

- Green Fund -

University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
Application for Environmental Sustainability Reserve

Fall 2020

Application must be received by November 6th, 2020

Please send completed applications to greenfund@uwlax.edu. You will be sent a confirmation e-mail verifying that the proposal was received.

For more information about the Green Fund or the application process please refer to the following; [Green Fund Bylaws](#), [Green Fund webpage](#) or email us at greenfund@uwlax.edu.



Application Checklist

1. Have you reviewed the [Green Fund bylaws](#)?
2. Have you meet with a Green Fund coordinator?
3. Have you reached out/received approval from the appropriate campus offices i.e. Office of Residence Life, University Centers, Facilities Planning & Management?
4. Have you had your application proofread i.e. by professors, Green Fund coordinators, Writing Center, etc.?

Eligibility for Funding

The Environmental Sustainability Reserve, or “Green Fund” can be used to fund projects for non-GPR facilities, including, but not limited to:

- Residence halls
- Student Union
- Recreational Eagle Center
- Whitney Center
- Veteran’s Memorial Stadium

The fund cannot go towards:

- Trees, landscaping not related to gardens, rain gardens, and green roofs
- Items typically included in other entities’ ongoing budgets
- Faculty or staff salaries

Evaluation Criteria for Proposed Projects

Highest Priority

- Impact on the student population at UW-La Crosse
- Impact on carbon footprint: including reduced energy usage through efficiency and renewable energy
- Collaboration with other organizations: through funding matches, joint planning, or in the execution of the project
- Visibility: projects that are conspicuous and noticeable
- Able to demonstrate a quantifiable return on investment
- Innovation: new initiatives not typically funded by other entities

Medium Priority:

- Size of project: projects with greater magnitude preferred
- Interdisciplinary, and engaging multiple stakeholders
- Educational value: increasing student understanding of environmental issues or actions
- Possibility for future expansion: growth from a pilot into a standing program

Other Important Considerations:

- Purchasing ethics: considerations such as fair trade, sustainable equivalent products, sustainable production

- Community outreach and support of local/sustainable businesses

Include the following with this application:

- At least 3 price comparisons of the item(s) or project. (if applicable)
 - Budget Sheet
 - Other supporting documentation
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Contact Information

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Unit/Organization/Department (optional): Student Association, UWL Green Fund

Please provide a short title for you proposed project:

Whitney Dining Center OZZI Machine

1) Provide an Abstract for your project. What changes/additions do you propose? What is are the basic impacts that you anticipate? What is your expected timeline?

Covid-19 has restricted the dining ability of Whitney Center, which is now strictly functioning on carry out due to an increase of Covid-19 cases on the UWL Campus. Strict carry out policy has caused an increase in single use to-go boxes as each student must go eat elsewhere. Steve Martens, the Resident District Manager for Chartwells, estimates that during the campus quarantine, 10,000 single-use boxes were used each week. Each of the single-use boxes has a price fluctuating price of \$0.25-\$0.39 per box. Using the lowest estimate, at 10,000 boxes per week, the cost of using the single use box per week is \$2,500. With an additional machine we will be able to further reduce waste generated through dining services and alleviate additional waste production from COVID-19 food safety procedures. Upon approval, there would be a quick turnaround for the use of funds. The OZZI would be paid for as soon as possible and would be received prior to the beginning of the Spring Semester, ideally installed at some point over winter break.

Ozzi Use Guide

- 1)Ozzi to-go containers will be available at all dining venues in the Student Union

2) A student/staff/faculty member buys into the system with a payment of \$4 (student) or \$5 (faculty/staff). As part of this transaction the student/staff/faculty member will receive a token and token holder.

- Potentially Student Association could cover the cost of the first container for on campus students, this is TBD.
- The funds collected from the purchasing of the Ozzi containers will be used to purchase additional containers and tokens as the program grows and to replace containers that are no longer useable.

3) When the student/staff/faculty member wants to take a meal to-go, they present the token to the cashier at the retail dining venue when they are placing an order.

4) When the order is completed, the food is placed in an Ozzi to-go container by the dining team staff member.

5) The student/staff/faculty member can then take their meal anywhere they choose to eat.

