

Institute Annual Report

2020-21

(July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021)

iSEE

Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment



UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Note from the Interim Director

As iSEE approaches the end of its eighth year on the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign campus, we are pleased to report on our accomplishments between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021, with an ever-expanding research portfolio, exciting new endeavors in our educational mission, and continued accomplishments in campus sustainability.

Our dedicated team continued to make strides on these fronts:

- iSEE brought in or facilitated approximately \$18 million in new external research grants during the past year (some from FY20 proposals); FY21 saw slightly more than \$100M in new iSEE-developed proposals; and as of June 30, \$60M remained pending from FY20 and '21 proposals. [More about our research on Slides 4-7.](#)
- Excited students capped off registration in three days for our new Environmental Leadership Program workshops this spring. Additionally, we received [donor support](#) for an expanded ELP offering in 2022! [More about our educational programs on Slides 8-11.](#)
- Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, iSEE hosted other exciting and engaging events virtually. Bolstered by our Levenick Resident Scholars, our Congress and Critical Conversations drew fine attendance and led to some thoughtful collaborations. Sustainability Week, highlighted by the release of Illinois Climate Action Plan (iCAP) 2020, and Earth Week drew large online crowds as well. [More about our outreach and events on Slides 12-16.](#)
- And our campus continued to show national sustainability leadership with awards for being a bike-friendly, pollinator-friendly, tree-friendly haven with programs and hard work to conserve energy and emit fewer greenhouse gases. [More about campus sustainability on Slides 14-18.](#)

I can't wait to see what the future holds for iSEE and our campus. Please read on for some of our 2020-21 highlights!



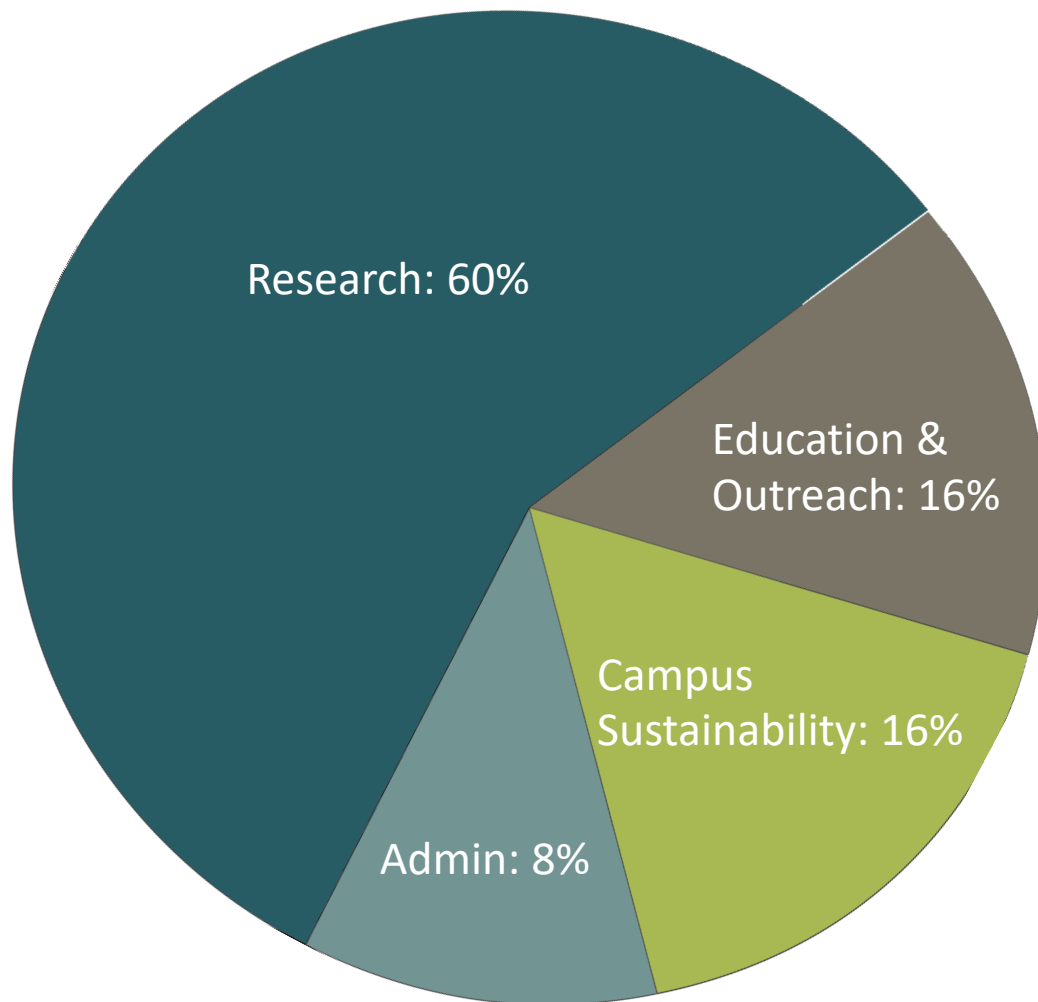
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "Madhu Khanna".

