FALL 2024

Medium Grants

Mycelium Wall Panels: $8,000.00

Project Executive: Ehsan Rahimzadegan | Project Advisor: Valerie Greer

This project focuses on creating sustainable mycelium-based insulation and nonload-bearing walls using urban waste like sawdust, coffee grounds, and paper as growth material. It aims to lower the environmental impact of construction by offering a low-carbon alternative to conventional materials, supporting a circular economy. Through research, prototyping, and testing, the project highlights mycelium's potential as a green solution in architecture and construction.

University Health Back to Recycling: $10,000.00

Project Executive: Lindsay Thompson | Project Advisor: Chris Shirley

This project aims to revive a hospital recycling program that was halted during the pandemic, with the goal of reducing landfill waste and encouraging material reuse. By reintroducing recycling, the initiative seeks to promote sustainability within the hospital system and lay the foundation for a broader culture of environmental responsibility, potentially expanding to include waste reduction and eco-conscious practices in the future.

Sea Monkey Manifesto: Multi-Species Justice in the Great Salt Lake: $3,798.00

Project Executive: Quinn Luthy| Project Advisor: Danielle Endres

The *Sea Monkey Manifesto* is a student-led publication project that will compile justice-focused writing about the Great Salt Lake into a chapbook published by Torrey House Press. Aiming to amplify student voices and foster professional development, the initiative also seeks to strengthen connections between the University of Utah, environmental publishers, and advocacy groups like Save Our Great Salt Lake placing environmental justice and awareness at the forefront of regional discourse.

Large Grants

Useful Robot: $15,180.00

Project Executive: Andy Gill | Project Advisor: Randall Morrill

This project aims to develop a zero-emissions, battery-powered industrial robot with a modular design that allows for interchangeable attachments to perform various tasks, reducing the need for multiple machines. Inspired by scalable modular systems used in the automotive industry, the robot is designed for consumer-friendly use, able to fit through standard gates. The initial prototype will serve as a forklift for the University of Utah's Mechanical Engineering Capstone lab, supporting hands-on learning and sustainability goals. By designing and building components such as the chassis, steering, and power systems, the project promotes air quality improvement and sustainable engineering education across disciplines.

SPRING 2025

Small Grants

Design Collab: $927.81

Project Executive: Ellie Velazquez | Project Advisor: Timothy Adekunle

This project reimagines the traditional roles of architect, user, and maker through a user-centered design approach, focusing on collaboration and youth empowerment. In partnership with PROG Development Center in West Valley City, the project involves working with the Youth Advisory Council 14 local high school students to co-design and build an interior space in PROG's office. The goal is to highlight youth agency in shaping their environments while fostering collaborative design and hands-on fabrication experience.

Support for Architecture Students to Obtain LEED: $1,000.00

Project Executive: Timothy Adekunle | Project Advisor: Timothy Adekunle

This project reimagines the traditional roles of architect, user, and maker through a user-centered design approach, focusing on collaboration and youth empowerment. In partnership with PROG Development Center in West Valley City, the project involves working with the Youth Advisory Council 14 local high school students to co-design and build an interior space in PROG's office. The goal is to highlight youth agency in shaping their environments while fostering collaborative design and hands-on fabrication experience.

Support for Architecture Students to Obtain LEED: $1,000.00

Project Executive: Timothy Adekunle | Project Advisor: Timothy Adekunle

This project empowers graduate architecture students in ARCH 6352 (Sustainable Design) by providing training and funding to earn sustainability certifications such as LEED Green Associate and Green Globes Emerging Professional. It aims to prepare future leaders in global sustainability by equipping them with in-depth knowledge of building and community rating systems, including LEED, Green Globes, Living Building Challenge, BREEAM, Energy Star, and Passive House. Through the course, students will gain the skills needed to design environmentally responsible spaces and understand the standards required for sustainable certification.

Good Grief Network FLOW Facilitation Training: $1,000.00

Project Executive: Jack Rouse | Project Advisor: Danielle Endres

This project funds a student's participation in FLOW Facilitation training through the GoodGriefNetwork, enabling them to lead public events on campus in Fall 2025 using the FLOW method. It supports professional development while introducing new ways for the University of Utah community to process and cope with climate grief.

