes to making the campus home to more than just students, staff, and faculty. She has guided students as they have helped to make campus more wildlife friendly. With SCIF funding, Sibul helped to create the campus beehive network, a system that is now home to one of the largest beekeeping clubs in the state. Additionally, she has advised students in their efforts to make campus home to native bird species—including kestrels and owls—that are losing ground to urbanization. It is projects like these that help connect the University to the wild spaces that make up part of campus.



BRENDA BOWEN

Associate Professor Brenda Bowen, director of the Global Change & Sustainability Center (GCSC), has helped students from various backgrounds utilize SCIF grants. As an advisor, Bowen has helped push SCIF in ways that will have a lasting impact. She has taken advantage of the interdisciplinary space of the GCSC to help propose several suites of projects for SCIF funding. These groups of projects take on complex problems that require the tools of multiple disciplines.



"The SCIF program has allowed students to move forward from imagining how to promote positive change to actually proposing and implementing their ideas in a meaningful way." - Brenda Bowen

STEVEN BURIAN

Steven Burian, associate professor in Civil & Environmental Engineering, is an advisor who has helped students research sustainable solutions to environmental problems. With expertise in urban water resources, stormwater management, wastewater collection, low impact development, and green infrastructure design, he has guided students in award-winning projects. Burian has served as an advisor on seven different SCIF projects, including the Green Roof Study, Greener Grasses, and the Rain Garden. He constantly works to connect students with this amazing resource that is theirs for the taking.



FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Staff members in Facilities Management (FM) have been instrumental in the success of the SCIF program. Over the past five years, FM employees have worked to ensure that SCIF projects have followed the rules, regulations, and policies of both the University of Utah and the state. FM has been directly responsible for nine SCIF projects with employees as either project executives or project advisors. In addition to direct involvement, FM provides support to ensure that every project has all the necessary approvals and all the right people involved. Without FM's cooperation, SCIF projects would not achieve the success that have enjoyed to date.

Facilities Management Staff:

Stephanie Dolmat-Connell
Sarah Boll
Jeff Wrigley
Josh James
Bill Leach
Liz Looby
John McNary
Sue Pope
James Steed

5-YEAR FEATURES

Sustainability has a multifaceted definition that deals with a wide variety of subjects ranging from waste to energy to food justice. Each of the following features highlights how, through the implementation of related projects, SCIF has enabled campus-wide progress in the many arenas of sustainability.



THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH A BETTER PLACE FOR BIKES

In 2010, the Sustainability Office led the effort to put in place a Climate Action Plan for the University. One of the main goals outlined in the plan was to decrease the number of single-occupant vehicles (SOV) that commute to campus on a daily basis. Part of the strategy to decrease SOV commuting was to encourage sustainable transportation options such as public transit, walking, or biking. Several students have completed bike-oriented SCIF projects that support the goals of the Climate Action Plan.

While some of the projects, such as Bike to the U Day, sought to encourage people to pedal, others focused on making campus a more bike-friendly place. The first important step in making the U more bike-friendly was understanding the needs and desires of all those who find themselves on campus. More people wanted to bike, but

some expressed concerns about theft, equipment failure, and convenience.

In response to these concerns, students used SCIF funding to put their projects where their pedals took them. Whether it be the fix-it bike stations or the Business Classroom Building bike cages, these SCIF projects took small steps to make the campus biking experience safe, secure, and convenient. One project, the long-term bike rental, aimed to provide students without bikes the opportunity to join the ranks of others pedaling back and forth on campus.

Each SCIF-supported project makes up part of a larger network of bike projects that together have made the U a better place for cyclists.

BIKE TO THE U DAY

In the spring of 2011, Lynn Unger, a graduate student in Social Work, organized a social event in an attempt to increase the number of people who ride their bikes to the U. The main goal of this project was to provide education and awareness about the physical, mental, and environmental benefits of biking. The first Bike to the U Day, with hundreds of participants, was such a success that it has now become an annual event. This project highlights how SCIF projects can have impacts far beyond the initial investment.



FIX-IT STATIONS

While biking is a great for environmental and personal health, it can sometimes leave people stranded with a flat tire. In light of this predicament, in 2011 student James Allen installed two fix-it stations on campus that were available 24 hours a day. Students immediately started using these bright red stations that were complete with a hanging rack, basic bike tools, and a standing pump. These two stations served as a pilot for more fix-it stations to be installed throughout campus, including in the residence halls. The fix-it stations are a great example of how small, SCIF-supported projects can have a big impact on sustainable behaviors here on campus.



LONG-TERM BIKE RENTAL

In the spring of 2014, Emily Schulze expanded bicycle access on campus by piloting a long-term bike rental program at the U that aimed to cultivate lifelong sustainable transportation habits within the student population by renting bikes on a semester or annual basis at an inexpensive rate. The goal of the project was to create a new transportation standard for students by providing on-campus bicycle rentals and bicycle maintenance workshops. The idea was that by introducing students to the bicycling lifestyle early in their transition to independence, the bike rental program could curtail future commuting emission levels and improve overall air quality in the Salt Lake Valley.





SUSTAINABLE LIGHTING MINDFUL ILLUMINATION

Lighting is an essential part of campus life because it affects how we study, how we see, and how we sleep. It is because lighting is so crucial to our lives that it has become so crucial to sustainability. However, lighting's energy inputs also affect our everyday lives in ways we cannot see through the emissions from its generation and consumption. Fortunately, the importance of lighting was not lost on the students who used SCIF funding to make an impact on the way we light up campus.

There have been a variety of SCIF-funded lighting projects. Some projects have been about installing high-efficiency LEDs, while other have tried to influence the behavior of students in various campus buildings. One project made sure that the lights around the residence halls were not shining through student windows at night. Each of these projects, while they had many different outcomes, shared the common interest in enhancing sustainable lighting practices at the U.