Madhu Khanna,
Interim Director



Institute FY21 Budget



Our Generous Donors

- The Institute's missions receive continued support from founding benefactor the Alvin H. Baum Family Fund, under the administrative leadership of Joel Friedman (above right) and Erika Cornelison (below right). The Fund has given more than \$2.2 million to support our mission.



Most recently, the Baum Fund has offered to help students enrolled in our new Environmental Leadership Program (ELP) during the next academic year. [More about the ELP on Slide 8.](#)



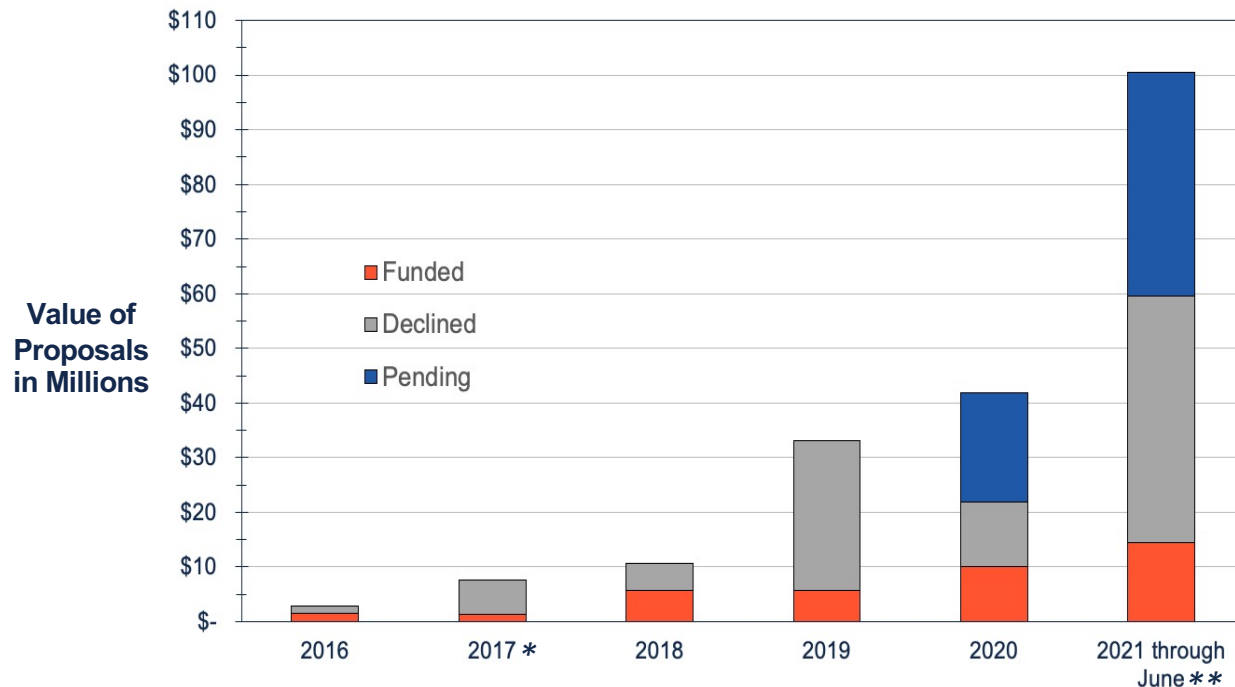
- iSEE programs endowed in 2015 and 2019 by University of Illinois alumnus Stuart L. Levenick and his wife Nancy J. Levenick remain strong. During the past year, the endowments funded two iSEE Resident Scholars in Sustainability Leadership ([more about our scholars on Slides 12-13](#)) and small grants for a record 12 Levenick iSEE Teaching Sustainability Fellows to incorporate sustainability into new or existing courses ([more about the teaching fellows on Slide 11](#)).

- Every gift makes a difference, as evidenced by the annual \$5,000 donations from Janelle Joseph that have supported iSEE's Certificate in Environmental Writing (CEW) and *Q Magazine*. Joseph's most recent gifts funded one student travel project as well as a new, permanent environmental writing contest that drew entries from undergraduates across campus. [More about the CEW and Q on Slide 10.](#)



External Funding Grants, Proposals

More than \$100M in proposals during FY21; \$15M funded; \$40M+ pending



*2017 data excludes CABBI, which was funded at \$115 million over five years.

**2021 data excludes \$1M gift proposal and some iSEE-facilitated or -supported proposals through other academic units at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

iSEE continues to be an added value to the Illinois campus by writing and facilitating successful cross-disciplinary funding proposals. The Institute submitted more than \$100 million in proposals in FY21 involving 18 academic units. U of I researchers received \$15M in funding (\$40M+ is still pending) — in addition to another \$3M from FY20 proposals (\$20M+ remains pending from FY20 submissions) for a total of \$18M in new funding with \$60M pending.

