



Kroger Green Initiative Grants (2022-2023)
Request for Student Project Proposals*
Applications Due Monday May 30, 2022

**This initiative includes stipend and supply funds to carry out a proposed project*

UHD's Center for Urban Agriculture and Sustainability (CUAS) has the vision of providing Houston citizens with the knowledge and resources to build sustainable neighborhoods throughout the city. CUAS is committed to developing sustainable solutions and raising student awareness in order to create stable urban ecosystems, reduce carbon emissions and increase urban food production. The Sustainability Initiative was created so that UHD students can carry out their own projects in sustainability or urban agriculture.

Proposal Focus

The focus of the proposal can be any project that will promote and or build sustainable practices at UHD or the greater Houston community. Specific areas of interest will be projects that address hunger, food waste and urban food production or more generally making UHD and the Houston community more sustainable. ***Projects are welcome from UHD students in all colleges of the university.***

Benefits of Applying for this Initiative

- A student or group of students (up to 3) can design a project that will address hunger or urban food production or build on sustainable practices within UHD or the larger Houston community. All projects will need to be completed within one academic year and thus give students valuable experience running an independent project.
- Funds will be made available for students to carry out the project. Funds can be used to buy materials or support students financially while they carry out the project. Projects will be funded up to \$2,500. Up to \$1500 in student stipends will be paid to either one member or shared among members. Up to \$1,000 will be available for supplies.
- Students will plan the proposal with input from a UHD faculty or staff mentor. The mentor will advise during the course of the program. Students will gain valuable mentoring experience from during the course of the project.

Requirements for the Proposal

- Active students - **All** students engaged on the project must not be graduating before May of 2023. Students must be full-time students during the length of the project (minimum of 12 hours) and they must be in good standing academically.
- Project mentor - Students must find a UHD faculty or UHD staff mentor for the project they are interested in developing. The faculty/staff mentor must be approached early and engaged in the planning of the project. It is recommended that there is a discussion about goals and what is realistic to accomplish. The faculty/staff mentor will have to read the proposal and sign-off on the proposal saying they agree to advise the student if issues related to the project arise. The CUAS office will be responsible for all paperwork and ordering of any supplies. If students are interested in a particular project area and don't know any faculty or staff that may be an appropriate mentor they are encouraged to reach out to the CUAS at CUAS@uhd.edu so we can suggest possible faculty or staff appropriate for that project.
- Completion and due date - All parts of the proposal must be completed for the proposal to be considered for funding. Those who submit incomplete proposal will be warned that their application is incomplete if there is time before the deadline for the issue to be rectified. No applications will be accepted after Monday, May 30, 2022 at 11:59 PM via email at CUAS@uhd.edu.
- Topics of Project – Kroger has generously donated funds for these projects. Kroger is particularly interested in aspects of food, but they are also interested in sustainability in general. They have requested that there be priority for funded projects be in the area of addressing hunger, food waste or urban food production. However, other projects that address areas of sustainability will also be considered. Suggested project areas are below, but these project areas are only suggestions. Students are encouraged to submit other creative ideas.

Projects that address hunger, food waste and urban food production

Composting or a project that addresses the reduction of food waste.

Urban food production through a project that supports one of the UHD garden areas or a community garden in the neighborhood of student(s).

Support of pollinators with a project that supports the UHD prairie or another project that supports pollinators at UHD or a Houston community where the student(s) live.

Support of the UHD Food Market or a related project that addresses better serving UHD students that are food insecure.

Projects that makes UHD or the Houston community more sustainable Since successful sustainability models include environmental health, social stability and economic viability, students are encouraged to think outside the box about how they could create sustainability from the perspective of their major (ie. technology, business, communications, art).

Proposal Review Process and Dates

Once the applications are received, they will be reviewed by the CUAS Advisory Committee. This is a committee of UHD faculty and staff (and one outside UHD member) that are committed to improving

aspects of urban agriculture and sustainability. The committee will read all applications, score them independently and then meet to decide which applications to fund for the 2022-2023 year. If any CUAS Advisory Committee member is also listed as a mentor on a proposal they will not be allowed to engage in discussions of that proposal or vote on the ranking of that particular proposal. The committee will select the strongest projects. Students will be notified by early June of 2022 if their project has been funded or not.

Important Considerations if Funded

1. Students have up to one year to complete their projects. Stipends will be paid across the two semesters of the academic year (2022-2023). Students who are not full-time, who graduate early or fall out of good academic standing will not be eligible for a stipend that semester they are not at UHD or in good standing.
2. Students will be required to attend brief check-in meetings with CUAS staff and reply to emails regarding their projects in a timely manner (within a couple of days).
3. Students will be required to give a 20-minute presentation of their project at the end of the 2023 academic year.
4. Students will be required to interact with all CUAS staff and other project participants and/or relevant community members with the highest professionalism both in personal interactions and over email.
5. Failure to meet items 2-4 above could result in removal of the student from the project and/or termination of the project.

Kroger Green Initiative Grant Application Page

Make sure all of the information below **is typed**.

Student Name(s) (1-3 names) Student Major Student email Student # Proposed Graduation

UHD Faculty Sponsor Name

Faculty Sponsor Digital Signature*

Contact email

*By signing, the UHD faculty sponsor agrees to serve as a mentor for this project. He/She agrees to read the application before submission, assist in project design, meet with students to answer technical questions and review final presentation slides at the end of the project time (summer 2023).

Project Title:

Summary of Project. Clearly summarize the need for your project (at least one sentence). Clearly state which proposal focus area set in the instructions (one sentence). Summarize the project objective and where the will take place (one to two sentences). Describe the outcomes of your project. By outcomes consider what lasting impact your project it will have or who it will benefit (1-2 sentences).

Text of Proposal. A successful proposal will address each of the areas in the narrative of the proposal. To address all of the questions below this section should be 2-3 pages, but longer may be necessary depending on the project. Proposals will be evaluated on how clearly and thoroughly they address the areas below.

- I. Scope of the proposal. What is the problem your project will address? (Consider 1-2 references to support the idea that there is a problem.) Make an argument for how it addresses the Proposal Focus (above). Specifically, how will the project address the problem? Who will benefit from this project? What change or artifacts will be created that will remain after the project is over? If your project is associated with existing sustainability initiatives, how will this project add value to that initiative? (This section should be a couple of paragraphs.)
- II. Plan of Operation. How will you accomplish your goals? Describe what funds will be spent on. If your team contains multiple members, describe how you will stay focused. Will you all work on all activities or will particular members take particular activities. (This section should be at least one paragraph.)
- III. Timetable. Make a table or describe clearly what activities will be done for each month.
- IV. Evaluation Plan. How will you know if your plan is successful? What measureable impacts will your project have? If your project is to build something how can you evaluate its usefulness? If your goal is to educate or create change how can you evaluate whether the information is having a positive impact? (This section should be at least one paragraph.)
- V. Budget. Winning projects will have up to \$2,500 in budget. Student educational stipends for project completion will be \$1,500. If there are multiple students on the project (up to 3), state whether the students will share the stipend at \$500 each or if one person will get more and why. Fill out an approximate budget for equipment or supplies needed in the sample table. Proposals have up to \$1,000 for equipment and supplies but they don't need to propose a budget of that much if less will do.

Equipment and/or supplies	Cost per unit	Total cost
Total Budget		\$1,000.00

VI. Optional Information. This can be photos or drawings of proposed projects, testimonials from community members, or any evidence pertinent to application.