

MTSU Sustainable Campus Fee Funding Request Form

The Sustainable Campus Fee (SCF) supports projects that advance sustainability at MTSU. This form allows students, faculty, and staff to propose initiatives that contribute to a greener campus through energy efficiency upgrades, infrastructure improvements, education, research, and efforts to enhance campus biodiversity.

There are 5 sections to the application: Section I: Contact Information, Section II: Project Category, Section III: Project Description, Section IV: Project Cost, and Section V: Project Performance Information (For applicable projects).

The Sustainable Campus Fee is administered through a partnership with the Office of Student Affairs, the Center for Student Involvement & Leadership, and the Center for Energy and Sustainability (CES).

Date Tuesday, September 8, 2026

Request Number **SCFR27000066**

1. Name Jeremy Aber

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Phone Number (615) 898-2965

SECTION II: Project Category

Please note that all proposed projects will have to comply with MTSU campus guidelines and recommendations.

1. Select the category that best describes the project. (Select One - See Descriptions Below)

Education

CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

Energy Conservation/Efficiency - (e.g. installing LED light bulbs, adding insulation to walls, replacing old appliances with energy-efficient models, installing programmable lighting, etc.)

Renewable Energy - (e.g. implementing projects to harness naturally replenishing sources like wind, water, and sunlight to generate electricity - like solar-powered picnic tables, etc.)

Sustainable Transportation - (e.g. installing covered bike racks, replacing fuel vehicles with electric vehicles, etc.)

Alternative Fuels - (e.g. setting up electric vehicle charging stations, implementing hybrid or electric vehicles, purchasing electric or propane power equipment, etc.)

Recycling - (e.g. purchasing recycling bins, improving signage, recycling difficult materials, etc.)

Waste Reduction - (e.g. establishing a reuseable to-go container program, reducing food waste, installing waterbottle filling stations, etc.)

Water Conservation - (e.g. purchasing rain barrels, creating a rain garden, switching to low-flow water fixtures, installing low-flow water valves, etc.)

Biodiversity - (e.g. planting pollinator garden, tree planting, installing bird boxes, etc.)

Education - (e.g. hosting a sustainability fair to raise awareness about green practices, hosting bike repair and/or safety workshops)

Research and Innovation - (e.g. researching the effects of microplastics, solar feasibility study, etc.)

SECTION III: Project Description

Please include as much detail as possible in this section. The more information you provide, the better equipped the adjudication committee will be to fully understand your request and make an informed decision.

To expand a text box, click and drag the two diagonal lines in the bottom-right corner. This allows you to adjust the size and view of your content as you type.

1. Project Title

Citizen Science Toolkit for the Library of Things

2. Scope: Work to be accomplished

We propose to purchase a variety of equipment for monitoring and measuring environmental conditions to enable students to engage in citizen science activities. These tools could also be used by classes to support classroom and/or lab activities and engage with environmental and sustainability topics.

3. Scope: Benefit Statement

This is a direct benefit to the university's educational capacity and provides students with more tools to support their research activities, both in regard to classes and personal projects. We are intending to link this thematically with the Seed Library already hosted by Walker Library on campus to extend environmental and sustainability resources and visibility in the campus community.

4. Location of Project

The collection of equipment will be housed as part of the Library of Things in Walker Library on the main MTSU campus.

5. Participants and Roles

Walker Library's Library of Things will house the equipment and manage the borrowing process.

The Department of Geosciences will play a role in coordinating the selection and purchase of the equipment and potential future additions to the collection.

Student members of Students for Environmental Action have also been part of the equipment selection process as well as potential future additions to the collection.

Moving forward, we anticipate reaching out to more departments to encourage them to use the resources for any classes that involve sustainable environmental work, as well as see if any specific equipment would be beneficial to their students that might be lacking.

During the planning phase of this submission, I met with Wendy Jones (Access Services Coordinator) and Kristen West (Chairperson of Library User Services) from Walker Library to ensure that all parties were invested and that the proposal would be beneficial to all parties.

