



# AGRICULTURE, LAND USE FOOD & SEQUESTRATION

An enthusiastic group of faculty and staff from ACES, University Housing, and Facilities & Services, partnering with eco-conscious students who are focused on assisting the U of I campus in meeting its lofty iCAP goals for sustainability.

## OBJECTIVES

**7.1. Perform a comprehensive assessment of GHG emissions from agricultural operations — and develop a plan to reduce them — by the end of FY16.**

Status:  
In progress

- Formed a consultation group focused on implementation strategies
- Next Step: Work with consultation group to develop a plan to assess and reduce GHG emissions on Illinois South Farms, calculate emissions based on consistent data sets, and reach out to managers of the farms to join consultation group.

**7.4. Implement a project that examines the food service carbon footprint for Dining and other on-campus food vendors, while increasing local food procurement to 40% by FY25.**

Status:  
In progress

- University Dining conducted research on food waste streams during the 2016-17 school year.
- The South Farm is dedicating 30 acres to growing perennials and developing ways to include local food into University Dining.

- Next Steps:
- Reach out to on-campus food vendors about calculating their food waste and buying locally.
  - Create a page on the Housing Dining website detailing carbon impact of food.
  - Assess potential uses of campus infrastructure to encourage local food production.

**7.2. Design and maintain campus landscapes in a more sustainable manner; expand the specification of sustainable plantings in campus landscape standards, and develop and implement a tree care plan by FY16 and an integrated pest management program by FY17.**

Status:  
In progress

- Completed Tree Care Plan: [http://icap.sustainability.illinois.edu/files/project/1279/2015\\_IllinoisTreeCampus.pdf](http://icap.sustainability.illinois.edu/files/project/1279/2015_IllinoisTreeCampus.pdf)
- Created pollinator consultation group to further amend the approved the plant list and state where planting would be appropriate.
- Next Step: Meeting with the consultation group to define campus integrated pest management.

**7.5. Increase carbon sequestration in campus soils by determining the sequestration value of existing plantings and identifying location for additional plantings, with a specific objective of converting at least 50 acres of U of I farmland to agroforestry by FY20.**

Status:  
In progress

- Explore opportunities for expanding current agroforestry holdings to achieve a total of 50 acres — as of 2017, 30 acres have been secured.
- Funding has been received to begin a survey of trees and sequestration potential in Fall 2017.
- Next Step: Engage the Master Plan committee for areas to be converted to perennial low-mow or landscaped areas.

**7.3. Incorporate sustainability principles more fully into the Campus Master Plan.**

Status:  
In progress

- Campus Master Plan has taken feedback suggestions, including zero net growth in building square footage.
- Next Step: Participating in further discussion and providing feedback. The Agriculture, Land Use, Food, and Sequestration (ALUFS) Sustainability Working Advisory Team (SWATeam) will also engage in discussions with other SWATeams to consider more holistic opportunities for campus sustainability.

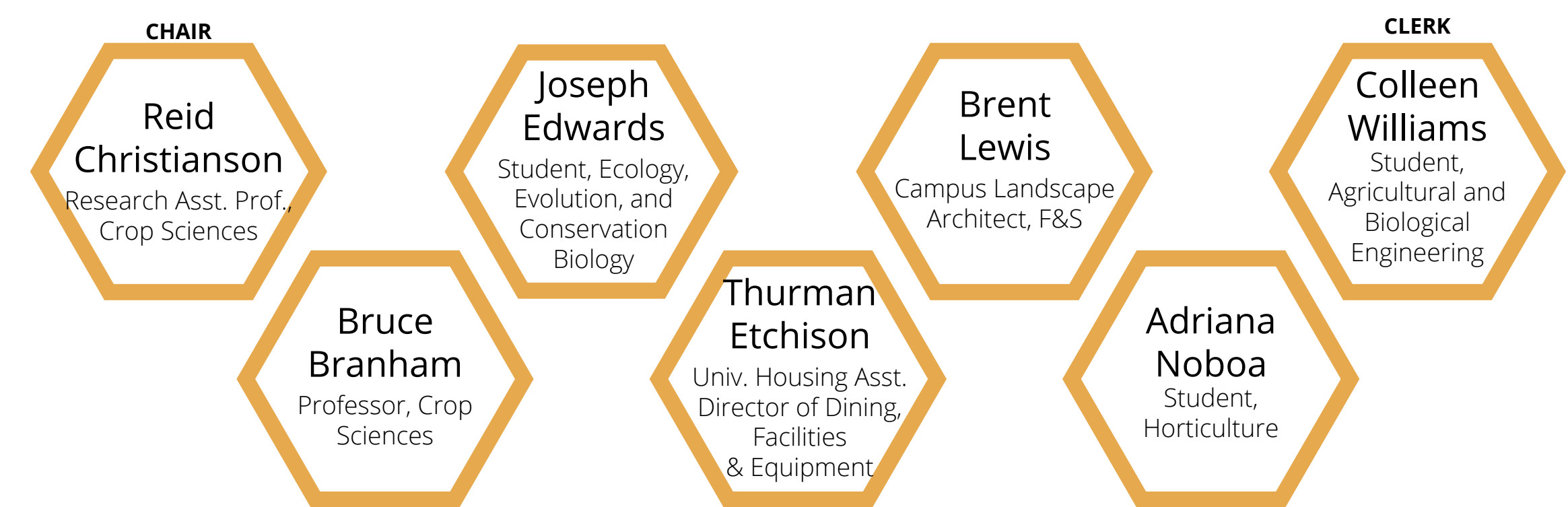
**7.6. Reduce nitrates in agricultural runoff and subsurface drainage by 50% from the FY15 baseline by FY22.**

Status:  
In progress

- Delineated South Farm watershed to determine drainage outlet.
- Next Steps:
- Identify and work with graduate student to sample runoff from South Farms for nitrates to establish a benchmark.
  - Reach out to faculty to consolidate data previously gathered on runoff.
  - Reach out to faculty to quantify conservation efforts implemented.
  - Find ways to incorporate addition of agroforestry into nitrate reduction.



## TEAM MEMBERS



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to acknowledge and thank our South Farms and pollinators consultation groups for assisting us with developing and designing implementation strategies. We would also like to thank the College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences for the constant support in meeting the iCAP objectives.