The Green EDGE Fund Annual Report
2020 - 2021

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Introduction to the Green EDGE Fund

Mission Statement

The mission of the Green EDGE Fund is to support sustainability within the Oberlin College and City Community through the development, financial investment, and implementation of projects that protect social equity, lessen our impact on the natural world, and build community resilience.

Our Definition of Sustainability

We define sustainability as the ability of social and ecological systems to maintain equilibrium, balance, and resilience. This practice incorporates a framework of community-determined, long-lasting, self-sustaining, and educational mechanisms that seek to achieve equitable access, thoughtful use, and conservation of resources.

Funding Structure

The Green EDGE Fund is a student board that manages a set of accounts designated for loan and grant allocations. Efficiency loans are funded through Oberlin College and Sustainability Grants and the Carbon Management Fund Grants are funded through student semesterly opt-in/opt-out green fees.

Sustainability Grants

Allocated to projects that promote sustainability within the Oberlin Community, and do not have clear and calculable financial savings for Oberlin College. These projects do not necessarily result in direct resource use reductions but do promote sustainability as defined by the sitting board.

Efficiency Loans

Allocated to projects that reduce resource consumption and have clear and calculable financial savings for Oberlin College. This account operates on a revolving loan fund model; all financial savings directly resulting from these projects are paid by Oberlin College into the Efficiency Loan Account on an annual basis until 150 percent of the initial investment is repaid so that further loans can be made. Efficiency loans must be in effect for a full year before payback is initiated. Savings may be calculated based on conservative estimates or measurable changes in resource consumption data.

Carbon Management Fund

Carbon Management Fund (CMF) awards are allocated to projects that provide verifiable reduction and/or sequestration of carbon situated in or around Oberlin within a 6-county region including Lorain, Erie, Huron, Ashland, Wayne, and Medina.

CMF projects are developed by the applicant, capable of calculating the amount of carbon equivalents expected to be managed, and then reviewed by the Green EDGE Fund Board. CMF projects should follow the appropriate protocol set by the Green EDGE Fund. CMF grant proposals that abide by a separate institutional protocol must be approved by the Student Board and Advisor(s). Portions of the proposal that do not actively manage CO2e, but are still constitutive to the operations of the project will be voted separately by the Board as a Sustainability grant.

Carbon sequestration proposals must provide a verifiable increase in CO2e sequestration per the Green EDGE Fund's Carbon Sequestration Protocol. Project proposals are eligible for all sequestration methods such as reforestation, afforestation, carbon capture, etc. A researching body must support sequestration projects, such as an

ENVS101 group or student capstone project. All approved projects require regular monitoring where the Board determines the standards. Methods on calculating sequestration will be outlined by the Board, using existing data on sequestration, and standardized for all proposed sequestration projects.

Carbon reduction proposals must provide verifiable reduction or disuse of CO2e emissions per the Green EDGE Fund's Carbon Reduction Protocol. The Board will review the CO2e calculations submitted by the applicant(s). All approved projects require regular monitoring where the Board determines the standards. Methods on calculating CO2e reductions will be outlined by the Board, using existing data and research on calculating CO2e reduction, and standardized for all proposed reduction projects.

