

# SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES BY STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS FUNDING PROPOSAL

## Part I - General Information

<b>Name of Student Organization</b>	OES Interns, Resident Outreach Team
<b>Contact/Responsible Person</b>	Meghan Hekl
<b>Contact Office Held/Title</b>	Resident Outreach Team Leader
<b>Contact Email Address</b>	<a href="mailto:mehekl@vt.edu">mehekl@vt.edu</a>
<b>Contact Telephone Number</b>	(703) 424-1486

## Part II - Project Cost Information

Estimate Cost of this Proposal	\$5,000	See Part III.C
Estimated Savings –	\$0	See Part III.D
<b>Net Cost of this Proposal</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	

## Part III - Supporting Information

A. Please describe your sustainability initiative and attach supporting documentation.

Request funds in the amount of \$5,000 for the purchase, delivery, and planting of native trees during Sustainability Week 2016 and Earth Week 2017. Our goal is to purchase at least one dozen “containerized” trees with a minimum caliper (diameter) of 2 to 3 inches for each of the two events, and to have the trees obtained from nurseries located in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Typically containerized trees have a large root ball and are easily transportable.

In 2008 Virginia Tech was one of the first universities to be awarded “Tree Campus USA” status from the National Arbor Day Foundation. The university achieved this special recognition by successfully demonstrating it met the required five core standards of tree care and community engagement to include: establishing a campus tree advisory committee; having a campus tree-care plan; having a dedicated annual expenditure on the campus tree-care plan; being involved in an Arbor Day observance; and having a service learning project aimed at engaging the student body. For program details see: [www.arborday.org/programs/treecampususa/](http://www.arborday.org/programs/treecampususa/)

Virginia Tech was one of nine institutions to be selected as a host site for the “Tree Campus USA Tour” national tour that year. We received \$10,000 from Toyota Motors North America to purchase 100 native trees which were planted by over 250 volunteers that fall during Sustainability Week 2008.

Virginia Tech has received “Tree Campus USA” recertification for seven consecutive years with the most recent occurring on September 15, 2015. (See attachment). Our submission packet always features two on-campus signature tree planting events. The first takes place during Sustainability Week held in September and the second occurs during Earth Week in April that coincides with the Arbor Day. These are wonderful opportunities to bring faculty, staff and students together for a highly visible event that is well attended. Faculty and students from the College of Natural Resources and Environment educate volunteers on how to plant a tree and supervise the actual planting. Our most recent tree planting event occurred on September 17, 2015, as 6 Nuttal Oaks were placed along the east side of West Campus Drive near the Smith Career Center and Harper Hall. (See photos). Since 2008 we have planted over 600 trees during these events.

Sustainability Week is the university’s flagship sustainability outreach program. In 2007 Virginia Tech, the Town of Blacksburg and the local citizen’s group Sustainable Blacksburg formed a “green partnership” to plan and implement a program to promote sustainability awareness, education and practical application. The Office of Energy and Sustainability has the primary lead for this program which has received recognition at the state level. The student group Environmental Coalition has the overall responsibility for planning and implementing Earth Week.

B. How does this initiative help to achieve the goals of the Virginia Tech Climate Action Committee Resolution and Sustainability Plan?

Campus tree planting events directly supports several goals in the 14 point Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment to include:

Point #3: "Virginia Tech will establish a target for the reduction of campus Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions."

Point #10: "Virginia Tech will engage students, faculty, and staff through education and involvement."

Point #12: "Virginia Tech will continue to develop and implement innovative sustainability-related academic programs in instruction, research, and outreach, and will coordinate and communicate these programs to the university community and external audiences."

C. What is the cost of your proposal? Please describe in adequate detail the basis for your cost estimate.

The total cost of this proposal is \$5,000. We request \$2,500 to purchase and deliver one dozen native trees for Sustainability Week 2016 and \$2,500 to do the same for Earth Week 2017. The Facilities Department's Purchasing Office has obtained trees from nurseries located throughout the state since 2007.

D. Will your proposal produce cost savings for the University? If so, how much? Please describe in adequate detail the basis for your savings estimate.  
Not applicable.

E. Is this funding request an Ongoing or One-Time change (**please check one**)?

**One-time**

**Ongoing**

F. Is funding available for this request from another source? If yes, describe the funding (source, amount, etc.)

Yes. In their Pouring Rights contract with Virginia Tech the Coca Cola Bottling Company has agreed to provide funds to support the advancement of our sustainability program. For Sustainability Week 2015 they provided \$1,000 for the purchase and delivery of 6 Nuttall Oaks which were planted along West Campus Drive. Aimee Cox (Coca Cola's Marketing Assets Manager for Colleges & Universities) provided her enthusiastic approval and we believe would do so for this request.

## SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES BY STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS FUNDING PROPOSAL

### Part IV- Requestors/Reviewers

Meghan Hekl, OES Intern: Resident Outreach Team Leader  
Prepared By (Name of Contact for Student Organization)

Date 11/20/2015

Matt Gart, Landscape Architect, Office of University Planning  
Reviewed By (Name of Appropriate University Official)

Date 11/20/2015

Denny Cochrane, Sustainability Program Manager  
Reviewed By (Name of Office of Energy and Sustainability Representative)

Date 11/20/2015

# Appendix A: Pricing Estimate



101 Dry Bridge Road, Midlothian, VA 23114  
 Office: (804) 379-8733 Fax: (804) 379-3276  
 www.watkinsnurseries.com

SOLD TO  
 Virginia Tech  
 Sterrett Fac. Complex  
 230 Sterrett Drive  
 Blacksburg VA 24061

## QUOTATION

ORDER DATE	PAGE NO.	ORDER #
20 MAR 2015	1 of 1	3601

CUSTOMER ID: VIRGINIATECH  
 SALES REP: WADE

SHIP TO 11668  
 Virginia Tech  
 Sterrett Fac. Complex  
 230 Sterrett Drive  
 Blacksburg VA 24061  
 Steve Perfater

TERMS	P.O. NO.	DELIVERY METHOD	EXP. SHIP DATE	
Due on Receipt		Pick Up		
QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	TOTAL	
4	Cladrastis kentukea 2.0" Yellowwood	125.00	500.00	
2	Liquidambar 'Rotundiloba' 2" MISCELLANEOUS ITEM	135.00	270.00	
4	Quercus shumardii 2" Shumard oak	100.00	400.00	
3	Quercus texana 2" MISCELLANEOUS ITEM	140.00	420.00	
Total Pieces: 13		Sub-Total	1,590.00	
		Total	1,590.00	

Thank you!

Customer assumes all risks once plant material leaves Watkins Nurseries. There is no warranty on plant material that is not installed by Watkins Nurseries.

## Appendix B: Tree Campus USA Recertification 2015



*We inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees.*

36 T3 P1

September 25, 2015

Dr. Timothy Sands  
Virginia Tech  
Burruss Hall Suite 210, Drillfield Drive  
Suite 210 DRILL FI  
Blacksburg, VA 24061-0001

Dear Dr. Timothy Sands,

Congratulations Virginia Tech on receiving Tree Campus USA® recognition in 2014! This special distinction sets your campus apart from other schools and shows your commitment to encouraging students and university personnel to care for our planet's tree resources.

Enclosed is a copy of the *Chronicle of Higher Education* ad which ran on September 25, 2015. The Arbor Day Foundation thanks you for your efforts and encourages you to apply for recertification by December 31, 2015. Together we can foster a sense of environmental stewardship in college students across the country. Congratulations again on your achievement!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Lambe".

Dan Lambe  
President



## Appendix C: Sample Tree Planting Event Posters

### 2015 CELEBRATE SUSTAINABILITY TREE PLANTING

West Campus Drive

#### EVENT DETAILS

**Date and time:** Thursday, September 17th, 1:30 p.m.

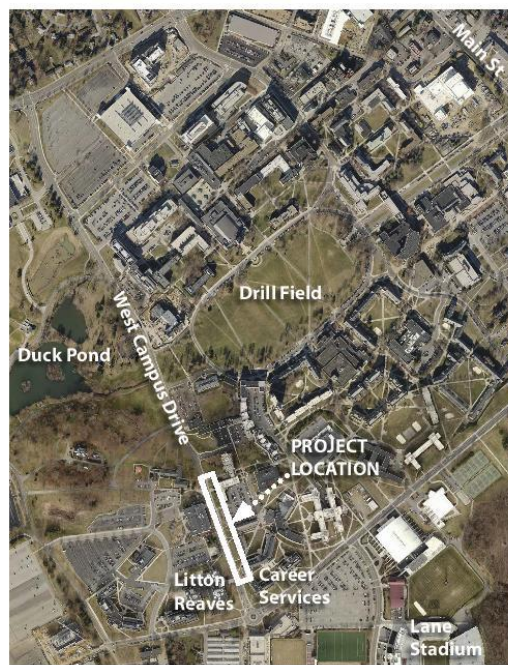
**Meeting location:** West Campus Drive near Harper Hall

- Meet where the red circle is shown, look for the Tree Campus USA sign.
- Students may park behind Wallace Hall (You'll need your parking hang tag or for visitors, a visitor tag from the Visitor Center off of Prices Fork Road)
- Tools will be provided including shovels and gloves courtesy of the VT Engage 'Hokie Hands' trailer. Please wear closed toe shoes.
- Planting should be complete by 3:30 p.m. Arrive whenever you can and stay as long as you'd like.
- Planting instruction will be provided by students, who will lead planting groups. You can assemble your own group to work with a student leader.

Tree list: We will plant 6 native Oaks to fill in the holes in the street tree planting along West Campus Drive



**TREE PLANTING PLAN AND SITE**



**CAMPUS MAP**



## 2015 EARTH WEEK/ ARBOR DAY TREE PLANTING

### PRESIDENTS QUAD

#### EVENT DETAILS

**Date and time:** Thursday, April 23rd; 1 p.m.

**Meeting location:** Presidents Quad- see map below

- Meet where the red circle is shown, look for the Tree Campus USA sign.
- Tools will be provided including shovels and gloves courtesy of the VT Engage 'Hokie Hands' trailer. Please wear closed toe shoes.
- Planting should be complete by 3:30 p.m. Arrive whenever you can and stay as long as you'd like.
- Planting instruction will be provided by students, who will lead planting groups. You can assemble your own group to work with a student leader.

Virginia Tech has been a Tree Campus USA since the programs inception in 2008! Help us continue to increase tree canopy on campus!

Tree list: We will plant 13 native trees; 9 Oaks and 4 American Yellowwood





## Appendix D: Tree Planting Photos