Major highlights from FY21 include:

- An additional \$5.5M from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research for [“smart farms”](#) work led by Kaiyu Guan (Natural Resources & Environmental Sciences)
- An additional \$2.1M from the Leverhulme Centre for Climate Change Mitigation ([LC3M](#)) for Illinois work led by Evan DeLucia (Plant Biology)
- \$1.6M from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for a new [bio-based chemicals and inks](#) project led by D.K. Lee (Crop Sciences)
- \$1.5M from DOE for a new project [turning waste ash into energy and clean water](#) led by Nishant Garg (Civil & Environmental Engineering)
- Another \$4.3M in smaller grants

[More about our centers on Slide 5; more on our projects on Slide 6.](#)



Research Updates: Center Highlights

CABBI, Leverhulme Center for Climate Change Mitigation (LC3M)

The Center for Advanced Bioenergy and Bioproducts Innovation (CABBI) is in the fourth year of a five-year, \$115M grant as one of four national U.S. Department of Energy-funded Bioenergy Research Centers. Major FY21 highlights:



- Researchers participated in a multi-institutional Feedstocks to Fuels project, bringing “oilcane” from fields for multiple processing efforts in the Integrated Bioprocessing Research Laboratory at Illinois. Partners on the project including Illinois, Florida, Mississippi State, Nebraska, Brookhaven National Laboratory, and the USDA.
- An international research team that included researchers from several of the Center’s partner institutions has sequenced the full genome of an ornamental variety of miscanthus, a wild perennial grass emerging as a prime candidate for sustainable bioenergy crops. Additionally, CABBI researchers have demonstrated the first precision breeding of the highly complex sugarcane feedstock with the CRISPR/Cas9 genome editing tool.
- CABBI implemented the Research Internship in Sustainable Bioenergy (RISE) program, exposing undergraduates underrepresented in STEM to a 10-week, paid summer research experience.
- With the August 2020 retirement of Evan H. DeLucia, Center leadership also changed. Andrew Leakey, Professor and Head of Plant Biology at Illinois, replaced DeLucia as Director. Emily Heaton, a Sustainability researcher, became the Feedstock Production Theme Leader in place of Leakey; Matthew Hudson replaced Ximing Cai as Science Integration Head; and Tony Studer replaced Hudson as Deputy Theme Leader of Feedstock Production. Also added were two new research partners — Lawrence Livermore National Lab and University of Minnesota — taking the total to 23.
- CABBI scientists disclosed four new inventions during the past year (two of which have received provisional patents), bringing the total to 19 over 3.5 years. They also published 72 papers in scholarly journals — bringing the 3.5-year total to 172.

[More updates at cabbi.bio.](https://cabbi.bio)



With \$2.1M in Phase II funding for five more years, the Illinois LC3M team will add a new co-PI in USDA Agricultural Research Service Research Molecular Biologist Lisa Ainsworth.

For the project’s Enhanced Rock Weathering research to try to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, researchers applied a new rock material, known as Pioneer Valley basalt, which replaces the Blue Ridge basalt used in Phase 1, in late 2020 at the University of Illinois Energy Farm.

[More project updates on the iSEE website.](https://cabbi.bio)



Research Updates: Project Highlights

Illinois Regenerative Agriculture Initiative, other new projects launched

In Fall 2020, the [Illinois Regenerative Agriculture Initiative](#) was funded by Fresh Taste and launched as an outcome-driven approach — to advancing productivity, profitability, and environmental health in a way that enhances food security, reinvigorates rural and urban communities, and restores the natural systems that life depends on. IRAI Director Emily Heaton, a Professor of Crop Sciences, made a Spring 2021 call for proposals from teams of researchers and agricultural stakeholders to examine new approaches to farming. More than 100 people attended the public meeting on April 9, 2021.



Other 2020-21 research project highlights:

- One of iSEE's original 2018 [Campus as a Living Laboratory](#) projects has received significant external funding from the U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Led by Agricultural & Biological Engineering Professor Yuanhui Zhang, the [Environment-Enhancing Food, Energy, and Water Systems project](#) is testing a livestock waste processing system that can deliver not only renewable energy, but also clean water and some bonus organic fertilizers for agriculture.
- [Crops in silico](#) researchers have released three new versions of the software yggdrasil during the past year. This software is a Python package for integrating computational models across languages and scales from gene to field. Additionally, the three-day Cis Symposium & Hackathon drew more than 130 registrants in June.
- As part of a larger effort of creating open-source tools to model performance of sanitation systems, the [Sanitation Technology project](#) team has helped to develop a Python modeling package that leverages the quantitative sustainable design framework for integrated design, simulation, and sustainability evaluation of sanitation and resource recovery systems under uncertainty.
- The [Stormwater & Mosquito Control](#) team, originally funded in 2015, continues to model networks of human movements and contacts to recreate the pattern of spread of Zika virus in the Americas and apply this to other disease outbreaks (including COVID-19).
- The Illinois team involved in the [Dashboard for Agricultural Water use and Nutrient management \(DAWN\)](#) is developing a real-time irrigation scheduling model, facilitated with data assimilation and farmer intervention, tested with a synthetic case study field and adding a Decision Support System Dashboard to DAWN.
- Not including CABBI, iSEE research teams published 23 papers in scholarly journals with dozens more in the works.



Research Updates: Scholars, Seed Funds

Sustainable Ag Scholars website goes live; three new projects added

In Summer 2021, iSEE launched Sustainable Agriculture at Illinois— sustainable-ag.illinois.edu — which pulls together scholars from across the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign campus focusing on critical topics related to physical, biological, and social sciences. The website provides information about research, education, and engagement programs in four main categories (Production & Management; Supply Chains & Markets; Health & Food Safety; and Policy & Communities), as well as related campus centers and initiatives, facilities and labs, the Sustainable Agriculture Scholars and Council, and funding, research, educational, speaking, and career opportunities! More than 110 faculty-level researchers are part of the sustainable ag community, the fourth scholars group coalesced by iSEE following Water, Energy, and Global Climate Change.