Meduim Grants

Union Propagation Station: $4,000.00

Project Executive: Madison Walk | Project Advisor: Branden Dalley

The Union Propagation Station is a hands-on, low-cost initiative aimed at introducing students to horticulture through a plant cutting exchange. Featuring a pegboard display with water vials, the station offers an accessible space for students to trade cuttings, access free supplies, and learn about plant care and propagation. It encourages year-round engagement, fosters a sense of community among plant enthusiasts, and promotes sustainability. Educational resources like zines and on-site support help

reinforce learning, while tracking tools allow the project to adapt based on student participation and feedback.

Project Butterfly: $7,638.00

Project Executive: Temma Balducci | Project Advisor: Temma Balducci

Project Butterfly is a collaborative effort to revitalize the neglected courtyard of the Art Building by transforming it into a welcoming, pollinator-friendly garden that benefits students, faculty, and staff. The redesigned space will support well-being by providing a peaceful, nature-rich environment for relaxation and outdoor learning, while also enhancing biodiversity with native plants that attract pollinators like bees, butterflies, and birds. Inspired by similar campus gardens, the project promotes both ecological health and human wellness, aligning with research that highlights the positive impact of natural spaces on stress reduction and cognitive function.

Materials Exchange Library: $2,500.00

Project Executive: Libby Linder | Project Advisor: Hansong Cho

This project establishes a dedicated space within the College of Architecture and Planning where students can donate, exchange, and repurpose leftover or scrap materials. By encouraging reuse and reducing waste, the initiative promotes a circular economy, supports students financially, sparks creativity, and fosters collaboration and experimentation within the college community.

Love Period: $3,650.00

Project Executive: Savannah Jordaan, Celine Cardena | Project Advisor: Marissa Questereit

Menstruation, a natural biological process, presents financial and environmental challenges for many students, particularly due to the widespread use of disposable menstrual products. These products, which are primarily plastic-based and often contain harmful chemicals, contribute significantly to waste and pollution, taking centuries to

decompose and releasing microplastics into ecosystems. Moreover, they are linked to various health risks, including menstrual discomfort, hormonal disruption, and long-term health issues. Reusable menstrual products offer a safer, eco-friendly alternative, reducing waste, exposure to harmful chemicals, and menstrual discomfort, while also providing substantial economic savings over time. Providing students with access to these sustainable alternatives can help ease financial burdens and promote overall well-being, particularly for the 48% of undergraduate students at the University of Utah who people that menstruates.

LeAD: $8,839.00

Project Executive: Noah Boekweg | Project Advisor: Sonia Parra

This proposal seeks SCIF funding to develop a reusable, low-cost pelvic floor diagnostic device that addresses a critical gap in women's healthcare. The device offers a simple, objective solution for diagnosing pelvic floor disorders (PFDs), and funding will help improve its material selection and sterilization methods to ensure reusability, thereby reducing medical waste. By enhancing access to PFD diagnosis, especially in underserved areas, this project supports both health equity and environmental sustainability. With the support of Dr. Sonia Parra, who has valuable clinical and industry connections, the device's real-world implementation is ensured. A request for $8,839 in funding will support material development, extend the project timeline, and allow for continued testing and refinement.

Large Grants

Continuation of Indoor AQ monitoring: $5,000.00

Project Executive: Fiona Hopewell | Project Advisor: Kerry Kelly

For the 2025 wildfire season, this project aims to upgrade existing PMS3003 particulate matter sensors to the more accurate PMS5003 models across 18 campus locations. The sensors will be collected, updated by the manufacturer, and then reinstalled in their original spots. The upgraded sensor network will be maintained for an additional year to enhance understanding of how outdoor pollution, HVAC systems, and economizer settings affect indoor air quality (IAQ), especially during wildfire smoke events. This cost-

effective approach will support ongoing collaboration with campus facilities to improve IAQ during pollution episodes.

Small Shifts, Big Changes: $15,221.00

Project Executive: Ilinca Mocuta, Gaby Karakcheyeva | Project Advisor: Austin Green

This grant proposal outlines a student-led, long-term project with three main goals: establishing a wildlife camera trapping survey for education and research access, analyzing mammal activity using remote sensing data along a wildland-urban gradient, and monitoring air quality to assess its impact on wildlife behavior. Around 25 camera traps and air quality monitors will be installed and maintained year-round, with biweekly checks conducted by members of the University's Wildlife Society Chapter. The project aims to generate valuable data on human-wildlife interactions along the Wasatch Front, contribute to broader research networks like Snapshot USA and UWIN, and support student engagement in STEM through leadership and research opportunities.