UNION LIGHTS

In the fall of 2009, Julie Henry, with light pollution on her mind, submitted a proposal for the purchase of five sustainable light fixtures to install in Union Plaza. These fixtures featured induction lamps, which are 70 percent more efficient than classic-style bulbs. Not only were these fixtures significantly more energy efficient than the old ones, they also set the Facilities Management standard for outdoor lighting. This project was a win-win situation for the University because it helped to promote sustainability and energy efficiency while saving money and reducing emissions.



FORT DOUGLAS LIGHT POLLUTION

In the fall of 2013, Bettymaya Foott led the effort to decrease light pollution and to increase energy efficiency within the Fort Douglas residence hall area. The existing outdoor lights met the area's historic standards, but they were inefficient and emitted significant light pollution because more of the light was directed upward than down toward the sidewalks. Plus, the lights were so bright they forced some student housing occupants to black out their windows. To solve the problem, this project purchased and installed five Dark Sky-approved, full-cutoff LED light posts that lowered energy costs, reduced light pollution, and maintained current historic district design standards.

IMPACT IMAGES

Student Jai Hamid Bashir began a project designed to influence energy and water use through visual stimulation in the honors residence hall building in 2013. Bashir and fellow student Eric Birkin developed light switch covers with picture frames and then commissioned other student artists to help create evocative images to place in the frames that would compel users to change their behavior. Unfortunately, the original design of the switch covers did not meet code requirements. With the help of Assistant Professor Amanda Smith from Mechanical Engineering, Bashir and Birkin found a solution and produced a project that was both aesthetically powerful and fire-safe.





SCIF AND SOLAR HARNESSING THE POWER OF THE SUN

The University's Climate Action Plan, drafted in 2010, established the goal of carbon neutrality by 2050, and listed as one of the main strategies as investment in solar photovoltaic (PV) panels on campus. Additionally, past University President Michael K. Young signed the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC), alongside more than 650 leading academic institutions, committing the U to reducing its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and mitigating the ever-growing threat of climate change. It is amidst these commitments that several students used SCIF funding in order to complete various solar projects.

Solar projects fall directly in line with the ACUPCC and the Climate Action Plan commitments because one of the more attractive things about solar energy is the lack of associated GHG emissions. Solar panels also

provide clean energy at a fixed cost. However, despite the benefits of solar energy, there is usually one barrier between the idea and reality of solar panels: initial cost. SCIF has helped multiple solar projects by funding the large upfront investment. Since SCIF started in 2009, there have been five different projects that have focused on solar in one form or another.

The SCIF-funded solar projects were varied in their approach. Whether the project was a feasibility study or an installation, it helped to inform future projects and to provide clean energy. SCIF provides students the ability to experiment with sustainability, and based on past projects and conversations, students want to see more solar on campus.

SOLAR PARKING FEASIBILITY STUDY

In the fall of 2010, MBA students Hannah Bybee and Robinson Vasquez conducted a feasibility study regarding the installation of photovoltaic structures above parking stalls on the University of Utah campus. The study explored the financial, social, and environmental costs and benefits of such an installation. The study found that a well-placed parking array would be both feasible and beneficial, suggesting that a small structure, 20-40 spaces, should be installed. This study laid the groundwork for the solar parking array that was recently constructed just north of the S.J. Quinney College of Law. This project illustrates how sustainable inquiry can become a sustainably reality, all with the power of SCIF.



SOLAR IVY

The Solar Ivy project is a good example of the sometimes difficult world of innovation. In 2011, Thomas Melburn proposed the Solar Ivy project. Solar Ivy was a photovoltaic cell designed to resemble ivy on the side of a building. The project was an opportunity to line up building aesthetics, renewable energy, and innovation, but in the final stages of implementation, the project wilted. While Melburn had worked hard with multiple people to ensure that the Solar Ivy was feasible, everything collapsed when there was a problem with the manufacturer. In the end, the ivy leaves themselves could not be purchased. Not all projects are successful, but each failure allows for a new opportunity.



SHORELINE SOLAR PLAZA

The Shoreline Solar Plaza is a great example of how a failure can become a success. In fall 2012, Jenna Matsumura, an Environmental & Sustainability Studies student, proposed a project that took the unused funds from the Solar Ivy project and used them to construct a solar shade structure in a Housing & Residential Education plaza project that previously had no renewable-energy component. Thirty-two solar panels were installed as shade for the outdoor gathering space, and plaza users can even plug in electronics directly to the shade umbrellas. The Shoreline Solar Plaza is a great example of how clean energy can be incorporated into a mixed-use communal space.





ATHLETICS RECYCLING CHEERING ON SUSTAINABILITY

In just one football game at Rice-Eccles Stadium, vendors and fans can produce upwards of 40,000 pounds of waste. It was in response to all this waste that the Associated Students of the University of Utah (ASUU) started searching for ways to improve the recycling situation at the stadium. The students' efforts eventually led to the creation of Recycle Rice-Eccles, which for the past five years has collected plastics, aluminum, and glass from fans in the tailgating lots. In the process, ASUU inspired changes in Athletics and a series of SCIF projects that make game days more sustainable.

Recycling efforts at the football games illuminate just how important it is to have sustainability involved everywhere that it can be, including sports events. Recycle Rice-Eccles was one of the factors that led the University to become a member of the Green Sports Alliance. The membership is reflective of ongoing efforts to "green" Athletics; other initiatives include energy-efficient lighting upgrades at the Spence and Cleone Eccles Football Center and the Jon M. Huntsman Center and ENERGY STAR appliance upgrades to all kitchens in Rice-Eccles Stadium.

RECYC-BIKES

Derek Harris sprung into action in 2010 when he received the volunteer email regarding the lack of recycling at the U football games. With the help of SCIF funding, Harris was able to purchase one bike complete with a recycling bin on the back. With this "Recyc-Bike," student volunteers were able to quickly wheel around the tailgating lot, educating fans on proper recycling techniques while collecting recyclables in the bin. The bikes allowed volunteers to cover more ground than they would have been able to cover on foot and increase total recycling. This project is a great example of how the right tools can make a big difference.