Additionally, in Spring 2021 iSEE seed-funded three new research projects, the first two interdisciplinary teams and the third a part of the Campus as a Living Laboratory (CALL) program:

- “RURAL: Resilient Urban-Rural Analysis for Livability,” led by Agricultural & Consumer Economics Professor Amy Ando, will investigate interactions between food, water, energy, and human systems in small “urban-rural” communities like Urbana-Champaign to ensure sustainability, resiliency, and equity. [Read more about the project and the seed funding program.](#)
- “Integrated Electrochemical Separation Technologies for Nutrient Recovery and Valorization,” led by Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Assistant Professor Xiao Su, will establish a system to recover excess nitrogen from polluted waterways for upcycling into products like ammonia, encouraging sustainable land management and nutrient reuse. [Read more.](#)
- “Illinois Precision Livestock and Cover Crop Environmental Sustainability (I-PLACES) Living Laboratory,” led by Agricultural & Biological Engineering Associate Professor Girish Chowdhary, will use fields on the Illinois campus as a testbed for novel agricultural research, integrating early, under-canopy cover crops with cattle grazing. [Read more about the project and CALL.](#)



Education Updates: New ELP!

Pilot a virtual success; donor funding will help expand program in '22

In Spring 2021, iSEE launched the [Environmental Leadership Program \(ELP\)](#) at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. The ELP, targeted at undergraduates, will include pre-professional workshops, field trips, and networking opportunities. The introduction of an Environmental Leadership Program is one of several key educational objectives in the Illinois Climate Action Plan (iCAP) 2020.

The Institute's ELP external advisory board includes Harriet Hentges, President of Hentges Associates, an advisory firm on sustainability and corporate responsibility; Eban Goodstein, Professor and Director of the Center for Environmental Policy at Bard College; and Tami Craig Schilling, Agronomy Knowledge Transfer Lead at Bayer Crop Science.

iSEE piloted two ELP online workshops in Spring 2021, focused on environmental policy and corporate sustainability. These workshops — which filled to capacity within three days of open registration — allowed students to develop their sustainability leadership and communication skills, to learn about career paths in sustainability, and to establish valuable networking connections. Successful professionals in the environmental policy and corporate sustainability fields led workshop sessions.

For the 2021-22 academic year, the program will ramp up with policy-based experiential learning in which students will have regular meetings and visits with local and state government leaders. The Alvin H. Baum Family Fund made a generous gift in 2021 to help support the program, including assistance for student travel expenses. [Read more about the Baum Fund's continuing support of iSEE.](#)



Education Updates: The SEE FP

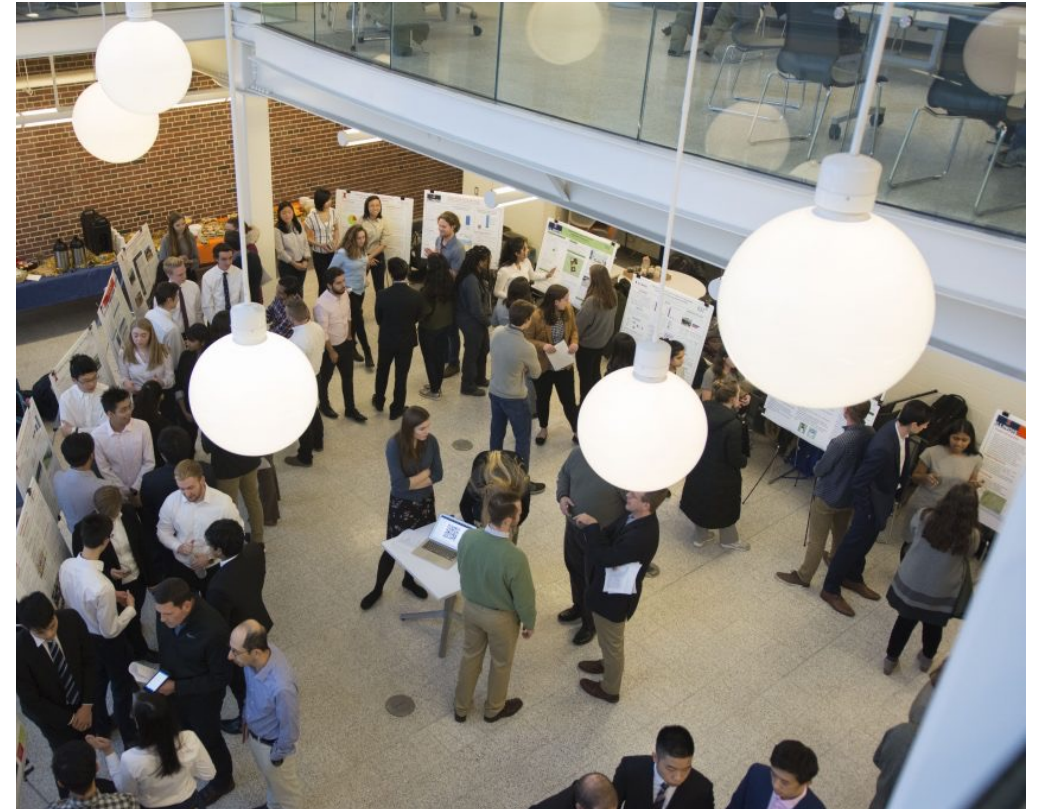
Campuswide honors minor continues to grow; classes set new records

In its sixth year, the [Sustainability, Energy, and Environment Fellows Program \(SEE FP\)](#) and its corresponding iSEE-taught courses showed continued growth as more than 180 current and former students have been involved.