Green EDGE Fund Board Members and Advisors

Fall 2020

Chair: Hannah Scholl '21

Vice-Chair: Audrey Kamal '22

Treasurer: Noemi Duker '23

Account Manager: Alayna Bierly '21/22

Secretary: Wenling Li '21

Public Outreach: Justin Lee '22

OES Liaison: Stephan Ciulla '21

Project Generator: Nina Liloia '22

Community Liaison: Emily Rosenberg '21/22

Carbon Management Fund Liaison: Phoebe von Conta '22

Board Administrators: Ben Hobbs

Administrative Advisors: Heidi Pycraft

Spring 2021

Chair: Hannah Scholl '21

Vice-Chair: Audrey Kamal '22

Treasurer: Noemi Duker '23

Account Manager: Alayna Bierly '21/22

Secretary: Wenling Li '21

Public Outreach: Justin Lee '22

OES Liaison: Stephan Ciulla '21

Community Liaison: Emily Rosenberg '22

Carbon Management Fund Liaison: Phoebe von Conta '22

Board Administrators: Ben Hobbs

Administrative Advisors: Heidi Pycraft

Summer 2021

Chair: Emily Rosenberg '22

Vice-Chair: Audrey Kamal '22

Treasurer: Phoebe von Conta '22

Account Manager: Alayna Bierly '22

Secretary: Wenling Li '21

Public Outreach Team: Anokha Venugopal '23, Justin Lee '22, Sionnain Rudek '23

OES Liaison: Stephan Ciulla '21

Project Generator: Noemi Duker '23

Student Senator: Zoe Luh '22

Board Administrators: Ben Hobbs

Administrative Advisors: Jasmin Grindon

Summer 2021 Interns: Sophia Cartsonis '24 and Saph Klearman '24

Meeting Times, Minutes

During the Fall 2020 semester, the Green EDGE Fund student board and faculty administrators met via zoom weekly on Tuesdays from 11:15 am - 12:00 pm EST. The student board would meet on Saturdays from 5:00 pm - 6:15 pm EST via zoom. During the Spring of 2021, the student board and faculty administrators would meet on Mondays from 12:15 pm - 1:15 pm EST via zoom. The student board would meet on Saturdays via zoom from 4:00 pm - 5:15 pm EST. By the Summer of 2021, the student and faculty members of the board were vaccinated against Covid-19 and were allowed to meet in person. The student board and faculty administrators met weekly on Fridays from 12:15 pm - 1:15 pm EST in room 201(?) of the Adam Joseph Lewis Center (AJLC) in Oberlin, OH. The student board met on Tuesdays from 5:00 pm - 6:15 pm EST in the Hotel Oberlin.

 Fall 2020 to Spring 2021 Minutes (link)

 Spring 2021 to Summer 2021 Minutes (link)

 Summer 2021 Minutes (link)

Projects Approved in 2020 - 2021

Projects that have been officially approved by the Green EDGE Fund this academic year and either have been implemented or are in the process of being implemented. Project managers on the GEF serve as the primary contact for the duration of the project development and implementation.

Approved Sustainability Grants

Fall 2020 Projects

Oberlin Community Services Agriculture Associate Fall/Winter/Spring

Approved: October 14, 2020

Summary: This project was approved in the Fall of 2020, funds were awarded to Oberlin Community Services for the creation of a full-time associate for the pilot spring/summer/fall gleaning program. This project will actively address food insecurity in Lorain County and surrounding areas and will provide OCS with the opportunity to connect with local farms.

Background Premise: The funding of this project was contingent upon the continuation of the Gleaning program after the two years of funding from the Green EDGE Fund through funding from Oberlin College New President's Grant or Oberlin City Sustainable Reserve Fund.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: This project cost a total of $12,269.00 with no clear calculable financial paybacks. However, we see this project directly providing nutritional food to Oberlin and Lorain county residents that would otherwise possibly go to waste.

Link Project Proposal
Link Approval Doc

Carbon Neutrality Curriculum Development

Approved: November 30, 2020

Summary: This project was approved in the Fall of 2020, funds were awarded to Oberlin College's Office of Environmental Sustainability (OES) with the purpose to aid in the development of a course for students. This course would use Oberlin College's commitment to Carbon Neutrality as a case study for the understanding of carbon neutrality.

Background Premise: The funding of this project will be used as a stipend to compensate professor(s) for developing the course. Funding is contingent upon the GEF's review of the OES course by February 2021 before it is presented to faculty for course development. Carbon neutrality aligns with our definition of sustainability, and we see this course as an asset for students to have the opportunity to understand carbon neutrality and to apply what they have learned into their lives.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: This project cost a total of $2,000.00 with no clear and calculable paybacks. However, this project creates accessible learning opportunities for students to understand carbon neutrality and Oberlin's carbon neutrality process.

Link to Approval Doc

Link to Project Proposal

Maple Syrup Ecological Learning Center

Approved: December 1, 2020

Summary: This project was approved in the Fall of 2020, funds were awarded to Shagbark Haven with the purpose of constructing a learning center for maple sugaring and educating students and community members about the history of maple sugaring. This learning center would engage students in understanding the indigenous roots of sugaring and small-scale sustainable wood harvesting.