RECYCLE RICE-ECCLES

In the fall of 2011, Recycle Rice-Eccles was born. Seth Crossley, an Environmental & Sustainability Studies student, came up with an idea to incentivize recycling. Crossley developed a frequent recyclers card that allowed diligent recyclers to trade their sustainable efforts—bags of recyclables—in for cool sports swag. Recyclers turned in their punch card at the Recycle Rice-Eccles tent for T-shirts and water bottles. Though different from its original form, ASUU continues the program today. Incentives such as a free T-shirt and a free game ticket are provided to volunteers who walk around the tailgating lots to collect recyclable materials.



GREEN ROOF RESEARCH AT THE FOREFRONT

With the reality of a heating planet closing in, some nations, cities, and individuals have turned to green roofs to adapt to temperature increases. Green roofs are a popular option because they help manage stormwater, reduce a building's energy requirement, and mitigate the urban heat island effect. The growing interest in the adoption of green roofs has sparked the need for research into the actual effectiveness of green roofs. Here on campus, SCIF supported one student's efforts to be at the forefront of green roof research for an arid climate.

In the spring of 2013, Youcan Feng, a doctoral student in Civil & Environmental Engineering, undertook a study of green roof viability in Salt Lake City. Feng began his research with a number of goals in mind: 1) to advance the use of green roofs on the U's campus, 2) to improve their performance through design guidance, and 3) to provide learning and project opportunities for courses related to sustainable planning and design. To achieve these goals, Feng installed lysimeters (measuring devices that calculate water loss) on top of existing green roofs at the Marriott Library and the Natural History Museum of

Utah.

Once the instrumentation was set up, Feng started his research, and not too long after he started receiving attention. In March 2015 Feng received the Alta Sustainability Leadership Campus as a Living Lab Award. His project advisor, Steve Burian, a professor in Civil & Environmental Engineering, nominated him for his outstanding work. Feng was recognized for designing a research project that not only makes the U more sustainable but also serves as an educational platform for others at the University of Utah and institutions throughout the state. What started out as a research project exploring the evapotranspiration from different types of green roof plantings has grown to include teaching opportunities, other student researchers, partnerships with outside entities, and other research topics, which include irrigation, energy, and stormwater management. Feng is a great example of how students can utilize SCIF to become leaders in their field.

GREEN ROOF STUDY

Feng's first project focused on green roof design and potential impacts. Through the use of measuring instruments called lysimeters, he set out to answer a list of questions: Will the green roofs survive Salt Lake's climate? How effective are green roofs at managing storm water runoff? Will the presence of a green roof reduce both roof surface and air temperature? How can this research help to develop a green roof evapotranspiration model? Finally, what is the effect of irrigation on green roofs in western climate? The research answered these questions by providing information on the most effective plant species, environmental benefits of green roofs, irrigation, and building energy performance.



GREEN ROOF EXPLORATION

In the spring of 2015, Feng received SCIF funding to explore the food production potential of green roofs. Feng grew bell peppers in the preexisting lysimeter boxes at the Marriott Library in order to determine the water requirements for food production in green roofs. Food production potential is very relevant in the semi-arid west, where landscape irrigation is generally needed. His findings have an impact for the larger body of green roof research as well as the effectiveness of green roofing here on campus. The green roof projects are a great example of how campus can be a living, learning laboratory that provides the space for innovative research





THE CAMPUS BEES A BIGGER PICTURE

The campus beehive network tells the story of how students applied their classroom knowledge in order to participate in a global effort. With the help of SCIF, the campus bees have become a valuable resource for researchers, bee enthusiasts, educators, and the larger community. These grants show how SCIF grants can help make campus a more ecologically integrated urban environment.

A few years ago scientists learned that the global population of honey producing bees was on the decline. Farmers and ecologists were concerned about the disappearance of bees because they play a crucial role in pollinating the world. As a result, food prices were expected to rise, and people were left wondering just what could be done to save the stinger-wielding

pollinators. It was in the wake of beehive collapse that student Thomas Bench, with the help of SCIF, was able to transform the University into a bee-friendly campus.

What started out as two hives on the fourth floor of the Union Building has transformed into a network of hives that pollinate the campus, educate our community, and provide crucial data about the local and global health of bees. The campus hive system and the University of Utah Beekeeper's Association have become what they are today with the help of SCIF. Over the years, three separate grants were awarded to the association in order to help establish the hives, to protect the volunteers, and to conduct research.

APIARY

The apiary was the beginning of what would become the University of Utah Beekeeper's Association. In the spring of 2012, Bench began the legacy of the campus bees with two hives at the Union Building. Although there was initial hesitation at the idea of putting honeybees at the student union, the SCIF process helped to bring together key stakeholders in order to achieve success. Luckily, after some negotiations, Facilities Management, Risk Management, Student Affairs, the Union, and the Biology department found common ground. The first two hives were installed behind a locked glass door for all visitors to safely see.



CAMPUS BEEKEEPING

The two hives at the Union were only part of the original vision for the larger campus hive system. In the spring of 2013, student Stephen Stanko received another SCIF grant to construct more hives in the hopes of creating a network that could be used by many departments. This iteration of the beekeeping project expanded the hive system from two to 12 hives. The larger system was crucial in both revitalizing the local bee population and pollinating campus. The benefits were two-fold because the beekeeping project helped with campus ecology and provided a medium for research.

BEEKEEPING EXPANSION

In the spring of 2015, Stanko received the third and final campus beekeeping grant, which expanded the scope of use for the campus hive system. While the first two grants helped establish the hives, the third grant expanded the educational program and purchased new instruments to conduct state-of-the-art research. Since its inception, the Beekeeper's Association has grown rapidly, and it is now one of the largest beekeeping clubs in the state. In fact, the U's Beekeeping Association has grown so large that it was able to partner with the Utah Department of Agriculture to improve wintertime hive inspections with tools provided by SCIF. This project is an example of how a few students can have an impact in the face of a global problem.





