

SCIF Selection Criteria

MISSION STATEMENT

The Sustainable Campus Initiative Fund (SCIF) provides funding for projects that address sustainability through operations, research, and education at the University of Utah. SCIF will allocate funds to projects that use the following framework of sustainability: “Sustainability is the long-term balance of environmental health, economic prosperity, and meeting the basic needs of current and future generations.” (See Sections 3.3, 3.4, & 3.5). SCIF is made possible by student fees. An allocations committee representing wide-ranging campus affiliations will evaluate applications using the University’s sustainability definition (See Section 1.3). Portions of the fund will support education initiatives, student aid, and internships. By providing students, faculty, and staff with tools to engage with sustainability.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PROPOSED PROJECTS

All projects to be considered for SCIF funding must meet the following criteria:

- Projects must directly address sustainability as it relates to environmental, social, and economic well-being.
- Projects must directly address sustainability on campus, in partnerships between the campus and surrounding community, or in the capacity that on-campus activities influence the surrounding community.
- All proposed projects must have a clearly defined, measurable outcome.
- Student projects must be sponsored by a university employee (faculty or staff) or department.
- Project proposals may be submitted by University of Utah students, staff, and faculty. Individuals and organizations outside of University of Utah may not submit proposals.
- Projects must receive all necessary written approval by appropriate University Officials/Departments prior to consideration.
- SCIF funding will not support projects already mandated by law or University of Utah policy directive (e.g., standards for new building construction), since the University of Utah is already obliged to allocate funds for such projects. SCIF will fund projects which go above and beyond minimum requirements that are unable to gain funding from other sources.
- All projects shall have a mechanism for evaluation and follow-up after funding has been dispersed. At minimum, a project plan must include a report made to the SCIF Grant Manager after successful (or unsuccessful) implementation. If a project is expected to have ongoing benefits, the project plan must include a mechanism for tracking, recording, and reporting these benefits back to the SCIF Grant Manager. The SCIF Grant Manager may request additional reports if necessary.
- The SCIF Grant Manager may request additional information or documentation at any time, even after a project has ended.
- Projects must have publicity, education, equity, and outreach considerations.
- Projects are encouraged to consider wellness impacts.
- Projects are encouraged to have student involvement.

CRITERIA AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Projects will be categorized into the following areas of work:

- Air Quality
- Built Environment & Communities
- Energy
- Food Systems
- Recreation and Culture
- Social Resilience and Access
- Meeting the basic needs of current and future generations.
- Climate Change
- Ecological & Environmental Change
- Water

Projects will be evaluated on their ability to address one or more of the following areas of consideration:

- Educational outreach, collaborative partnerships, and reputation building with surrounding communities
- Sustainable leadership development within the University
- Sustainability that is accessible to and achievable by all
- Social resilience as it relates to comprehensive sustainability
- Sustainability literacy and increased levels of participation in sustainability activities
- Health and Wellness initiatives
- Sustainable procurement practices
- Operations improvements that decrease environmental impacts
- Energy conservation
- Greenhouse gas reductions
- Pollution reduction, including but not limited to:
 - Hazardous waste
 - Solid waste
 - Liquid waste
 - Gaseous emissions
 - Sewage and storm water output reductions
 - Water conservation

PREFERENCES FOR PROPOSED PROJECTS

- The Allocations Committee shall give preference and priority to project proposals that also meet the following criteria in this section. However, meeting these criteria is not required for projects to be considered for SCIF funding.

- Preference will be given to projects that demonstrate a holistic view of sustainability.
- Preference will be given to projects with strong student-participation.
- Preference will be given to projects that can obtain matching funds from sources other than SCIF (i.e. utility rebates, grants, administration and/or plant operation, dining services, departments, or other community support).
- Preference will be given to projects that are closely aligned to the following sub-categories in the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, & Rating System (STARS): campus engagement, public engagement, air & climate, buildings, energy, food & dining, grounds, purchasing, transportation, waste, water, coordination & planning, diversity, wellbeing.
- Preference will be given to projects directly impacting the University of Utah's sustainability. For example, priority will be given to projects that either directly address sustainability on campus or within the Salt Lake City metropolitan area.

ADDITIONAL PROJECT CRITERIA AT DISCRETION OF COMMITTEE

The Allocations Committee may determine additional requirements or preferences for each year's funding cycle, provided that these additional criteria are:

- Consistent with the overall mission of SCIF.
- Consistent with the requirements and preferences outlined in these Bylaws.

INTERSHIPS AND COMPENSATIONS

SCIF, by design, supports materials and action-oriented projects rather than research funding and time compensation. Exceptions have been made where significant needs/impacts have been demonstrated. In the case that a project directly or indirectly creates an internship, job, or other position that would be compensated by SCIF, a Project Executive must:

- Receive internship approval from the related/responsible office and/or department;
- Create the position for an individual other than the Project Executive, OR
- Require an open hiring process in which the Project Executive may be selected to fill the proposed position. The responsible office and/or department must report to the SCIF Grant Manager the hiring process and outcome.

To demonstrate approval, Project Executives must submit a letter along with their application detailing the position's purpose, the needs it will fill, the sustainable implications of the position, and the desired time frame and compensation. Additionally, there must be a clear explanation why the position ought to be funded by SCIF as opposed to the responsible office/department. This letter must be signed by no fewer than two (2) members of the responsible office/department, one of which must be the senior office/department member (i.e. the Director or Department Chair). If the senior office/department member will not be supervising the internship/position directly, the staff/faculty member responsible for supervision must sign the letter as well. If the responsible office/department is different from the supervising office/department, two members of EACH office/department must sign the letter for a total of 4 signatures.