The Institute, which launched the SEE FP in 2015 in cooperation with six academic units from across campus, went from 68 enrollees in May 2020 to 90 in May 2021 (20 graduated). And the minor shows cross-campus diversity continues with students from six colleges: Grainger Engineering, ACES, LAS, Fine & Applied Arts, Business, and Media.

Additionally, the Spring 2021 cohort of students in ENVS 301: Tools for Sustainability, totaled a new high of more than 50; iSEE Instructor/Advisor Eric Green split the class into sections to accommodate learning needs and COVID-19 protocols.

The ENVS 498 capstone course in Fall 2020, also taught by Green, had a record 27 students. They worked on seven projects involving six corporate or campus partners: Sol Systems, Customer First Renewables, Accenture, Johnson Controls, Anheuser Busch InBev, and Illinois Extension — Red Oak Rain Garden.



Education Updates: The CEW

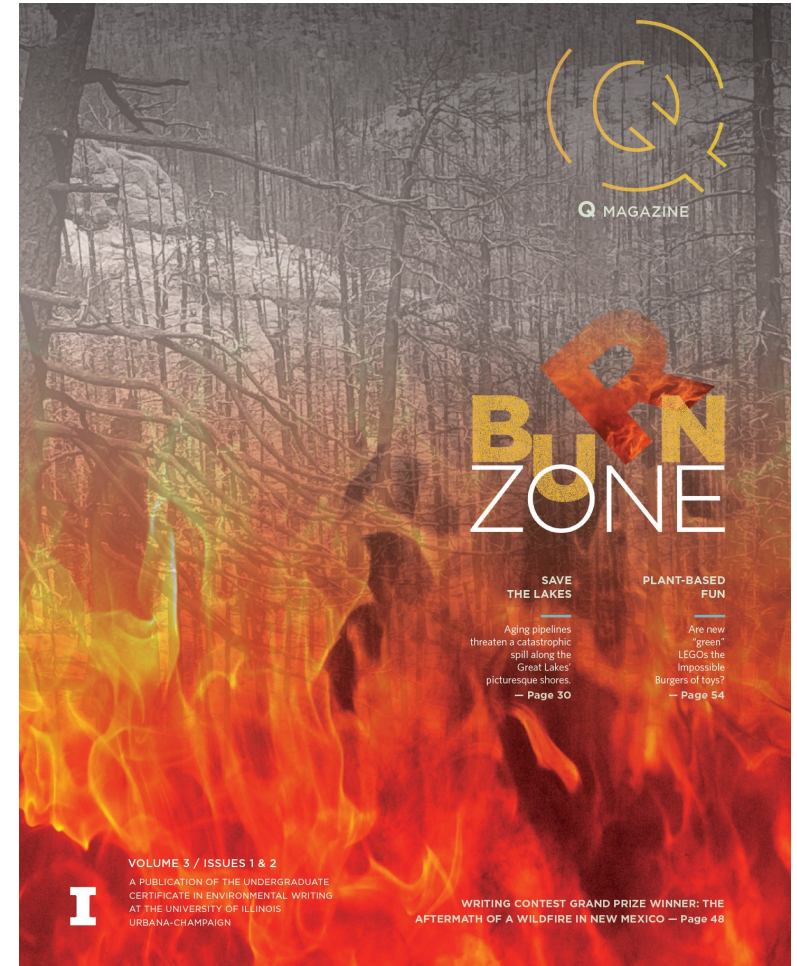
Writing contest bolsters third volume of Q Mag

More than 135 students have enrolled in courses in the undergraduate [Certificate in Environmental Writing \(CEW\)](#) since iSEE first began its collaboration with the School of Earth, Society, and Environment (SESE) and the Department of English in Fall 2018. The Institute has issued more than 40 certificates for completion of the three-course program during that time. A new record of 15 students took the ESE/ENGL 498 capstone course Environmental Writing for Publication in Spring 2021.

The crowning achievement of the CEW is *Q Magazine*, a unique student-written, professionally curated magazine that published its third volume in Summer 2021 with a record 15 articles on environmental topics.

That total was bolstered by a new Summer 2020 contest created with a generous donation. The lead article in Volume 3, “Burn Zone” by Andy Sima, was the overall winner of the Janelle Joseph Environmental Writing Award; iSEE remains grateful for Joseph’s [continued gifts](#), which allowed for the second year of the writing contest and also supported a student travel stipend in Summer 2021.

Read all the fine student work on the [Q Magazine](#) website.