Background Premise: The funds for this project will go directly to the assessment and construction of the learning center and the sugaring process at Shagbark Haven. The funding of this project was contingent upon the participation and completion of the GEF's Project Check-In program.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: This project cost a total of $13,483.00 with no clear and calculable paybacks. However, this student-led project utilizes the sugaring process to teach the indigenous roots of sugaring and actively strives to create accessible spaces for students and community members to learn and have a relationship with the land. Shagbark Haven will foster this sense of place through the sugaring process, in relation to Oberlin's maple trees.

Oberlin Community Services Energy Efficiency and Solar Panel Installation

Approved: December 1, 2020

Summary: This project was approved in the Fall of 2020, funds were awarded to Oberlin Community Services for energy efficiency upgrades and solar panel installation. This project will reduce both OCS's carbon footprint and operating budget.

Background Premise: We funded this project as it aligned with our mission of reducing OCS' carbon footprint. No contingencies.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: This project cost a total of $10,000.00 with no clear and calculable paybacks. However, we see this project as paramount to OCS' mission as a sustainable community organization striving to provide resources and programming.

Johnson Path Improvements and Plum Creek Greenway

Approved: December 8, 2020

Summary: This project was approved in the Fall of 2020, funds were awarded to the City of Oberlin for the improvements of Plum Creek Greenway. Improvements will consist of lighting, signage, and a reconstruction of the trail.

Background Premise: The funding of this project will occur on a reimbursement basis contingent upon the approval of the lighting fixtures by tenants of properties neighboring the path. If lighting is not approved, the Green EDGE Fund will only fund the signage component. The funding of this project was contingent upon the participation and completion of the GEF's Project Check-In program.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: This project came to a total of $16,132.40 including $3,000.00 for the signage component. This project has no clear and calculable paybacks, however, we see this project as

increasing sustainability within the Oberlin community through the improvements of the path as it increases accessibility and educates the community about the importance of ecological resilience.

[Link to Project Proposal](#)

[Link to Approval Doc](#)

Spring 2021 Projects

POWER Rental Properties Incentives Pilot

Approved: April 15, 2021

<u>Summary:</u> This project was approved in the Spring of 2021, funds were awarded to POWER for their outreach to local landlords regarding possible incentives for energy efficiency upgrades in rental properties. POWER plans to facilitate fifty energy audits on rental properties during the two-year funding period, with the goal of decreasing the demand for carbon-based heating fuels and minimizing the financial burden on residents paying for utilities during extreme temperatures.

<u>Background Premise:</u> The funding of this project was contingent upon the participation and completion of the GEF's Project Check-In program. We support this project as it addresses social equity among renters and reduces their impact on the natural environment.

<u>Cost-Benefit Analysis:</u> This project cost a total of $7,000.00 with no clear and calculable payback, however, we value POWER and their efforts to serve the community, low-income households, and Oberlin's overall work towards sustainability.

[Link to Project Proposal](#)

[Link to Approval Doc](#)

OECC School Greenhouse Installation

Approved: April 1, 2021

<u>Summary:</u> This project was approved in the Spring of 2021, funds were awarded to the Oberlin Early Childhood Community School for the renovation of an existing greenhouse facility operated by OECC. The greenhouse renovations will enable OECC to implement a hands-on curriculum on food systems and access.

The funding of this project was contingent upon the participation and completion of the GEF's Project Check-In program.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: This project cost a total of $5,679.00 with no clear and calculable payback, however, we value OECC and their work to engage students in understanding food systems through a hands-on approach.

[Link to Project Proposal](#)
[Link to Approval Doc](#)

Vel Scott Healthy YOU

Approved: April 26, 2021

Summary: This project was approved in the Spring of 2021, funds were awarded to Vel Scott of Vel's Purple Oasis for the expansion of accessible cooking classes offered by Vel Scott in conjunction with the Vel Scott Healthy You Institute. Funding will aid in the purchase of equipment to offer virtual classes for those unable to attend in-person due to COVID-19.

Background Premise: The funding of this project was contingent upon the participation and completion of the GEF's Project Check-In program.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: This project cost a total of $10,000.00 with no clear and calculable payback, however, we see this project as addressing food insecurity and accessibility, and we value the work that the Vel Scott Healthy You Institute does for the community.

[Link to Project Proposal](#)
[Link to Approval Doc](#)

Environmental Dashboard Digital Signage for Installed Throughout the City of Oberlin

Approved: April 26, 2021

Summary: This project was approved in the Spring of 2021, funds were awarded to Environmental Dashboard for the upgrading of failing player computers for the Environmental Dashboard Project.