SOCIAL SOUP RETHINKING HOW WE EAT

The Social Soup projects showcase the power of conversation, especially when they are combined with free food. In 2010, Associate Professor Naomi Silverstone from the College of Social Work started the Social Soup Lecture Series. She modeled the lectures after a long-running lecture series hosted by the Hull-House Museum at the University of Illinois at Chicago called "Re-Thinking Soup." Much like "Re-Thinking Soup," Social Soup became a once a month event where U community members came together to discuss different topics surrounding food and social justice. The vegetarian soups included vegetables that were grown in the U's campus gardens and were prepared by University Dining Services. Each lecture had a simple structure; food is served first, followed by a lecture and discussion.

Social Soup is an interdisciplinary, community-based initiative that brings together students, faculty, staff, and the community around food. Initially, the series

started out on a shoe-string budget, but with the help of SCIF and Kathleen Hunt, a communications doctoral candidate, the lecture series became a success. Lectures featured both local and national experts and highlighted a specific food-related issue. Through these lectures, the Social Soup educated the campus community about a variety of food issues that are tied to the environment, social justice, and economic issues. In addition to the original SCIF funding, partners from the College of Social Work, the Department of Communication, University Dining Services, the Edible Campus Gardens, and the Sustainability Office came together to take the series far beyond what SCIF could provide.

Social Soup is a great example of how SCIF can help to start a movement on campus. The program continues today on a biannual basis.

SOCIAL SOUP: EATING AT HOME

On Jan. 30, 2013, with the use of SCIF, Blake Spalding and Jen Castle, founders, chefs, and co-owners of Hell's Backbone Grill in Boulder, Utah, came to Social Soup to discuss place-based food. The concept of place-based food is particularly important as we move into a future with uncertain climate. Despite the importance of sustainably sourced food, the owners initially received pushback at their restaurant. However, Spalding and Castle really wanted to explore what it means for food to be sustainable, and they were committed to building a community at their home in Boulder. For these women, sustainability is about forming new relationships with both the land and their neighbors; it is about being proud of your local community and its history, culture, and food.



SOCIAL SOUP 2: WAGE EQUALITY

With the help of SCIF, Kate Hunt presented her research on wage equality in the food industry in November 2014. Sadly, despite food workers being surrounded by food every day, they experience some of the highest rates of food insecurity. Hunt told the audience that the food service system is creating a paradox: Food workers make too much income for food assistance, but still too little to feel secure in their food options. Moreover, the perception of those seeking food assistance is that they should get a job. This Social Soup lecture urged students to ponder a system that works toward systemic food equity, where the countless people that help to bring us our food are considered.



EDIBLE CAMPUS GARDENS IT'S NOT JUST GROWING FOOD

Every year there is a group of students who spend their time starting seeds, pulling weeds, and harvesting vegetables. These students are involved with the maintenance and management of the Edible Campus Gardens. The Pioneer and Sill gardens are sustainable spaces that bring together civil engineering, botany, continuing education, social justice, and the on-campus University of Utah Farmers Market in an interdisciplinary effort that goes far beyond food.

SCIF has had a long relationship with the Edible Campus Gardens. In 2010, when Biology Professor Fred Montague, who founded the gardens in 1996, was set to retire, there was anxiety about the future of the Edible Campus Gardens. In response, students, staff, and faculty looked for a way to sustain the gardens. Luckily, SCIF was there to help finance the gardens in numerous ways. Over the past five years, the gardens have received a total of nine grants ranging from \$1,600 to \$30,000.

In total, SCIF has put more than \$60,000 worth of funding toward the Edible Campus Gardens as a way of showing support for the work they do. Each project that SCIF was able to fund helped make the gardens a permanent fixture on campus, whether it be the purchasing of much needed tools, the constructing of a hoop house, or creating bio retention areas that protect the gardens from stormwater runoff. These projects increased the amount of interdisciplinary educational opportunities, internships, and organically grown produce that the gardeners provide to the campus community. The gardens are a community-building space— a place for students, faculty, staff, and the general public to meet, interact, exchange ideas, build lasting relationships, and cultivate an edible landscape.

PROTECTING THE GARDENS

One of the first SCIF-supported contributions to the gardens was in the form of protection. Managing a garden in the middle of campus can be more challenging than it initially seems. At the Pioneer Garden, interns and volunteers noticed that stormwater runoff turned the southeast perimeter of the garden into a muddy bog. The swampy runoff also collected and deposited all the chemicals and particles that were on the lawns, sidewalks, and roads. In response to this problem, Alexandra Parvaz and Dasch Houdeshel, used SCIF funding to install bio-retention areas to capture the excess water and filter the chemicals from the soil. These improvements proved that, with the right design, solutions could fix the problem while contributing to aesthetics.



GARDEN STEWARDS

In the initial years that followed Montague's retirement, the Edible Campus Gardens were doing so well that they needed extra help. Parvaz once again looked to SCIF for support and was able to hire two garden stewards that helped with food production, volunteer coordination, and outreach. These stewards also helped integrate an on-campus composting system that allowed the garden to make compost from pre-consumer food waste donated by University Dining Services. The stewards provided much needed help for the gardens and began what is now a regular internship with the Sustainability Office.

GARDEN ENHANCEMENTS

For the past five years, the Edible Campus Gardens have enjoyed burgeoning success—so much success that the gardens were unable to keep up with the growing number of students, research projects, and education programs. Because of these growing pains, students Natalie Allsup-Edwards and Mike Lynch applied for and received a \$21,225 SCIF grant, which allowed them to complete garden enhancements, construct a better irrigation system, renovate the composting system, expand educational programming, and increase the variety of foods produced. This grant helped the gardens become a place that demonstrates a wide range of techniques for cultivating an edible landscape in an urban environment.





