

January 10, 2020

MES Thesis Fund Committee  
The Evergreen State College  
Olympia, WA 98505

To the MES Thesis Fund Committee,

Please accept the attached materials as my application for a MES Thesis Fund award for 2020. I received credit for Case Studies and Thesis Design in Fall 2019. I have been approved to start collecting data through the Human Subjects Review requirements and expect to graduate in Spring 2020.

The purpose of my thesis is to evaluate the changes in single-use plastic and alternative bag consumption as a result of the single-use plastic and carryout bag ban in Kent, WA. The ban begins March 1, 2020, therefore I plan to observe stores during February and March 2020, in addition to organizing interviews with store managers and other stakeholders. I will routinely go to randomly selected grocery stores in Kent to observe the number and types of bags that consumers are using to carryout their purchased goods. I will be comparing bag usage between larger chain stores and smaller [single-business] stores, as well as the changes before and after the ban implementation. The results of this research will be used to inform Kent City Council of the initial effects of the bag ban, in addition to informing future decisions on single-use plastic bag bans in other areas.

I am requesting \$350 to cover mileage expenses and supplies used during data collection, as listed in the attached budget. Thank you for your time and for considering my application.

Warm Regards,  
Jessica Kudlinski  
Graduate Student of the MES Program, The Evergreen State College