Education Updates: Teaching, Courses

Levenick Fellows cohort, iSEE staff add to sustainability class content

In March 2021, iSEE named its third cohort of Levenick iSEE Teaching Sustainability Fellows, offering grants to a record 12 instructors to implement sustainability in current courses or to create new courses directly tied to sustainability for academic programs across the campus spectrum.

The courses: “Food and Law” (Bryan Endres); “Recreation and Tourism Economics” (Renata Endres); ACES “First-Year Experience Program” (Ali Freter); “Asphalt Materials” (Ramez Hajj); “Carbon Capture and Storage” (Jiajun He); “Education for Global Sustainability” (Samantha Lindgren); “GeoEnergy Systems” (Roman Makhnenko); “Transforming Science from Colonial to Sustainable Practice” (Ripan Malhi); “Language and Culture of the Arab World” (Eman Saadah); “Stereotypes, Prejudice, and Discrimination” (Chadly Stern); “Masonry Structures” (Ann Sychterz); and “Intro to Japanese Culture” (Roderick Wilson).

Additionally, iSEE Academic Instructor/Advisor Eric Green and Sustainability Programs Manager Meredith Moore co-taught NRES 285: iCAP Sustainability Ambassadors, teaching students how to implement climate action policy through examination of University building stock and personnel behavior and developing recommendations to alter both stock and behavior to achieve Illinois Climate Action Plan 2020 goals. This is a building-level, “bottom-up” approach to campus sustainability, where students were connected with facility managers to gain an applicable understanding of sustainability opportunities.



Outreach Updates: Congresses in 2021

2021 Levenick Resident Scholar offers book talk as part of April event

In the seventh iSEE Congress, we readdressed the topic of global water crises. Water is not only a basic human need, but also serves as a critical input for energy and food production as well as ecosystem services — which in turn affect human livelihoods and well-being. Climate change is leading to increased hydrologic variability with a significant impact on the hydrologic cycle, water availability, and water demand at the global, regional, and local levels.

Congress, which drew 250 participants, was limited to four noontime events throughout April 2021:

- “The Weaponization of Water in the Middle East and Africa,” a keynote by Marcus King, Associate Professor of International Affairs at George Washington University;
- “The Past, Present, and Future of Water,” a keynote by Peter Gleick, Co-Founder of the Pacific Institute;
- “Waste: One Woman’s Fight against America’s Dirty Secret,” a book talk by author and [2021 iSEE Levenick Scholar in Sustainability Leadership Catherine Coleman Flowers](#) (right); and
- “From Polio to Covid: Environmental Virology at its Best,” a MillerComm keynote by Joan Rose, Nowlin Chair in Water Research at Michigan State University.

The eighth iSEE Congress, “Circular Food Systems,” is scheduled for Oct. 26-27, 2021.



Outreach Updates: Critical Conversation

2021 Levenick Resident Scholar helps lead May event on nuclear power

For its third Critical Conversation, iSEE and the Department of Nuclear, Plasma & Radiological Engineering (NPRE) brought together diverse stakeholders to discuss the role of, and potential areas of growth for, advanced nuclear energy technology in a low-carbon energy future. The event facilitated high-level thinking about the policies and scientific research needed to address the uncertainties with nuclear power. Among the organizers was [Spring 2021 iSEE Levenick Resident Scholar Denia Djokić](#) (right), a Researcher in Energy, Equity, and Society at the Nuclear Engineering and Radiological Sciences Department at the University of Michigan, as well as an Associate at the Project on Managing the Atom at the Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs.

On May 5-7, 2021, iSEE hosted academics, industry leaders, nonprofits, and government and NGO representatives via Zoom for a frank, unattributed discussion that made a positive step toward exploring the complexities of nuclear's place among other energy innovations. Dozens of participants gathered to discuss the wicked problem that is climate change — and nuclear energy's role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Keynote speaker Jim Hansen, Director of Columbia University's Climate Science Awareness and Solutions Program, got the conversation started on the afternoon of May 5, and three panel and breakout sessions continued the discussion during the next two days.

The Critical Conversation was paid for by a generous [donation](#) from the Alvin H. Baum Family Fund.



Campus Sustainability: iCAP 2020

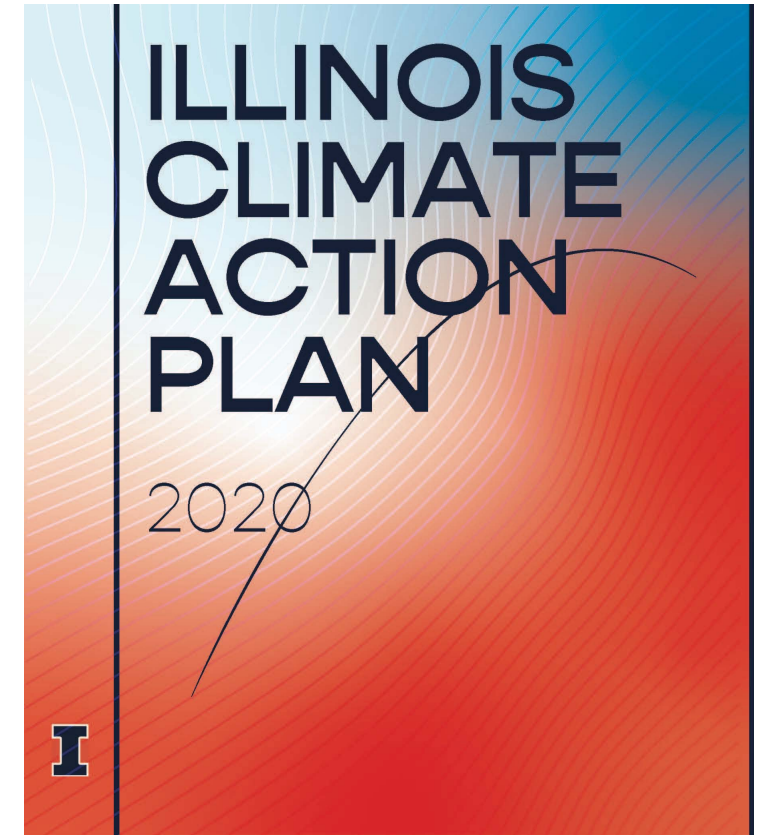
Published by iSEE and signed by the Chancellor in October 2020