THE SOCIAL JUSTICE GARDENS FOOD SECURITY AND GARDEN SCIENCE FOR ALL

The Social Justice Gardens are an example of how SCIF can positively impact vulnerable communities. On the surface, the gardens are a student-directed program focused on environmental justice, education, and food production. The gardens provide University students the opportunity to teach gardening science, to build and maintain a community garden with a diverse population of families, and to gain leadership experience. Beneath the surface, at the root of the program, the Social Justice Gardens are an example of improving food equity in action. By providing space, education, and support for food production in the community, the Social Justice Gardens give opportunity and access to communities that are affected by a broken food system.

The gardens host a variety of diverse programs. The fall growing season provides U students with the opportunity to run a weekly after-school gardening program for elementary and middle school students. In the spring, the gardens house a location-based environmental education program for K-4 students.

In addition to the educational programs, the gardens support families in the community by providing them with their own plot. The families are in charge of cultivating their space and assisting in general maintenance. This opportunity provides greater access to fresh food and community resources, which enables families to build new relationships with the schools and other community members.

The Social Justice Gardens act as a community-University liaison, a center for expanded learning on local community issues, and an active space that helps to foster community building. These gardens are a prime example of how SCIF supports students in their mission to enrich the University's environmental education curriculum, as well as provide sustainable food options for underprivileged families. The Social Justice Gardens demonstrate how SCIF funding can make a real impact beyond campus borders.

SOCIAL JUSTICE GARDEN

This project marks the beginning of what was to become an example of a program with ongoing success. During the spring of 2010, Ashley Edgette, a student in Political Science, sought SCIF funding to help transform an unused space at Mountain View Elementary into the Social Justice Gardens. To complete this transformation, Edgette purchased new soil, lumber for garden boxes, and general garden tools. Edgette designed the Mountain View Community Garden with social justice in mind. The garden was able to provide food security and to foster self-reliance for 15 families that would otherwise not have access to fresh food.



SOCIAL JUSTICE GARDENS

In just one year the Social Justice Garden grew beyond the original space at Mountain View Elementary, and in the fall of 2011, Edgette sought funding for a new garden located at Jackson Elementary. In order to carve out the new garden, Edgette installed a fence as well as a drip-irrigation system. With this second location, the new garden expanded the scope and reach of the Social Justice Gardens. This new garden enabled food production, family assistance, and place-based education. SCIF funding provided the basic materials that fostered this program that went far beyond its original aspirations.



SHADE STRUCTURE

In spring 2013, Van Le, an Environmental & Sustainability Studies student, sought funding for the final Social Justice Garden project: a shade structure. While the garden at Jackson Elementary hosted many classes alongside the crops, the space itself wasn't well suited for the job. SCIF funds purchased the materials necessary for the construction of a pergola shade structure. The pergola provided a great space for classes, and it also hosted community and cultural events. The much needed shade structure was the final part of a suite of projects that cultivated a powerful partnership between the University and the surrounding community.



SCIF ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015



In addition to the cross-section of projects over the 5 years, the following projects represent all that were awarded in the 2014-2015 academic year. This year saw the development and start of many great projects on campus. Some of the highlights include, but are not limited to, the Red Butte Creek stormwater testing, the development of an air quality monitoring center, and the #MovingU suite of projects. SCIF continues to enable great sustainable projects on campus. These projects further the sustainable commitments of the University of Utah while making campus a more conscious space in which to experiment.

2014-2015 Project Map

Map depicts the locations of several SCIF Projects on and around campus.



1. Wild & Scenic Film Festival
2. ULaw Winter Clean Air Challenge
3. Food Lab Vermicomposting
4. Marriott Bin Revival
5. Real Food Challenge Retreat*
6. Environmental Beliefs Survey **
7. Implementation of Sustainable Practices on Greek Row
8. #MovingU: Multimedia Provocations**
9. Double Your Dollars
10. An Exploration of Green Roof Food Production

11. Greening our New Home
12. Kestrels on Campus **
13. Living Wall
14. #MovingU: Toward Cleaner Air**
15. Space Planning and Management Energy Audit
16. Red Butte Creek Stormwater Quality Assessment
17. Beekeeping Expansion and Continued Support
18. Development of the University of Utah Air Quality Monitoring Lab

*Not Located on Main Campus Map

**Located Campus Wide

MICROGRANT SUMMARIES

Less than \$1,000 awarded through SCIF

2014-2015

Amount Allocated: **Environmental Beliefs of Undergraduate Students Survey**
\$150
Advisor: Xiaorui Huang, a graduate student in the Sociology department, conducted the Environmental Beliefs of Undergraduate Students Survey to gain a better understanding of the environmental beliefs of the University's undergraduate student population. For the survey, Huang used the New Ecological Paradigm Scale, which was created by U.S. environmental sociologist Riley Dunlap and colleagues to measure the environmental concern of specific groups of people. With this method, Huang hoped to identify any correlations that may exist between environmental beliefs and academic major, academic exposure to environmental issues, political orientation, socio-economic status, and membership in environmental groups. This data, when available, will help sustainability groups on campus make more informed decisions regarding communication techniques with the student body.
Executive: Brett Clark
Xiaorui Huang
Location: N/A

Amount Allocated: **Implementation of Sustainable Practices on Greek Row**
\$995
Advisor: Ben Berger, a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity at the University of Utah, came to SCIF with the goal to increase the overall sustainability of the Sigma Chi Greek house. Berger proposed a SCIF grant that would fund 19 occupancy sensors, a 45-gallon recycling bin to be placed inside the house, and one year of curbside recycling pickup. These investments will help to lessen Sigma Chi's environmental impact. The installation of the occupancy sensors will reduce energy use by turning off lights when a room is unoccupied and the recycling will reduce total waste. House fees will fund the cost of the recycling curbside pick-up after the initial year.
Executive: Nick Robbins
Ben Berger
Location: Sigma Chi House

