Spring 2017 Student Sustainability Grant Proposals
Total Funds Requested: $21,101
Total Funds Allocated: $16,420

1. Hydration for Health and the Environment
Principal Investigators: Rojelio Batas and Austin Seavolt
Faculty/Staff Advisor: Joe VanDerBos

Abstract: Members of the Student Health Advisory Council take as their responsibility advocating for health behavior in all realms of student life. Our efforts extend to supporting environmental concerns where they intersect with the health of the campus community. As frequent visitors and volunteers at WMU's Sindecuse Health Center, we see students (both prospective and current), faculty and staff use this campus facility and have identified a gap that would easily be filled by the addition of two hydration station on the lower and upper levels of the building. Our proposal asks that funding be granted to install these hands-free, filtered hydration stations as a way to improve environmental AND health impacts. The hands-free operation supports best practices in medical care in a building which welcomes many visitors and encourages proper hygiene practices. By encouraging hydration in areas with physical rehabilitation exercises, we support improving the health and wellness of patients. Researchers have identified that these stations have climate change impacts “two to six times lower than those of bottled water” (Makov, et. Al., 2016). The success of existing hydration stations at WMU can be extended to more areas, and likely increase the environmental impact of existing stations. Having more stations readily available is likely to encourage behavior toward refilling bottles rather than buying new plastic bottles.

Amount Requested: $5,120   Amount Allocated: $5,120

2. Sunseeker Solar Cells and Trailer Purchase
Principal Investigators: Bo Ching Wong and Krystal York
Faculty/Staff Advisor: Bradley Bazuin

Abstract: The Sunseeker Solar Car team at Western Michigan University is looking for ways to further improve the efficiency of their next generation solar vehicle. The project aims to accomplish that goal through the design and build of a next generation solar vehicle. We have participated in all of the American Solar Challenge races since they began over 27 years ago. Throughout the years, we have raced with various cars, all of which have been designed and built by students at Western Michigan University.
The Sunseeker car hauler has been services out team for almost three decades. The wooden part of trailer is going to deform, there are numerous holes on the roof. The water leakage in the rain would probably damage the electrical system of the car. The situation almost happened in the heavy rain during the American Solar Challenges last summer. This seriously hinders the ability of our team to outreach and get to more events and provide sustainability education for more groups. Therefore, Sunseeker is going to purchase a new enclosed trailer for racing and long trips.

This year, we are traveling to Circuits of Americas in Austin Texas for Formula Sun Grand Prix (FSGP) 2017 from July 2 to 9. We would take this opportunity to promote solar vehicles and compete for our school.

The regulation in ASC/FSGP 2018 has limited the maximum solar array area in 2 square meter. This means our previous solar cars having 6 square meters would not be eligible to compete in the competition. Therefore, new solar cells are required for new solar array for new solar vehicle.

Therefore, we are applying for the Student Sustainability Grant to pay off the cost of a new car hauler. We planned to purchase the car hauler as late as the first week of May. The solar panel purchase would be done after FSGP 2017 in July so that we can collect data and recommendation from other teams to purchase the ideal and suitable solar cells.

Amount Requested: $9,500       Amount Allocated: $9,500

3. Hydration Station for Trimpe
Principal Investigators: Bradley Rangel and Siobhan Williams

Faculty/Staff Advisor: Tiffany White

Abstract: It takes approximately 1000 years for a plastic water bottle to biodegrade, and it is estimated that four of five plastic bottles end up as litter, contributing to the estimated five trillion articles of plastic in our oceans today. In an effort to counteract this issue, many buildings around campus are including new hydration stations to encourage the use of reusable water bottles and to cut down on the excessive use and waste of plastic water bottles. The Trimpe Building, which sees a growing amount of foot traffic due to the numerous offices, programs, and events that take place regularly within it, would benefit considerably from the addition of a hydration station. The offices located in the Trimpe building include the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, the Office of Institutional Equity, the office of Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, and Transgender Student Services, and the Kalamazoo Promise Scholars Office. Trimpe also houses multiple events year-round, a reflection room, and the “inclusive, equal access resource room and lounge” also known as “Our Space.” The many offices of the Trimpe building support and work to uphold Western’s sustainability platform and initiative to reduce its ecological footprint. To reduce the need for plastic water bottles, three offices in Trimpe have taken to purchasing water jugs from Gordon’s Water on a regular basis, but having a working filtered water bottle filling station would be a more cost-effective alternative.
4. Reducing Contamination
Principal Investigators: Grant Corbat and Riley Thomas

Faculty/Staff Advisor: Heather McGee

**Abstract:** Setting up a booth at Bronco Bash is a great way for the Sustainability Office to reach out to the student body at WMU. This booth can collect emails in exchange for giving students a chance to test their knowledge about sustainability or a reusable tote with the same logo and slogan. Organic T-shirts would cost $8.00 apiece and totes would cost $7.95 apiece. For 250 organic cotton shirts and for 200 plastic buttons, it would cost $4,231.46 or $4,681.46 depending on where printing will take place. These prizes will offer incentive for students to give their emails and learn more about sustainability. Emails will be further used to send students more information about sustainable practices they can apply to college life.

Amount Requested: $4,681  
Amount Allocated: $0