6. Student Participation in the project and/or Student Benefit from the project

The equipment we intend to purchase is explicitly for student use both in and out of classroom contexts. It will be advertised alongside the rest of the Library of Things to students and faculty so that members of the campus community are aware of the resources. It should allow classes to engage in more hands-on activities

in addition to providing students with the tools they need to complete their own independent study and personal research activities.

7. Future Operating and/or Maintenance Requirements

The majority of the equipment should not incur any operating or maintenance fees, but some of the proposed purchases involve consumables or are consumables themselves. We have a lot of interest from the students and faculty we've spoken with at this point, but we don't have a good sense of the rate of use of the consumable tools (like water sampling equipment or calibration fluids) that may occur over time. We do expect that in the future we will submit additional proposals to the Sustainable Fee Fund to resupply consumables and add new tools to the collection, but it is anticipated that these requests will be much smaller in terms of cost than this initial proposal.

8. Additional Comments or Information Pertinent to the Proposed Project

Any supporting documents or attachments will be on the pages following the SCF Request.

Note, all projects are expected to be completed by December 31, 2026.

SECTION IV: Project Costs

1. Project Cost Estimate 7000.00

2. Source of Estimate

This estimate is based on the online sources listed in the attached spreadsheet. The total cost without taxes or shipping is estimated to be \$6019.21. Items should be able to be purchased tax-free (especially since the majority of the items are sourced via Amazon.com), but I have added a buffer in the cost estimate to cover shipping. I do not anticipate that shipping will cost \$1000, I just don't have exact figures and don't want to underestimate.

3. Has previous funding from this source been awarded?

No

If Yes, please explain how this request differs from previous funding request.

SECTION V: Project Performance Information

If your project is expected to reduce energy consumption (e.g. through lighting upgrades or HVAC improvements etc.), please provide an estimate of potential savings. Feel free to contact the Center for Energy and Sustainability for help making these calculations at ces@mtsu.edu.

1. Estimated Annual Energy Savings (Estimated in kW, kWh, Btu, etc.)

N/A

2. Annual Energy COST Savings (\$)

N/A

**3. Annual Operating Cost Savings or Other Cost Savings. Specify in dollar amount, if applicable.
(\$)**

N/A

4. Matching or Supplementary Funding (Identify and explain, if applicable)

Walker Library will cover the cost of housing the equipment and managing the lending of the equipment.

Acknowledgment

I acknowledge that a project summary and photo must be submitted, if I am awarded funding and upon completion of the project.

Supporting Documentation or Attachments if provided.

Name	Price	Quantity	Total Price
Vortex Triumph Binoculars	\$99.00	2	\$198.00
63" Binocular Tripod	\$39.99	2	\$79.98
Garmin GPSMAP 65	\$299.99	2	\$599.98
Estwing Rock Hammer	\$31.77	2	\$63.54
Estwing Crack Hammer	\$28.81	1	\$28.81
12" Chisel Set	\$29.99	1	\$29.99
Safety Glasses	\$26.99	1	\$26.99
Leather Gloves	\$68.90	1	\$68.90
Water Sampling Kit	\$340.83	2	\$681.66
Sling Psychrometer	\$64.95	3	\$194.85
Kestrel 3500 Weather Meter	\$209.00	2	\$418.00
FLIR One Pro	\$349.00	2	\$698.00
Zoom H1 Audio Recorder	\$143.99	2	\$287.98
UV flashlight for wildlife	\$19.55	2	\$39.10
Night sky brightness meter	\$155.00	1	\$155.00
Atmotube Pro 2 Air Quality	\$249.00	2	\$498.00
GQ 600 Pro Geiger Counter	\$298.00	1	\$298.00
Plant Press	\$45.99	2	\$91.98
SUUNTO magnetic compass	\$70.00	2	\$140.00
Soil pH, Temp, conductivity probe	\$288.89	1	\$288.89
pH Calibration Solution Kit	\$44.99	2	\$89.98
pH probe Replacement Electrode	\$89.00	1	\$89.00
Jewelers' loupe	\$19.90	2	\$39.80
Kick net with poles	\$145.95	1	\$145.95
D Net	\$123.50	2	\$247.00
Bottom Aquatic Kick Net	\$253.00	1	\$253.00
Specimen sorting trays	\$7.65	7	\$53.55
White 5 gallon bucket	\$11.46	1	\$11.46
500 µm Testing Sieve	\$54.97	1	\$54.97
Featherweight Forceps	\$7.00	7	\$49.00
Double Folding Magnifiers 10x	\$5.15	19	\$97.85
Total Price:			\$6,019.21