Amount Allocated: **Real Food Challenge Retreat**
\$300
Advisor: In February of 2015, University of Utah President David Pershing signed the Real Food Challenge, which committed the University to achieving a goal of purchasing 20 percent real food by 2020. Food qualifies as real if it meets at least one of the following criteria: local, humane, ecologically sound, or fair. In light of the commitment, Erin Olschewski, whose initial efforts helped make the commitment a possibility, applied for a \$300 SCIF grant to fund her trip to the Real Food Challenge Retreat in Seattle. Olschewski returned to the U with valuable information about how to better implement food working groups, food surveys, real food calculators, real food policy, and a real food action plan.
Executive: Adrienne Cachelin
Erin Olschewski
Location: Seattle, Washington

Amount Allocated: **1st Annual ULaw Winter Clean Air Competition**
\$1,000
Advisor: N/A
Executive: ULaw Green Team
Location: University of Utah Law Building
This past winter, the College of Law Green Team launched an air quality competition with the goal of raising awareness and changing commuter behavior. The project resembled the Salt Lake Chamber and the Utah Department of Transportation's summer Clear the Air Challenge in which participants log trips every time they use alternative modes of transportation. The ULaw Green Team collaborated with students, faculty, staff, and friends. As part of the competition, participants were eligible to win prizes for their efforts. The hope was that competition would inspire people to change their behaviors to help combat our winter-time air pollution. Due to the success of the project, it became a model for the Sustainability Office's Clean Air For U competition.

Amount Allocated: **Wild & Scenic Film Festival**

\$500

Advisor:

Jenn Watt

Executive:

Tyler Higginson

Location:

UMFA Auditorium

The Wild & Scenic Film Festival, organized every year by the Sustainability Leadership Committee in the Environmental & Sustainability Studies program, is an event that reaches out to the larger Salt Lake community to educate about environmental issues through the use of film. The film festival is open to members of the entire community and helps raise scholarship funds for students. The Wild & Scenic Film Festival was granted \$500 from SCIF to monetarily support the coordination of the event. This project broadened the reach of SCIF by sharing wild art and sustainable ideas with the larger Salt Lake community.

SMALL GRANT SUMMARIES

\$1,000- \$5,000 awarded through SCIF

2014-2015

LIVING WALL

Just inside the east entrance to the Union you will find the SCIF-funded Living Wall. The wall is a foliage-covered stand that is made from durable and sustainable materials. The wall is a self-contained, mobile unit that recirculates water daily for 30 minutes in a 10-gallon tank. The Living Wall is a prime example of how we can blur the lines between indoors and outdoors in an effort to improve our lives. The simple addition of plants can make indoor spaces feel more welcoming, comforting, and relaxing. The Living Wall captures both imagination and ingenuity, cleans the indoor air, and provides a much-needed respite for an otherwise stressed student body.

Amount Allocated:
\$4,803.91

Advisor:
Dan McCool

Executive:
Rachel Bradford

Location:
Union



#MOVINGU: TOWARD CLEANER AIR- *REAL PEOPLE, REAL STORIES*

This project involved a semester-long call for written stories that addressed the personal experience of air pollution. At the end of the semester a review committee selected the finalists who were invited to share their work at the annual Global Change & Sustainability Center Research (GCSC) Symposium. With \$5,000, SCIF was able to fund a graduate assistantship that coordinated the #MovingU: Real People Real Stories project. Through personalizing the effects of air pollution events, the project provided a community building forum where individual voices navigated and shared their relationships with air. Additionally, it furthered on-campus interdisciplinary integration within the GCSC and continued the University's great strides in increasing environmental literacy and sustainability leadership.

Amount Allocated:
\$5,000

Advisor:
Brenda Bowen

Executive:
Chris Foster
Xiaorui Huang
Chris Zajchowski

Location:
GCSC Symposium



FOOD LAB VERMICOMPOSTING

Shannon Jones used SCIF money to explore the possibility of vermicomposting as a solution to food waste. The goals of this project were to research how vermicomposting can reduce food waste, divert food surplus, reduce the use of garbage bags, reduce water usage, and reduce the cost of waste transportation. Jones started by measuring the amount of food thrown away in the Nutrition Food Lab. From there, she obtained and utilized vermicomposting bins to divert food waste and to generate compost. Finally, the composted soil was delivered to the Edible Campus Gardens as a way of integrating with the campus food production system. The hope is that this project will eventually provide a natural and direct integration point within the curriculum of nutrition courses.

Amount Allocated:
\$2,977.80

Advisor:
Shannon Jones

Executive:
N/A

Location:
Nutrition Food
Lab (HPER North)



MARRIOTT RECYCLING BINS REVIVAL

In the fall of 2014, Tony Chin, a graphic design student, developed a new set of graphics for the recycling bin sets located in the Marriott Library. The idea was that with a more innovative approach to the design, more library patrons would utilize the recycling bins. To test this idea, the new designs retain the current color-coding system implemented by Facilities Management, yet highlight a fresh, graphic perspective on recycling. The campus community responded positively to this change by recycling more. As a result, the Marriott Library's Green Team is pursuing implementing new graphics on the recycling bins throughout the Marriott Library. This project demonstrates that even with established systems like recycling, there is still room to improve.

Amount Allocated:
\$1,540

Advisor:
Carol Sogard

Executive:
N/A

Location:
Marriott Library



DOUBLE YOUR DOLLARS

This grant marked the return of Double Your Dollars at the University of Utah Farmers Market. Once again, Double Your Dollars allowed University of Utah students and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients to purchase two-for-one tokens, which can be used to purchase produce or other pre-packaged food items, such as honey, jam, and bread. The dual goals of the program were to help students afford healthy food options and to reduce the stigma against users of SNAP benefits by making the tokens available to anyone with a UCard. To spread the opportunity, participants in Double Your Dollars were limited to \$5 per market, which is equal to 10 tokens. Double Your Dollars was such a success that it led to a major foundation grant that supported the program in the following year.

