



iSEE QUARTERLY REPORT: FALL 2022

IN RESEARCH

- From the [I-GUIDE project](#):
 - An [FAQ](#) explains the goals of the project and how they relate to the real world.
- From the Agroecosystem Sustainability Center and [SMARTFARM project](#):
 - A new [ASC grant](#) will fund a study of phosphorus leaching from streambanks.
 - NCSA recently [featured](#) ASC Founding Director and SMARTFARM Lead Kaiyu Guan's goals and aspirations — and his work with supercomputers to help tackle issues of environmental quality and food security.
 - Researchers recently published a journal paper on [agricultural nitrous oxide emissions](#) in the Corn Belt.
- From our [SCAPES/Agrivoltaics project](#):
 - An October [visit](#) from U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois led to a lively conversation about the Solar Farm 2.0 and agrivoltaics.
 - [Media coverage](#) about SCAPES and other research at the Solar Farm 2.0 open house on campus.
 - [Media coverage](#) about the new agrivoltaics educational app being developed.
 - Profiles of Postdoc [Paul Mwebaze](#) and Project Manager [Basia Latawiec](#).
- From the [Illinois Regenerative Agriculture Initiative](#):
 - A [video](#) explaining the importance of eddy covariance studies.
 - [Three new seed-funded projects](#) — one receiving a second year of funding.
 - A 'Voices on the Land' [performance](#) that highlighted the IRAI annual public convening.
- From the [Center for Advanced Bioenergy and Bioproducts Innovation](#):
 - A CABBI [news item](#) on a journal article that explored C₄ crop leaf traits.
 - Other papers published on [increased seed oil](#) and the "[ethanol blend wall](#)" created by the Renewable Fuel Standard's design.
 - [New videos](#) on the summer science retreat, Bioenergy 101 tutorials, and the summer bioenergy internship; features on [the impacts of the summer program](#) for undergrads as well as the [CABBI-advised undergrad team](#) seeking a solution to the agricultural nitrate problem.
- From the [Energy-Enhancing FEWS project](#):
 - *Resource Magazine* recently featured "[Toward a Circular Bioeconomy: Environment-Enhancing Food, Energy, and Water Systems \(EE-FEWS\)](#)," authored by EE-FEWS Lead Yuanhui Zhang.
 - The team's hydrothermal liquefaction pilot reactor was used for a field campaign to treat algal blooms in Florida.
- From the [I-FARM "Farm of the Future" project](#):
 - Robotics in the field media coverage in [The News-Gazette](#).

IN EDUCATION & OUTREACH

- The [Critical Conversation](#) on Climate (In)Security in the Great Lakes Region was Sept. 19-20 in Chicago.
- Save the date for [iSEE Congress 2023](#) — “Addressing Crises of a Planetary Scale: Lessons from Pandemics and Climate Change.”
- [Q Magazine 4 print edition](#) featured 14 student-written, professionally curated articles; [Q 5.1](#) was published online in September with seven new articles. And we recently [announced](#) that three students have won cash prizes in our annual Janelle Joseph Environmental Writing Contest.
- The [Environmental Leadership Program](#) is completing fall recruitment of a second cohort for its Spring 2023 program. View a recruiting [video](#).

IN CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY

- iSEE is working with F&S, Housing, the Union, Athletics, and Coca-Cola on a [“Don’t Waste”](#) campaign that will include a Zero Waste Illini basketball game Nov. 14 at the State Farm Center.
- [Sustainability Month](#) events drew 60 people to the annual celebration, 185 to our [Plastic Reduction Challenge](#), 80 to a campus trash pickup, and hundreds of interactions with students during Green Quad Day — at which 75 participants took an iSEE taste test to see if they could distinguish between bottled and tap water.
- A new [drinking water and bottle use survey](#) was sent to all of campus to help find ways to address [“The Plastic Problem.”](#)
- Three [Fall Illini Lights Out](#) events thus far (with one each scheduled for November and December) included a new record in October: 5,042 bulbs in 32 campus buildings. More than 120 volunteers saved campus as much as 8,697 kwh of electricity and \$767 over the weekend — and as much as 6.2 metric tons of GHG.
- [Green Certifications](#): One [office](#) and 17 [events](#) thus far in Fall semester.
- View the [“Sustainability Tour” video](#) on a few of the many sustainable sites on campus; also check out our [Campus Bike Center](#) and [Campus Instructional Facility geothermal](#) features.
- The U of I was recognized in [2022 AASHE Sustainable Campus Index](#).

OTHER INSTITUTE NEWS OF INTEREST

- In September, Madhu Khanna officially became the [Alvin H. Baum Family Fund Chair & Director at iSEE](#), and Jeremy Guest became full Associate Director for Research.