AUS Sustainability Project Funding

What is the AUS Sustainability Project?

AUS Sustainability is looking to fund small student led sustainability projects that pilot innovative ways to improve campus operations, anything from food services to transportation.

Research & Design

The projects should entail applied research or design that creates new sustainability opportunities. These projects must be integrated with the university campus through use of AUS as a living lab or by producing deliverables with the potential to create operational, academic, or cultural change at AUS.

Behavior Change & Education

We are looking for…

- Activities that foster a campus culture of sustainability, such as efforts to improve sustainability literacy, stimulate behavior change, and activism on campus.
- Operational efficiencies leading to a decrease in AUS's carbon footprint
- Improved transportation options on campus
- Way to reduce the amount of waste generated on campus
- Education, research, and outreach initiatives directly related to campus sustainability
- Means to increase campus awareness of sustainability issues

In essence, potential projects include any type of educational project related to sustainability, sustainability enhancements (e.g. dorm recycling, campus recycling, reduction of single-use plastics on campus, solar charging stations, drinking water solutions for events), pilot programs, student projects to study potential resource saving strategies, etc. Projects MUST take place on the AUS campus and be focused on serving the AUS community. The projects need to be replicable. One-off events are not eligible under this funding scheme.

Project Guidelines

- Projects must address environmental, social or economic sustainability at AUS.
- All funded projects will be required to prepare a mid-point progress report as well as a final project report and presentation within 3 months of completion.
- Projects will be implemented and completed within 12 months of project funding.
- Projects must be stand-alone projects. This fund provides one-time funding for start-up pilot projects and does not cover continuing operational expenses.
- Agreements and approvals from relevant administrative/academic units must be done prior to submission
- Budget guidelines: Project funding should not exceed to 3,000 AED.

Eligibility:

Registered AUS Students are eligible to apply. Previously funded projects cannot apply for funding again. The purpose of this fund is to be one time funding to help get projects off the ground and to provide funds for a pilot project that would otherwise not be funded. Recipients are ineligible to apply for other projects until they have successfully closed current projects by submitting their final report, budget and any other applicable materials.

Application Process:

The application process consists of a pre-proposal, proposal, and selection stage. Pre-proposal applications will be reviewed the first week of each month. If the committee invites you to submit a full proposal they will communicate further due dates.

Pre-Proposal

Prior to submitting a full project proposal, a pre-proposal is submitted that provides a general idea of the project. This allows AUS Sustainability to provide the applicant with initial comments and questions to ensure application success. Clear and complete pre-proposals will include the following information in **500 words or less**:

- Project Description (i.e. what kind of applied research will be used, how will this help foster a culture of sustainability at AUS or create opportunities to reduce the University's carbon footprint, etc.)
- Groups Involved
- Project Goals
- Estimated Total Cost
- Project Duration

Proposal

If invited to submit a full proposal, please submit by the requested date. The proposal should include:

- **Project Description: (500 words)** Include a brief yet comprehensive summary of the project.
- **People:** Identify all project members, year and major, their roles, and contact information.
- **Student Engagement: (200 words)** Describe how your project will involve and benefit students.
- **Impact: (300 words)** Outline the desired social, ecological, or economic impacts. Clearly demonstrate how you will measure the results of the project, either quantitatively or qualitatively
- **Project Timeline:** List anticipated project start and completion dates, order tasks and milestones chronologically, and estimate how long each task will require for completion.
- **Permissions:** Include a letter of support from affiliated departments or organizations whenever the success of your project is contingent on permission.
- **Budget and Purchasing:** Prepare a detailed budget and description using the Excel document AUS Sustainability Grant Fund Budget Template. Rename the template Brief Project name.Termsubmitted.xls.
- **Project Sustainability: (100 words)** Describe your strategy for financially supporting the project post pilot AUS Sustainability grant funding.

Selection Criteria

Proposals will be reviewed and selections made by a committee of AUS Sustainability staff and EcoReps. They will identify successful projects based on the total score of the following five selection criteria. Each of the five criteria will be scored out of the amounts shown under criteria weight, and then given a final score out of 100.

Selection Criteria	Description of Criteria	Criteria Weight
Project Description	Demonstrates meaningful and well-articulated social, ecological, and/or economic sustainability benefits to AUS	40
Student Engagement	Has a solid plan to engage and educate students on sustainability on the AUS campus. The plan must include: a level of student involvement in the project; and behavior change opportunities with the project.	15
Level of Impact and Performance Measurement	Sound plan for measuring change in relation to the benefits identified in the project description. These can include observations, audits, pre and post surveys, etc.	15
Project Feasibility	• team has the knowledge, skills, time, and initiative to carry out this project; • proposal is cost effective; • proposal includes a full and reasonable description of the budget; and • project size, implementation time, and target audience are reasonable.	15
Planning	Where formal permission is required, preliminary discussions have been held with all relevant departments/organizations. The timeline is realistic and shows thought put into the time and effort needed to implement the project. Proposal includes a plan for sustained funding, as necessary.	15
	Total out of 100	