Amount Allocated:
\$3,475

Advisor:
Marykate Glenn

Executive:
Analeigh
Sanderson

Location:
U Farmers Market



AN EXPLORATION OF GREEN ROOF FOOD PRODUCTION

This project was an extension of Youcan Feng's original green roof study from 2013. This project investigated water use in green roof food production, which adds an extra dimension to the sustainability of a green roof. The specific objectives of this project were to study the food generation potential, the water requirements, and the costs and benefits of cropped roofs. This research quantified the variability of these factors across a range of climate conditions to inform the development of a computer model. The hope is that with this soon to be published research, we can improve the understanding of green roof agricultural potential in urban areas; advise water management and species selection strategies; and contribute to food production on campus. In the face of future climate change, we need to learn all that we can about making our buildings sustainable.

Amount Allocated:
\$2,778.44

Advisor:
Steven Burian

Executive:
Youcan Feng

Location:
Marriott Library



GREENING OUR NEW HOME

This project allowed the Environmental Humanities Program to walk the talk of sustainability. This small grant provided funds that helped to make the new home for the program as sustainable as the subject matter of its courses. The Environmental Humanities program used the funds to install high-efficiency light bulbs and insulation for both the water heater and its pipes. These small improvements saved a significant amount on utility costs and provided piece of mind for a program concerned with the future of the planet. This project was just one step in the process of making the new home for the Environmental Humanities department a place of academic and community engagement.

Amount Allocated:
\$1,375.50

Advisor:
Jeffrey McCarthy

Executive:
Alisha Anderson
Alex Ertaud

Location:
Environmental
Humanities
Building



KESTRELS ON CAMPUS

The University of Utah occupies a critically valuable habitat for many birds of prey, including kestrels. However, campus development has made it difficult for kestrel populations to grow. With the help of SCIF, this project restored a key aspect of kestrel habitat here on campus: nesting sites. American kestrels are secondary nesters, which means they do not excavate their own nests, but occupy existing natural or manmade cavities. Grant funds helped install 12 cedar nest boxes on campus, in Red Butte Canyon, and along the foothills. After the installation, students performed visual surveys to verify the presence of kestrels and to provide more information about their nesting habits. Finally, the project manager installed a pinpoint camera inside one of the nest boxes to provide video footage of a kestrel family in the hopes of raising public awareness.

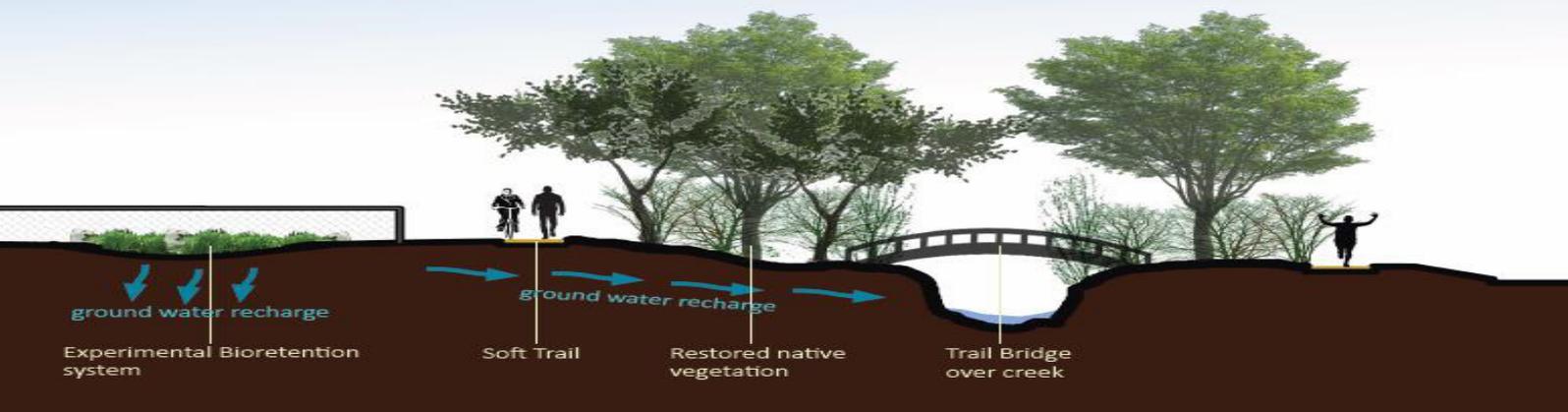
Amount Allocated:
\$4,673.71

Advisor:
Amy Sibul

Executive:
Colter Dye

Location:
South Campus





RED BUTTE CREEK STORMWATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT

Amount Allocated:
\$12,180

Advisor:
Sarah Hanners

Executive:
Robin Rothfeder

Location:
Red Butte Creek

The Red Butte Creek Stormwater Quality Assessment was the first step in the larger effort to restore and to better manage Red Butte Creek. The main goal of this project was to assess the water quality of the creek after major storm events occurred. The samples were taken either during or after storm events to measure the amount of

pollution entering the stream as a result of surface runoff.

The assessment tested water samples taken from four different locations for the concentration of six different contaminants. The contaminants include: nitrogen, phosphorous, metals (including zinc, copper, and chromium), total dissolved solids, synthetic organic contaminants (pesticides and herbicides), and total recoverable petroleum (oil and grease). A deep understanding of these pollutants will help identify potential sources and provide a baseline to evaluate whether an implemented management strategy is working.

Determining the water quality of the creek enabled the larger project to move forward with appropriate pollution mitigation strategies.



BEEKEEPING EXPANSION AND CONTINUED SUPPORT

Amount Allocated:
\$15,280.74

Advisor:
Amy Sibul

Executive:
Stephen Stanko

Location:
Marriott Library Beehives

The University of Utah Beekeeper's Association has been an active part of the community for a number of years. This project provided a third round of SCIF support by funding the purchasing of new protective gear and research equipment. This final round of funding enabled the association to become a self-sustaining group that leads the way in bee research and education.

