

SIU Sustainability Council Project
Final Report

Project title: Shiitake Mushroom Growing Workshop

Project I.D. #:15SP104

Award date: 22 April 2016

Completion date: 24 March 2016

Funds used (if different from award amount): SIU Grounds waived the fee for logs, the only expenses are the plugs (see expense sheet)

Brief write up of project/project experience (not to exceed 250 words):

This workshop taught how to grow Shiitake Mushrooms from landscaping waste from our University. Participants each made a mushroom log to take home and grow. These logs will last 3 - 8 years if cared for properly. We have not seen an actual mushroom yet but it is still early. This was an easy fun project that only took a couple of hours one evening to do. We ran two sections of the workshop. We forgot to take pictures of the first group but remembered for the second one.

Best things learned/produced from project: There was great cooperation from the group. People look funny carrying logs around campus with big smiles on their faces.

How do you define sustainability? Reusable, economical, doable, and attractive in some way.

Has this changed over the course of your project? If so, how? I have found yet another way to do something that has low environmental impact but provides a use. I see people every day who could recycle things but miss the target by a few feet. I have new ideas, doing things sustainable no longer is a burden but becomes a quest.

What do you see as the next step for the project? More mushroom workshops. I think oyster mushroom will be next as they have a longer season and do not take as long to grow.

Optional: Do you have any suggestions for the SIU Sustainability Council to improve the Green Fund award process? Green Fund Project Expo scavenger hunt days. Send people around campus to see different Green Fund Projects. Stamp a card get a prize.

Attach a minimum of five images – these will be used to promote interest in Sustainability Council projects. These can be photographs of the progress of the project, the completed project, or promotional materials.