

Green Fund Project

Final Report

Name of person(s) completing report: Stephanie Dukat

Identify if the person completing report is a student, faculty, and/or staff: Staff

Department: Student Center Craft Shop

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Faculty Advisor (if applicable): Stephanie Dukat

Project Title: *Craft Shop Kiln Update & Ceramics Glaze Workshop*

Project ID #: **23SP110**

Award Date: 4/18/2023

Completion Date: 2/27/2024

Total Funds Used: \$ 4,590.00

1. Provide a summary of your project/project experience:

The Student Center Craft Shop was awarded funds to purchase a new electric kiln with a digital controller. This upgrade was to replace an older kiln sitter model that was inefficient. The Craft Shop offers a walk-in ceramics studio and workshops, the addition of the kiln has greatly improved our efficiency and allowed a reduction in energy usage. The digital controller can be programmed to a set firing schedule, also has a delay start option. The delayed start is great to allow the kiln to fire off the space is not in use thus reducing exposure to any off gassing from the clay in the beginning of the firing and heating up the space. With ability to set the program, firing times have been able to cut down greatly. Our former kiln would take over 24+ hours to complete. Now a firing now can be tailored to the type of work in the kiln. A bisque firing averages about 16.8 hours and glaze firing 13.4 hours. As a bonus discovered when programming the kiln, the kiln also has a glass setting which allows for firing fused glass and bottle slumping we haven't used this setting to much but it is an exciting addition to the kiln's available programs. We have recently used this setting to slump glass wine bottles for a customer that is using them to create cheese board for wedding favors.

In addition to the kiln we offered the workshop: Test Tile & Glaze Mixing. During the workshop SIU students and community members learned how to find, mix, and experiment with glaze. During the workshop we used the kiln to fire test, see attached images. The new kilns allowed the glaze tests to be very consistent and we will hopefully offer some of our results as regular glaze offerings in the ceramic studio.

Since installing the kiln in August 2023, we have fired the kiln a total of 27 times firing. The kiln's digital controller allows our staff to program the kiln to a set schedule has greatly reduced the amount of energy consumed and also improved turn around of work as it is more efficiently firing ware. The reliability of the kiln is also a major improvement as the digital controller allows our staff to see the progression of the firing and set it to the work's needs. The kilns also allow you to set the price at which you pay for electric which is an added bonus in seeing the amount of energy we are consuming.

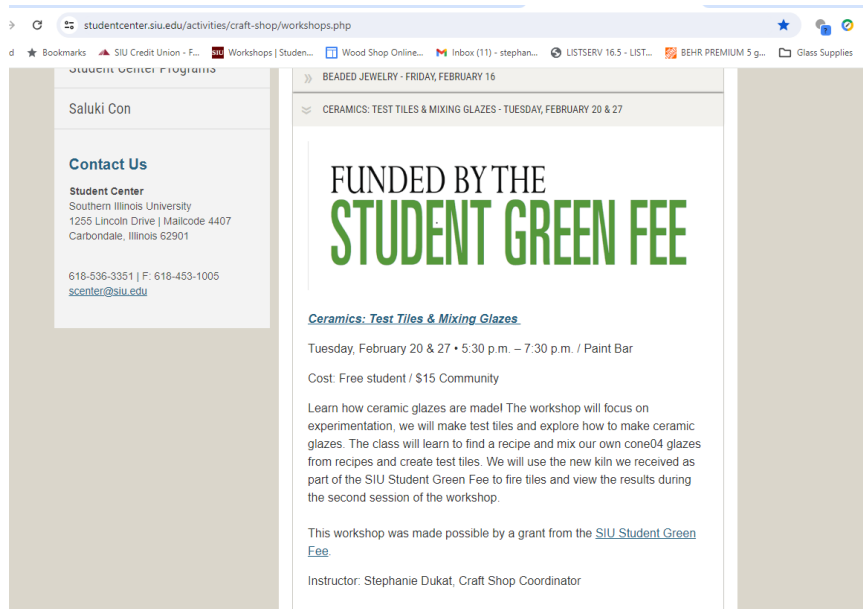
2. Provide a summary of your results (environmental, social, and/or economic) including quantifiable data as appropriate (ex. # of individuals reached, lbs. diverted from landfill, energy saved, etc.).

Since installing the kiln in August 2023, the ceramics studio has been used by 412 people, SIU Students, Staff, and community members. The addition of the kiln has directly impacted the users of our ceramic's studio. It has allowed us to fire more efficiently, and having a faster turnaround. It has saved energy by greatly reducing the amount of time the kiln is on. It has also allowed us to set the kiln on a timer to fire when users are not in the space at the start of the firing. This ability to delay benefits the health and

safety of everyone that uses the space. The kilns digital controller tracks the firing schedule and give a report on each firing. The kiln display showing the time and rate that the kiln and if element are not running at full capacity and are in need of replacement.

Summarize how your project promoted the Green Fee/Sustainability on campus including, but not limited to, flyers created, screenshots of website, signage, etc. Please include website links, if applicable. (Reminder: you are required to promote your project using at least 2 items from the awardee website promotion list.) Provide evidence of how you used the Green Fund Marker in your project.

We promoted receiving the green fund grant on our website to promote our workshop and near the kiln in the ceramic's studio. We also posted about the funding on our social media page @siu_craftshop



Is there anything you would do differently if you were to do a similar project in the future? If so, please describe.

I would like to involve more student and staff in the glaze mixing workshop. Requesting additional funds glaze materials to allow for more variation in the glazes for experimenting.

Provide as an attachment to the email (see email address below) a minimum of 5 digital images. A minimum of one of the five images should include a person. Images should be of high a quality as possible and be attached in jpg format, if available. Images will be used to promote interest in sustainability projects on campus and may be used on our website and in other promotional material. These can be photos of the progress of the project or the completed project. Provide captions for photos here.

1. Kiln installed in Ceramics Studio with green fee signage
2. Glaze mixing workshop
3. Glaze mixing workshop
4. Digital controller graph of firing
5. Results of Glaze mixing workshop

In 2-5 sentences, describe what you learned from completing the Green Fund grant process. Include a detailed response (Do not simply respond “yes” or “no.”) to at least one of the following questions to help us understand how this project has impacted your overall university experience.

Do you have a different understanding of sustainability now than you did at the beginning of the process?

The cost and time log feature on the kilns digital controller allowed our staff to be more aware of how long a firing is taking, cost per firings, and how much energy it is using.

Did you apply knowledge or skills learned from courses at SIU?

Yes, I graduated with my Masters in Ceramics from SIU in 2016. The knowledge I teach at the Craft Shop is a direct reflection of the information and skills learned during my studies and on the job.

Did the completion of the Green Fund grant process help to prepare you for your future career opportunities?

It will helps with applying for other grant funding for the Craft Shop

List suggestions for the SIU Sustainability Council to improve the Green Fund Award Process here:

The application process was straightforward. I do not have any suggestions.