URL

<https://www.amazon.com/Vortex-Optics-Triumph-10x42-Binoculars/dp/B0C6N72X5Y/142-5438933-0168141?th=1>
<https://www.amazon.com/Binocular-Spotting-Aluminum-Tripod-Adapter/dp/B0GWTFWVYM?th=1>
<https://www.amazon.com/Garmin-Button-Operated-Multi-Band-Technology-010-02451-00/dp/B08HR6587B>
<https://www.amazon.com/ESTWING-Rock-Pointed-Molded-E3-22P/dp/B0002OVCMO?th=1>
<https://www.amazon.com/Estwing-Drilling-Crack-Hammer-Construction/dp/B00002N5NI?th=1>
<https://www.amazon.com/ASR-Outdoor-Equipment-Archeology-Paleontology/dp/B0D3WY4FLV>
<https://www.amazon.com/TICONN-Clear-Safety-Glasses-Pack/dp/B0BGSDYFQC?th=1>
<https://www.amazon.com/ATERET-Gloves-Lanscaping-Gardening-12-Pack/dp/B08Q4LH1DJ?rdc=1&th=1&psc=1>
<https://www.amazon.com/LAMOTTE-COMPANY-5848-Standard-Monitoring/dp/B00BWXLKTE>
<https://www.amazon.com/Forestry-Suppliers-Non-Mercury-Pocket-Psychrometer/dp/B01M1PFCKL>
<https://kestrelmeters.com/products/kestrel-3500-weather-meter>
<https://www.amazon.com/FLIR-ONE-Pro-Smartphones-Resolution/dp/B0DPXWFD12?th=1>
<https://www.amazon.com/Zoom-H1essential-Accessibility-Microphones-Microphone/dp/B0FZNRNJ68?th=1>
<https://www.amazon.com/HSXMN-Flashlight-Blacklights-Ultraviolet-Scorpions/dp/B0B6QP92G6>
<https://www.amazon.com/Unihedron-Sky-Quality-Meter-SQM/dp/B005CQK3SG>
<https://www.amazon.com/Atmotube-Professional-Temperature-Barometric-Pollution/dp/B0FX9YY576>
<https://www.amazon.com/GQ-600-PRO-Radiation-Detector/dp/B0FHGKCT8D?th=1>
<https://www.amazon.com/BrightRow-Wooden-Herbarium-Press-Frame/dp/B0FY767KRF>
<https://www.amazon.com/Suunto-MC-2-NH-USGS-Compass/dp/B00009V2YO?th=1>
<https://www.amazon.com/METCOM-Temperature-Conductivity-Calibration-Hydroponic/dp/B084KYY17Y>
<https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B01GQVSQGG>
<https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B005AXSNP6>
<https://www.amazon.com/Magnification-Jeweler-Triplet-Magnifier-Jewelry/dp/B01GZZWQYG>
<https://www.forestry-suppliers.com/p/78010/36611/lamotte-professional-kick-net>
<https://www.forestry-suppliers.com/p/53788/36631/lamotte-d-net>
<https://www.forestry-suppliers.com/p/77679/50671/wildco-bottom-aquatic-kick-net>
<https://ecologysupplies.com/products/specimen-sorting-trays/>
<https://www.usplastic.com/catalog/item.aspx?itemid=31001&catid=752>
<https://www.usplastic.com/catalog/item.aspx?itemid=138184>
<https://ecologysupplies.com/products/featherweight-forceps/>
<https://www.labdepotinc.com/united-scientific-folding-magnifier-mps010-group>