

# iSEE QUARTERLY REPORT: WINTER 2023

## IN RESEARCH

- iSEE received a [\\$1M gift from](#) a class-action lawsuit settlement; it is being used for [iSEE-funded \\$300k low-carbon transportation solutions research](#).
- A new cover crop project called iCOVER received a [\\$5M grant from USDA](#) and was featured in [The News-Gazette](#).
- From the Agroecosystem Sustainability Center and [SMARTFARM project](#):
  - ASC team members [co-authored paper led by Stanford](#) on cover crops' effect on yields; also, papers on [soil carbon budgets](#) and [increased adoption of cover crops](#)
  - ASC was featured in a [video for American Geophysical Union meeting](#), and team members also were part of an [Illinois Farm Bureau video](#).
- From the [Illinois Regenerative Agriculture Initiative](#):
  - The Riggs Brewery ["Field to Beer" video](#) was immensely popular, receiving more than 11,000 interactions on Twitter.
  - IRAI was also featured in [Illinois Farmer Today](#).
- From the [Center for Advanced Bioenergy and Bioproducts Innovation](#):
  - CABBI authored a multi-institutional study that explored the first known use of [CRISPR/Cas9 editing of miscanthus](#). Another team published a [paper](#) on 3-D phenotyping tools for miscanthus.
  - Articles have featured new Sustainability Theme Leader [Wendy Yang](#), new Feedstock Production partner and PI [Ernst Ceibert of Alabama A&M](#), and new Conversion PI [Heng Ji](#).
  - Six CABBI researchers (including Lisa Ainsworth, Kaiyu Guan, and Don Ort) were named to [Clarivate's highly cited list](#); and CABBI researchers have earned [two EMSL awards for continued studies of sorghum stems](#).
- From the [I-FARM "Farm of the Future" project](#):
  - View a new [overview video](#).
  - Check out the [FAQ article](#).
  - The project has received [FarmWeekNow](#) and [WAND-TV](#) coverage — and was featured on the [Big Ten Network during Illini basketball games!](#)
  - Robotics in the field media coverage in [The News-Gazette](#).
- From the [Energy-Enhancing FEWS project](#):
  - Team members are part of [new \\$2.5M USDA grant](#) to convert biowaste to pavement.
- Members of the Illinois Geothermal Coalition have successfully demonstrated efficient use of an abandoned oil well in the Illinois Basin as a [geothermal "battery."](#)
- An iSEE biobased chemicals and inks project was featured for its work [on printable electronics](#).
- Former iSEE Associate Director Gillen D'Arcy Wood recently published a new website on [ocean data from 19<sup>th</sup> century voyage](#).

## IN EDUCATION & OUTREACH

- Registration is open for [iSEE Congress 2023](#) — “Addressing Crises of a Planetary Scale: Lessons from Pandemics and Climate Change.”
- The Fall 2023 Critical Conversation is expected to bring together stakeholders to discuss climate-smart commodities.
- iSEE’s [Environmental Leadership Program](#) for Spring 2023 is already more than past the midway point; check out our [student blog](#) for some perspective on the immersive learning experience.
- Read a Certificate in Environmental Writing (CEW) success story in former *Q* author and CEW recipient [Zack Fishman](#).

## IN CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY

- Our [Grind2Energy video](#) explored how dining hall food waste produces energy and fertilizer; its release spurred coverage by [The News-Gazette](#) and [WCIA-TV](#).
- iSEE’s new, more comprehensive [Student Action webpage](#) offers listings for iSEE jobs, volunteering, and student organizations to join.
- [Illini Lights Out](#) fall semester featured RECORD totals: more than 640 volunteers turned off 20,303 bulbs, saving the campus as much as 35,000 kWh, \$3,090, and nearly 25 tons of GHG. Spring dates: Jan. 27 (130+ volunteers, 5,043 bulbs, 8,700 kWh, \$760, 6.2 tons of GHG), Feb. 10 and 24, March 24, and April 21.
- At the November Zero Waste basketball game (see [video](#)) more than 280 pounds of beverage containers and other recyclables were diverted from the landfill. The next Zero Waste basketball game March 2 [seeks 100 volunteers](#). iSEE partnering with F&S, Housing, Athletics, and Union for a #don’twasteWednesdays twitter campaign all spring. FALL PLAN: a ZW football tailgate.
- A new Waste Transfer Station [video](#) shows the great work by Facilities & Services — but also the need for all campus community members to pre-sort their recyclables to prevent them from becoming landfill waste.
- Greener Campus certifications in the new year: One new [office](#) (Visit Champaign County!), one new [chapter](#) (Sigma Lambda Gamma sorority), and nine new [events](#) (including Illini Lights Out) certified in January.
- Read our [article](#) about the sustainable features of Campus Recreation and our [feature](#) about the new beekeeping club on campus.