The Beekeeper's Association participated in a collaborative research study with NASA's Goddard Spaceflight Center by studying nectar flows of the campus hives. The purpose of the research was to refine climate models to determine the true start of spring along the Wasatch Front. The student club will develop long-term climate models based on several years worth of data.

In addition to the research, the hives were integrated into an undergraduate entomology course with a community engaged learning component, which required students to work at the hives. Recently, two of the largest beekeeping clubs along the Wasatch Front shut down and left a state-wide beekeeping void, which was filled by the growing club at the U. In order to accommodate the larger audience, the club purchased protective equipment, more hives, and new educational items for continued involvement with youth education.



DEVELOPMENT OF THE AIR QUALITY MONITORING CENTER

Amount Allocated:
\$7,700

Advisor:
Ben Fasoli

Executive:
John Lin

Location:
William Browning Building

The U's Department of Atmospheric Sciences was able to develop the University of Utah Air Quality Monitoring Center with a grant from SCIF. The center facilitates the sharing of the University's air quality monitoring efforts with the larger campus community by developing key improvements to the center's data collection and communication abilities. The development of the center was a key way for the University of Utah to play an active role

in addressing Salt Lake's air quality issues.

The project installed a new server and two touch-screen monitors, one in the William Browning Building (WBB) and one in the Marriott Library. These screens make real-time data available to the campus and offer an interactive way to see the air we are breathing. The monitors are just outside of the center's laboratory on the 8th floor of WBB and near the west entrance of the library. The center also hired two undergraduate students to help further air quality research.

The development of the Monitoring Center directly supports the University's sustainability efforts while fulfilling an urgent need for more in-depth air quality research. Once we can better understand the details of the pollution problem, we can better understand how to reduce emissions in order to make Salt Lake a more livable city.

Project Executives 2010-2015

Alexandra Zimmerman
Alexandra Parvaz
Abi Salmon
Adam Mendenhall
Adrienne Cachelin
Allen Van Huele
Allison Boyer
Amanda Smith
Analeigh Sanderson
Andrew Basinski
Andrew Brown
Andrew Kahrs
Ashley Edgette
Ben Altschuler
Ben Berger
Ben Fasoli
Bill Leach
Blair Furmaski
Blake Paullin
Bradley DeHerrera
Brandi Thompson
Brooke Thorn
Bryn McNerny
Cameron McIntire
Carol Sogard
Carol Werner
Cassie Maquire
Chavalah Washington
Chris Eisenberg
Christian Buehler
Clayton Beckett
Colin Lynch
Colter Dyte
Crystal Tulley-Cordova
Dan Stout
Derek Jenson
Derk Harris
Dasch Houdeshel
Doug Chesley
Drew Thompson

Elizabeth Brunner
Elizabeth Wittneborn
Eric Larsen
Erin Olschewski
Erin Olson
Georgie Corkery
Graham Scott
Hannah Bybee
Hunter Ross
Jai Hamid Bashir
James Allen
Jane Collete
Jenna Matsumura
Jessica Andrews
Jessica Batty
Jessica Brooks
Joerg Ruegemer
John Heiberger
Joshua Johnston
Julie Henry
Joshua Stovall
Jun Kim
Justin Popa
Karren Nichols
Katherine Nix
Kathleen Hunt
Keila Larson
Kevin Hively
Kevin Smith
Lana Dalton
Laurie Browne
Leo Stanko
Liz Looby
Lynn Unger
Maggie McCormick
Maia Taylor
Marc Aoun
Matthew Kirkegaard
Maxamilian Stiefel
Maziar Nourian

Melissa Wise
Michael Turley
Michael Zeller
Michele Johnson
Mohammed Alum
N. Rachel Sweeten
Natasha Seegert
Nathan Nelson
Nick Schou
Nikhil Limaye
Paige Pitcher
Paris Morgan
Rachelle Rawlins
Rebecca Moore
Robin Rothfeder
Ross Chambless
Sam Allen
Sarah Acree
Seth Crossley
Shannon Kennelly
Shaun Daniel
Stephan Stanko
Tam Guy
Taylor Clark
Thomas Bench
Thomas Melburn
Thomas Walsh
Todd Lehman
Trace Mackey
Travis Christensen
Travis Horlacher
Trek Martin
Van Le
Warren Beecroft
Xiaorui Huang
Youcan Feng
Zacharia Levine
Zachary Schwing

Project Advisors 2010-2015

Adrienne Cachelin
Alexandra Parvaz
Alexandra Zimmermann
Amanda Smith
Amy Sibul
Andrea Brunelle
Angel Moreno
Annie Budathoki
Arlyn Bradshaw
Bart Adams
Becky Menlove
Brenda Bowen
Brenda Scheer
Brett Clark
Brian Burton
Carol Sogard
Carol Werner
Chad Larson
Cheri Jenkins
Chris Morrow
Christopher Rodesch
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David Jones
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Faisal Kahn
Fred Adler

Gina Russo
Heidi Goedhart
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John Lin
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Julia Corbett
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Karren Nichols
Kathleen Nicoll
Katie Deak
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Kevin Hively
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Kris Fenn
Malea Smith
Mark Koopman
Mark St. Andre
Mary Wells

Matt Bradely
Matt Harting
Myron Willson
Matt Harting
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Nate Zwart
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Nikki Nalder
Otakuye Conroy-Ben

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Sarah Hanners
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Shirlayne Quayle
Stephanie Dolmat-Connel
Stephen Goldsmith
Steve Burian
Steven Storheim
Sue Pope
Sylvia Torti
Tariq Banuri
Tom Hurtado
Valerie Green

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Allison Boyer
Andrea Brunelle
Cheryl Henson
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Molly Wheeler
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Robert Young
Samantha Jackson
Steve Hoskins
Tami Beck
Tim Harrison

Past SCIF Coordinators

Rachel Sanders
Lucy Hansen
Whitney Williams



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