

The Green EDGE Fund Annual Report

2021 - 2022



Table of Contents

Introduction to the Green EDGE Fund

Mission Statement

Our Definition of Sustainability

Funding Structure

Sustainability Grants

Efficiency Loans

Carbon Management Fund

Green EDGE Fund Board Members and Advisors

Fall 2021

Spring 2022

Meeting Times, Minutes

Projects Approved in 2020 - 2021

Approved Sustainability Grants

Little Free Libraries

City Fresh Electric Vehicle Project

2021 Green EDGE Fund Sustainability Banquet

Earthships at Oberlin Phase I Feasibility

Addendum to PHASE II: Sugarbush Ecosystem Landlab

Electric Vehicle Charging Station

Efficiency Loans Approved

Carbon Management Funds Approved

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 2021

Chair: Emily Rosenberg '22

Vice-Chair: Audrey Kamal '22

Treasurer: Phoebe von Conta '22

Account Manager: Alayna Bierly '22

Secretary: Wenling Li '22

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

OES Liaison: Stephan Ciulla '22

Project Generator: Noemi Duker '23

Board Administrators: Ben Hobbs

Administrative Advisors: Jasmin Grindon

Spring 2022

Chair: Sionnain Rudek '23

Vice-Chair: Audrey Kamal '22

Treasurer: Phoebe von Conta '22

Account Manager: Kathryn Beeman '23

Secretary: Lillian Gibson '25

Public Outreach/Media Coordinator: Anokha Venugopal '23

OES Liaison: Martina Novajas Donoso '25

Project Generator: Justin Lee '22

Tech Coordinator: Noemi Duker '23

Board Administrators: Ben Hobbs

Administrative Advisors: Jasmin Grindon

Meeting Times, Minutes

During the Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 semester, the Green EDGE Fund student board and faculty administrators met in person following Oberlin College's COVID-19 Safety guidelines. The option for members to participate in weekly meetings via zoom was adopted for the fall and spring semesters.

Fall 2021 to Spring 2022 Minutes ([link](#))

Spring 2021 to 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 2021 Projects

Little Free Libraries

Approved: November 16, 2021

Summary: This project was approved in the Fall of 2021, funds were awarded to Benjamin Hobbs for the creation of two to three small little free libraries. This project will actively promote literacy and education equity within the Oberlin community.

Background: The funding of this project was contingent upon the participation and completion of the GEF's Project Check-In program. Furthermore, We believe that this project fits well within our definition of sustainability, which includes incorporating a framework of "educational mechanisms that seek to achieve equitable access." Additionally, this project aligns with our mission statement, as we seek to protect social equity through making implementation of projects that protect social equity and build community resilience.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: This project cost a total of \$872.49 with no clear calculable financial paybacks. However we see this project as contributing to increasing access to educational materials throughout the Oberlin community.

[Link to Approval Doc](#)

[Link to Proposal](#)

City Fresh Electric Vehicle Project

Approved: January 10, 2022

Summary: This project was approved in the Fall of 2021, funds were awarded to City Fresh for the completion of purchase of an electric truck.

Background Information: 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 \$40,000.00 with no clear and calculable paybacks. We believe that this project fits well within our definition of sustainability as it works toward an overall conservation of energy and resources. This project will positively contribute to City Fresh's community-oriented work of providing equitable access to healthy local foods, which aligns with our mission statement of protecting social equity, building community resilience, and reducing our impact on the natural world.

[Link to Approval Doc](#)

[Link to Proposal](#)

2021 Green EDGE Fund Sustainability Banquet

Approved: December 14, 2022

Summary: This project was approved in the Fall of 2021, funds were awarded through reimbursement. We approved this project because The Green EDGE we want to continue supporting an event that brings the community and college together to celebrate past and ongoing projects funded by the Green EDGE Fund.

Background Information: There are no contingencies and participation in GEF's Project Check-In program was unnecessary.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: The project cost a total of \$1,400.00 with no clear and calculable paybacks. We have pursued this project because the EDGE Fund recognizes the importance of fostering city and college relations while working for the common goal of sustainability.

[Link to Approval Doc](#)

[Link to Proposal](#)

Earthships at Oberlin Phase I Feasibility

Approved: December 14, 2022

Summary: This project was approved in the Fall of 2021, and funds were awarded to Sionainn Rudek for examining the feasibility of constructing an Earthship in Oberlin. We approved this project because The Green EDGE recognizes the critical role financial backing plays in successfully completing the pilot project.

Background Information: Funding is contingent upon the proposer's incorporation of updated costs to reflect transportation plans to and from any in-person consultation or any other related expenditure. We expect documentation of said consultations to be provided in the form of notes or other mediums to be incorporated into procedural check-ins. Additionally, 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 \$6,224.00 with no transparent and calculable paybacks. We have pursued this project because the EDGE Fund recognizes the importance of the educational, spiritual, and environmental possibilities relating to this endeavor, and endorse the project and its potential in full.

[Link to Approval Doc](#)

[Link to Proposal](#)

Spring 2022 Projects

Addendum to PHASE II: Sugarbush Ecosystem Landlab

Approved: April 25th, 2022

Summary: This project was approved in the Spring of 2022, and funds were awarded to Shagbark Haven. The Landlab was previously funded as a sustainability grant of \$15,835.00. The addendum will add \$8,000.00 to the project. This project represents a second phase of a larger project with both sugar-related learning opportunities and substantial activity beyond sugaring. These funds will be granted via check through the controller's office.

Background Information: The Green EDGE Fund supports this addendum due to increased costs due to lumber cost increases and supply chain shortages, all of which are outside of Shagbark's control. Additionally, a representative of Shagbark Haven will continue to participate in the GEF's Project Check-In program.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: The project cost a total of \$8,000.00 with no clear and calculable paybacks. We have pursued this project because the EDGE Fund recognizes that this project protects the natural wetland ecosystem, provides infrastructure for environmental education, and increases utility and accessibility at Shagbark Haven.

[Link to Approval Doc](#)

[Link to Addendum Proposal](#)

Electric Vehicle Charging Station

Approved: May 26th, 2022

Summary: This project was approved in the Spring of 2022, and funds were awarded not to exceed \$15,800.00. We are pursuing this project as it contributes to The Green Edge Fund's goals of reducing Oberlin's carbon footprint and promoting the use of green energy in Oberlin and the surrounding areas.

Background Information: Funding is contingent upon the purchase and implementation of educational signage that will be placed with the charging station and participation in the GEF's Project Check-In program. Additionally, we ask that upon completion of the project, any unused funds be returned to the Green EDGE Fund to support sustainability within the Oberlin Community further.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: The funding of this project is not to exceed \$15,800.00 with no clear and calculable paybacks. We believe this project fits well within our definition of sustainability as it works toward the overall conservation of energy and resources. This project will positively contribute to the Oberlin Community and its efforts toward efficient transportation.

[Link to Approval Doc](#)

[Link to Proposal](#)

Efficiency Loans Approved

There were no Efficiency Loans approved during the Fall 2021 semester and Spring 2022 semester.

Carbon Management Funds Approved

There were no Carbon Management Funds approved during the Fall 2021 semester and Spring 2022 semester.