In Fall 2020, iSEE published the [Illinois Climate Action Plan \(iCAP\) 2020](#). This strategic sustainability plan, developed in partnership with Facilities & Services (F&S), is the campus roadmap for achieving carbon neutrality, or net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, by 2050 or sooner.

On Oct. 20, 2020, Chancellor Robert J. Jones officially signed and approved iCAP 2020, and sustainability leaders shared opportunities for students, faculty, staff, and community members to get more involved with sustainability on campus. “The iCAP 2020 is not just a map for a more environmental and sustainable university,” he said. “I believe that it is a guide to make sure we are more resilient, adaptable, and more sustainable in every single phase of our mission for decades to come.”

iCAP 2020 contains 56 SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-based) objectives organized into eight key themes: Energy, Transportation, Land & Water, Zero Waste, Education, Engagement, Resilience, and Implementation. Among the many objectives:

- Increase the number of trees on campus;
- Use clean energy sources for 15% of the total campus energy demand;
- Reduce net air travel emissions by 100% by FY30;
- Broaden the availability of sustainability education across the entire curriculum, beginning with first-year student orientation;
- Support programs to develop love of nature and sustainability among children; and
- Promote zero waste events, with durable goods instead of disposables, and develop a comprehensive zero-waste messaging campaign.



Campus Sustainability: Sustainability Month

Highlights included challenge, certified green program launch, training

More than 1,300 people interacted with iSEE during [Sustainability Month](#) in October 2020, as the Institute found ways to connect with the campus community virtually during a mostly remote setting:

- More than 150 people attended the [Campus Sustainability Celebration](#), at which iSEE, Facilities & Services, and campus officials hosted a celebration of campus sustainability progress during the past year at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign — and a look ahead to our future plans. The celebration included the [Illinois Climate Action Plan 2020](#), which was unveiled and accompanied by remarks from Chancellor Robert J. Jones.
- iSEE's October Waste Challenge (pictured right) drew 100 campus community members to participate in attempts to reduce their waste — including from food, paper, plastic, and other single-use items — and make better purchasing decisions.
- The Institute, which revamped its Certified Green Office Program, also released a sustainability guide for certifying a sorority or fraternity as sustainable with its new [Certified Green Chapter Program](#).
- In partnership with the University of Illinois Ethics and Compliance Office and Video Services at Public Affairs, iSEE launched a new [sustainability training video](#). The training provides information about the Illinois Climate Action Plan (iCAP) 2020 as well as opportunities for the campus community to adopt zero-waste practices. More than 900 students, staff, faculty members, and local residents participated.



Campus Sustainability: Earth Week

Virtual lectures, small in-person events celebrate the environment

Each year, we celebrate [Earth Month](#) as an extension of Earth Day, April 22. iSEE coordinated with Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) as well as academic and campus units to offer a multitude of climate-related public lectures and campus sustainability events.

Hundreds of community members participated. The Earth Month 2021 highlights:

- A “Get Caught Green-Handed” promotion (right), in which participants could report their part in any events or sustainable actions on campus.
- [iSEE Congress Spring 2021: “The Future of Water.”](#)
- Community Trash Pickup at Boneyard Creek.
- “Sustainability Rocks” on the Main Quad.
- Virtual Careers in Sustainability Panel Discussion.
- The annual [Charles David Keeling Lecture](#).
- Environmental Quad Day: Celebrate Earth Day on the Main Quad.
- A new feature from iSEE on Zoom called TED Talk: Eco-Edition. April’s edition was “Earth Month and Environmental Activism.”
- Champaign County Sustainability Network (CCNet) Arbor Day Celebration, preceded by [iSEE’s iCAP tree planting](#) (to offset emissions related to the delivery of iCAP 2020 books) earlier in the week.



