

Interim Report on the Hampshire College Healthy Soil Initiative project

11/21/24

Hi Tom,

As things currently stand we are right on track with our deliverables and objectives, with no real delays with anything. Of the \$29,411 allocated for FY 25, \$24,853.69 has so far been spent, and I will be submitting records for reimbursement. The response from the local community has been overwhelmingly positive. The test area had 74 large holes dug for the soil testing, and this unexpectedly but understandably caught the attention of a lot of community members who visit our campus. In addition to putting up signs for the site, I personally spoke with handfuls of excited individuals all who expressed great interest in hearing the ultimate results from the project's findings. The campus' sustainability newsletter also featured an article on the project, the link below takes you to the article. We have been in contact with the Hitchcock Center for the Environment letting them know the project is moving forward, so we can coordinate around public events showcasing our findings. Below is a listing for completed work to date:

Aug 12th - signed contract

Aug 16th - set up internal billing codes for grant purchases

Aug 19th - met with college's grounds staff and went over details of the project

Aug 21st - ordered materials for the project

Sept 4th - marked out the 72 treatment quadrants and 2 control sites

Sept 5th - dug 74 sampling pits

Sept 6th - 30 students aided in the collection of the 370 soil samples, all of the labeled soil samples were moved to the lab

Sept 10th - students met with staff and faculty for a training session about how to measure and record information for each of the soil samples

Sept 12th - spreading equipment was calibrated for the seed, compost and biochar

Sept 15th - grass seed, seed blend and fertilizer were spread into their specific treatment areas

Sept 16th - compost was spread into specific treatment areas

Sept 17th - biochar was spread into specific treatment areas

Sept 18th - compost tea was made and used to soak the biochar to make the 'changed' biochar

Sept 19th - charged biochar was spread into specific treatment areas

Sept 19th - aerification was carried out in the specific treatment areas

Sept 19th - each of the unique treatment areas were drug to homogenize all the treatment effects within the areas, so as to make each of those unique areas as uniform within each of their quadrants as possible

Oct 11th - first round of analysis of the soil samples completed - initial sieving and weighing

<https://sites.google.com/hampshire.edu/sustainable-hampshire/news-updates?authuser=0#h.br55npjiguley>