Background Premise: The funding of this project was contingent on funds not to exceed $14,000.00 and upon the participation and completion of the GEF's Project Check-In program.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: This project cost a total of $13,947.48 and not to exceed $14,000.00 with no clear and calculable payback. We see this project as supporting the continuation of the Environmental Dashboard Project.

Link to Project Proposal
Link to Approval Doc

Solar for Pre-K-5

Approved: May 13, 2021

Summary: This project is supported by the board, funds were promised as a commitment to the Oberlin Public Schools for the installation of solar arrays on the new PreK-5 school.

Background Premise: The funding of this project is contingent upon the project beginning within the next two years.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: This project cost a total of $10,000.00 with no clear and calculable paybacks. This project aligns with our mission statement and we value our continued relationship with the Oberlin Public Schools.

Link to Proposal
Link to Letter of Support

Grafton Garden

Approved: April 12, 2021

Summary: This project was approved in the Spring of 2021, funds were awarded to Professor Jay Fiskio for the purchase of materials to expand the Grafton Garden at the Grafton Correctional Institute in Grafton Ohio, and to transport Oberlin students to Grafton for a weekly class meeting.

Background Premise: The funding of this project was contingent upon the participation and completion of the GEF's Project Check-In program.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: The project cost a total of $3,000.00 with no clear and calculable paybacks. We see this project as a way for Oberlin students to learn about sustainable agriculture, support incarcerated citizens in their environmental and restorative justice efforts, and work to combat food insecurity by producing food for Oberlin Community Services.

Link to Proposal
Link to Approval Doc

Oberlin Community Mural Project

Approved: May 14, 2021

Summary: This project was approved in the Spring of 2021, funds were awarded to the Oberlin Mural Project: We Are Oberlin for the purchase of materials for the creation of the mural.

Background Premise: The funding of this project was contingent upon the participation and completion of the GEF's Project Check-In Program.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: This project cost a total of $2,500.00 with no clear and calculable paybacks. We see this project as supporting local community artists and fostering a sense of community resiliency and pride.

Link to Project Proposal
Link to Approval Doc

Outdoor Lighting at Kendal: The First "Dark Sky" Installation

Approved: May 13, 2021

Summary: This project was approved in the Spring of 2021, funds were awarded to Kendal at Oberlin for the purchase and installation of outdoor lighting stations as part of their "Dark Sky" pilot project.

Background Premise: The funding for this project was contingent upon the participation and completion of the GEF's Project Check-In Program.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: This project cost a total of $7,500.00 with no clear and calculable paybacks, however, we see this project as serving the Kendal community and their efforts to reduce energy consumption.

Link to Proposal

[Link to Approval Doc](#)

Summer 2021 Projects

Local Food Systems Infrastructure Development - Warehouse Efficiency

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Approved: July 26, 2021

Summary: This project was approved in the Summer of 2021, funds were awarded to the Oberlin Food Hub for the purchase of materials to aid in their programs.

Background Premise: The funding for this project was contingent upon the participation and completion of the GEF's Project Check-In Program.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: This project cost a total of $12,652.00 with no clear and calculable paybacks, however, we see this project as directly working to combat food insecurity within the Oberlin community.

[Link to Proposal](#)
[Link to Approval Doc](#)

Phase II: Sugarbush Ecosystem Landlab

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Approved: July 23, 2021

Summary: This project was approved in the Summer of 2021, funds were awarded to Shagbark Haven to complete the second phase of their Sugarbush Ecosystem Land which includes the Maple Syrup Ecological Learning Center.

Background Premise: The funding for this project was contingent upon the participation and completion of the GEF's Project Check-In Program.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: This project cost a total of $15,835.00 with no clear and calculable payback, this project protects its surrounding wetland ecosystem and makes Shagbark Haven's educational programs more accessible.

[Link to Proposal](#)
[Link to Approval Doc](#)

Efficiency Loans Approved

There were no Efficiency Loans approved during the Fall 2020 semester, Spring 2021 semester, and Summer 2021 semester.

Carbon Management Funds Approved

There were no Carbon Management Funds approved during the Fall 2020 semester, Spring 2021 semester, and Sumer 2021 semester.