

Green Fund Grant project: SIU Bike Fix-It Additions and Repairs

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As a student living at Evergreen Terrace, I often Rode my bike or took the bus to school. One day I needed to get to class for an important exam and missed the bus, so I decided to ride my bike, but it had a flat tire. Determined to get to my exam I decided to ride my bike regardless of the flat. Later that day after my exam I tried to use a station on campus to fill my tire, and it was broken. I felt defeated and ended up riding home on a flat tire.

The next day as I walked around the apartment complex, I realized that there were many children's bikes with flat tires, and this prompted me to seek out a way to make air accessible for students and children at Evergreen terrace and on campus. I reached out to the SIU sustainability office on campus and spoke with the Director, Aimee Lemrise who introduced me to the Green Fund Grant. We spoke about what I needed to do to make these changes and was given a map of the stations on campus to help with my data collection and analysis.

My main goal was to make air accessible to students and kids for their bikes and with that in mind I went to each fix it station that is at SIU with a bike tire and tested out each of the pumps, I was shocked to see that a majority of the stations were not able to put air into tires but luckily they just needed new tubes and air valves. After collecting data to see which stations worked, I then studied the map of campus to see where any additional stations could go to optimize use of the fix-it stations and determined that under faner and at the main office at Evergreen Terrace would be the perfect locations.

Once I knew what work needed to be done, it was then time to create my estimate for the project to be finished. I contacted the Fix-It distributor and got a quote for the 2 stations I wanted to place and the replacement parts for the stations that were no longer functioning. With guidance from SIU Sustainability staff and the Director, I was able to draft a grant proposal and contacted teachers from my department for letters of support toward my project. With overwhelming support from my department, I felt very good about what I was doing, and I knew it would make a difference. Once I submitted my Green Fund Grant proposal it was just a matter of waiting to see if my project got approved. After about a week I was contacted and made aware that my grant was approved and from there I was able to begin the process of installing the stations and fixing the others!

The process was not difficult, I requested an invoice for the stations and replacement parts, and we were able to get those purchased with the funds from my Green Fund Grant. They arrived a few weeks later in the mail and I was able to create a request through (FEM) Faculty Energy Management to install the 2 stations, one at Evergreen Terrace Family

housing and the other under Faner hall. The replacement tubes and air valves were also installed with no issues. The process went very smoothly and there were little to no issues with the work getting done.

This whole experience has taught me that making positive changes at SIU is possible with the collaboration of SIU Sustainability and the Green Fee. I'm extremely grateful for the Green Fund Grant because it gave me the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of students and children on campus.