Campus Sustainability: Recognitions

Trees, bees, anti-freeze, bikes ... U of I earns accolades for leadership

Between July 2020 and June 2021, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign continued to receive [awards for sustainable initiatives and activities](#). Among them:

- In 2021, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign earned its sixth straight designation as an official Tree Campus USA by the Arbor Day Foundation for its commitment to effective urban forestry. To care for its more than 20,000 trees, campus maintains a tree advisory committee and a campus tree-care plan.
- As of Summer 2021, the U of I was recognized as a Bee Campus USA, one of 122 campuses nationwide designated as pollinator-friendly.
- In Fall 2020, campus was honored with the International Laboratory Freezer Challenge “hat trick” award for repeating as the top school in the Academia category for the third straight year. In 2020, 21 labs participated in the program, including the Center for Advanced Bioenergy and Bioproducts Innovation (CABBI) Lab at the Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology. The total energy usage in these spaces decreased by an estimated 263 kWh/day or a combined annual total equivalent of nine homes’ energy for one year.
- In October 2020, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign earned its second Silver designation as a Bicycle Friendly University (BFU) from the League of American Bicyclists. The U of I, which maintained bronze-level BFU certification since 2011 and moved up to silver for the first time in 2019, is one of 208 colleges and universities recognized nationally.



Campus Sustainability: Greener Programs

iSEE ramps up certifications for offices, Greek chapters, events

iSEE's [Greener Campus Programs](#) made considerable headway in 2020-21. Among the progress:

- In early Fall 2020, iSEE once again revamped its [Certified Green Office Program](#) — including offering a Green Office at Home guide. Since its inception in 2015, 58 offices have been certified.
- Also in Fall 2020, the Institute released a sustainability guide for certifying a sorority or fraternity as sustainable with its new [Certified Green Chapter Program](#). Since the program opened in October, seven chapters have certified.
- And in December 2020, iSEE launched its [Certified Green Events Program](#). A total of 28 events were certified — including [iSEE Congress](#) and the Institute's new [TED Talk: Eco-Edition](#) series, a Zoom talk hosted by sustainability leaders on campus that started in March 2021 and will continue monthly. The events draw dozens of participants each month.



Institute Updates: Directors, Staff

New Director, Associate Director for Research, Media Lab Coordinator

On Aug. 31, 2020, iSEE Baum Family Director Evan H. DeLucia stepped down from his founding role as he prepared for retirement. He since has returned as an emeritus professor and has continue his research roles for the Leverhulme Centre for Climate Change Mitigation ([LC3M](#)) and other iSEE projects — as well as a Sustainability Theme researcher in the Center for Advanced Bioenergy and Bioproducts Innovation ([CABBI](#)). [Read his farewell note >>>](#)



DeLUCIA



KHANNA



GUEST



HERMAN

iSEE named as Interim Director [Madhu Khanna](#), the ACES Distinguished Professor. Khanna has been with iSEE since its inception in 2013, first as Associate Director for Education & Outreach, then as Associate Director for Research. “I am so grateful to the large community of researchers, educators, and students, faculty, and staff who have given their time in support of our three-fold mission,” she said. “They truly make iSEE a community of innovative thinkers and doers. And our gracious donors — Joel Friedman and Erika Cornelison of the Baum Family Fund, Stuart and Nancy Levenick, and Janelle Joseph — have directly influenced our past, current, and future success. iSEE has also been fortunate to have a dedicated team of staff and interns to implement its mission.” [Read her full introductory remarks >>>](#)

To replace Khanna in guiding iSEE’s [research portfolio](#), Jeremy Guest, Associate Professor of Civil & Environmental Engineering, was named Acting Associate Director for Research, effective Jan. 1, 2021. “We are excited to have such an energetic, enthusiastic, and prolific scientist join us,” Khanna said. [Read the announcement of his hiring >>>](#)

The Institute also added to its supporting staff, bolstering the Communications team. In late 2020, iSEE hired longtime local video expert Mark Herman as its new Media Lab Coordinator. He will oversee video projects that highlight iSEE and CABBI research as well as educational and campus sustainability efforts at the Institute. And he will supervise and assist all activities at the iSEE Media Lab, a small green-screen studio with video cameras and editing equipment that will be available for use by appointment.



Institute Updates: How to Reach, Follow Us

OUR OFFICE

Phone: 217-333-4178

Mailing Address: 1101 W. Peabody, Suite 350 (NSRC), MC-635
Urbana, IL 61801

EMAIL

General: sustainability@illinois.edu

Educational Programs: sustainability-education@illinois.edu;
see-fellows@illinois.edu

Campus Sustainability: campus-sustainability@illinois.edu

Greener Campus: iseegreenoffice@gmail.com

Illini Lights Out: iseeinterns@gmail.com

Q Magazine editors: qmagazineillinois@gmail.com

Center for Advanced Bioenergy and Bioproducts Innovation
(CABBI): cabbi-bio@illinois.edu

Contact info for iSEE directors, staff, and interns may be found at
sustainability.illinois.edu/about/contact/.

WEBSITES

iSEE: sustainability.illinois.edu

CABBI: cabbi.bio

Crops *in silico*: cropsinsilico.org

Q Magazine: q.sustainability.illinois.edu

iCAP Portal: icap.sustainability.illinois.edu

SOCIAL MEDIA

iSEE Facebook: facebook.com/iSEEatUofI

Sustainability @ Illinois Facebook group:
facebook.com/groups/123074238038372

iSEE Twitter: twitter.com/sustainILLINOIS

CABBI Twitter: twitter.com/CABBIbio

iSEE YouTube: bit.ly/iSEEyeT

iSEE Instagram: instagram.com/sustainillinois/