6) When the student/staff/faculty member is finished using the Ozzi container, they return it to the Ozzi vending machine located in the Student Union or the concourse area of Whitney Center. At the vending site, they scan the bar code on the Ozzi container and drop the container inside the Ozzi vending machine.

7) Upon the successful return of the container, the machine dispenses a token to the student/staff/faculty member, which can be used for their next to-go meal.

8) When the Ozzi Machine Collection Cart is full; it is to be taken to the dishwashing area of Whitney or the Student Union Commerical Dishwasher depending on where the container was returned to. There each container is washed to ready it for its next use.

- Note: if a student/staff/faculty member loses their container or token, they will have to buy into the system again.
- <https://youtu.be/dWKivrMIKKU>

2) Provide a detailed explanation of the environmental impact of your project on the UWL carbon footprint, water usage or electrical consumption. Be as specific and quantitative as possible. If impacts are indirect, please explain.

As stated before, COVID 19 is causing a drastic increase in the single use containers in food service at UWL. Without the availability in person dining, plates and reusable items have been temporarily put-on hold. Using the estimates provided by Steve Martens, from the beginning of the semester to the date this grant was submitted (Nov

6th), the UWL dining system will have used 90,000 single use containers and by the end of the semester (15 weeks) the total will be roughly 150,000 containers. This surpasses the annual amount recorded in the 2019 school year (85,500). This increased amount of waste has been visible across campus as trash bins have overfilled, polluting what normally is a well-kept campus. While the single-use containers are compostable, neither the University nor the city of La Crosse operates a post-consumer compost program, which renders that feature obsolete. By installing an OZZI machine in Whitney we can help mitigate, and eventually eradicate some of these waste issues related to take-out dining.

3) How will this increase student understanding of environmental issues? Will it be visible to students? This is an important aspect of the Green Fund. If your proposed project isn't visible to students have you added signage, informational materials or promotion to your request?

Waste has become a salient issue on campus due to COVID 19 food safety precautions. Promotional material can be made, with information about the amount of single use containers UWL has been going through.

- The UWL Green Fund Instagram page can be used to help promote the environmental savings of the OZZI.
- The Sustainability director, Green Fund committee, and other organizations can help spread information.

4) What does this proposed project look like in 5 years, 10 years, etc.? Are there ongoing maintenance costs, will this need to be replaced, will ongoing costs be absorbed by another UWL entity or will this project rely on the Green Fund?

In theory, the OZZI could last for 10 years or more, assuming no problems with the machine. The upkeep would be maintenance on the machine repurchasing tokens, token holders and replacement containers. This is something that will be undertaken by University Centers as there is already an OZZI machine there. There will also be some revenue generated that can be used to repurchase containers.

5) How much funding are you requesting overall?

To pay for the second OZZI machine and accessories, we are requesting an allocation of up to \$40,000

- \$37,540 for the OZZI machine and additional accessories. (See quote)

- \$600-\$800 for electrical and data jack installation in Whitney Center (Facilities Estimate).

B) Is this a project that would typically be funded through another budget? If yes, explain in detail why this project is going through the Green Fund.

No, projects like this have gone through the Green Fund, including the previous OZZI machine. However, the ongoing cost for the annual maintenance agreement and additional items needed (tokens, containers, etc.) would be covered by University Centers.

6) Are you receiving additional funding from other university or non-university entities? If yes, please state the other sources of funding that you are receiving, and the amount received.

Potentially. The UWL Student Association has expressed interest in supporting the OZZI system by buying each student their first OZZI token so they wouldn't have to buy into the program. However, this funding would be made possible only if student association secures its excess funds from the last school year, which total approximately \$10,000. SUFAC oversees the approval of the request made by student government. At the time that this grant is submitted, we still will not know if these funds will be approved. If additional funds are received from Student Association then excess allocation from this request will return to the Green Fund.

7) Do you think this is a responsible use of Student Segregated Fees? Explain.

This is directly impacting students, food services. It is also addressing an issue that many students are noticing and bringing to the attention of university staff and student leaders. It also is an important step in changing our societal norms regarding single use waste. By returning your OZZI takeout container, which adds only one simple step to the dining process, each student will help the university reduce waste and save money.

8) Large and complex projects require UWL Staff member(s) to be involved. Please list relevant personnel who are or will be involved in the proposed projects, who can evaluate project viability as it affects their department or unit. Do you plan to collaborate with other entities? This would include students, organizations, university departments/offices.

Mary Vahala, Larry Ringgenberg, and Steve Martens have contributed to the research, writing, and submission of this grant. They represent University Centers and Dining Services goals to become a more sustainable campus

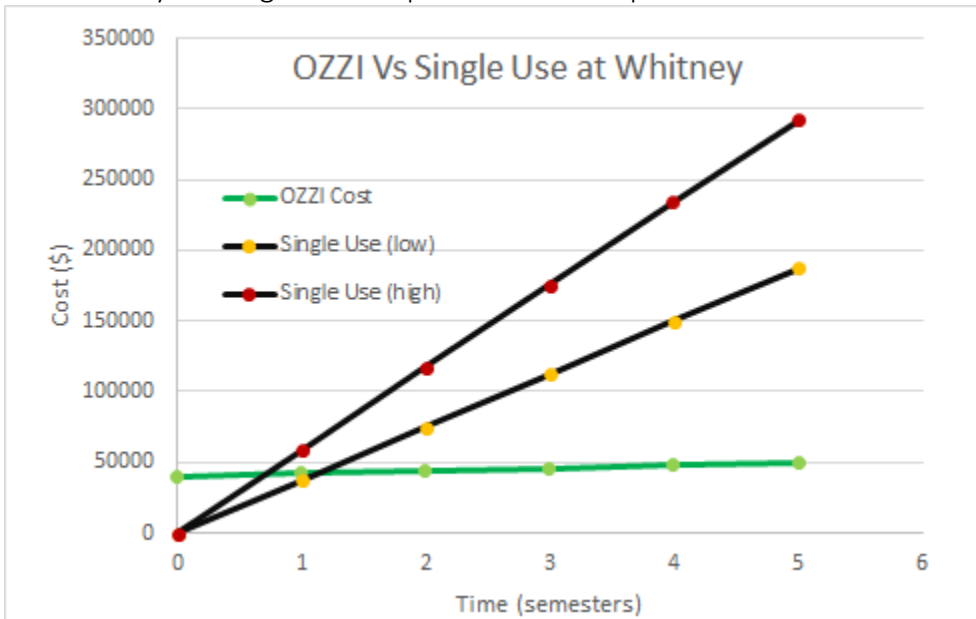
9) When the project is completed, what is your reporting plan (i.e., how will your accomplishments be advertised to the campus community)?

Upon a successful transfer to the OZZI system, we expect most students to be using the OZZI containers, thus these containers could be seen all over campus. Data about use can be kept and distributed to the students with digital signage and other forms of advertisement.

10) Anything else you would like to add?

Originally, students were going to be charged for single use compostable containers, starting sometime in Fall 2020. However, due to COVID 19 it was deemed as unfeasible to charge students during this semester. Without a financial incentive, students were not making the switch the OZZI system. This has led to a stunted growth of use. However, with the availability of the OZZI in both the Student Union and Whitney Center and a greater understanding of how dining services functions on campus with COVID19 precautions it is far more feasible to begin charging students for the single use containers.

Regardless of getting funding from the UWL Student Association, the Green Fund will be giving students their first token/container free if they pay for the Eaglet, Eagle, Big Eagle or Mega Eagle meal plan. We believe this will help jump start the program and is the best way to mitigate waste problems on campus.



- A semester equals 15 weeks
- Ozzi Cost takes into consideration the initial cost of roughly \$40,000 and includes an estimate of ongoing cost at \$2,000 per semester. The ongoing cost would be attributed to purchasing the Maintenance Agreement at \$1,308 (yearly) and the additional funds need to purchase new tokens, token holders and containers.
- The Single Use (low) takes into consideration the average of 10,000 containers per week with the value of \$0.25 per container.

- The Single Use (high) takes into the consideration the average of 10,000 containers per week with the value of \$0.39 per container (Estimates provided by Steve Martin)