

UW-STOUT GREEN FEE POLICY & PROCEDURES

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Definition

The Green Fee is an allocable segregated University fee enacted to provide funding for sustainable projects, which follow appropriate guidelines for allocable segregated fees within [Segregated University Fees \(F50\)](#). For projects to be named sustainable, or sustainability centered, they must fall under the University of Wisconsin-Stout definition of sustainability: Sustainability is that which encourages students to think about environmental, social, and economic factors individually and in relation to one another and lead action in protecting them.

Purpose

The purpose of the Green Fee is to promote and improve sustainable practices at the University of Wisconsin-Stout, which influence student life on and off campus. The Green Fee has been created to address areas of need, as indicated by the students, for the advancement of sustainable physical developments, sustainability-centered education and awareness, and promotion of sustainability. The green fee aims to align with the President's Climate Commitment (2007) as well as The Climate Action Plan. Both documents are committed to making the University of Wisconsin Stout climate neutral. The President's Climate Commitment was signed in 2007 by Chancellor Emeritus Sorensen. The Climate Action Plan is a formal document created by UW Stout's Sustainability Steering Committee which dedicates university resources to becoming carbon neutral.

SSA Sustainability Council

The SSA's Sustainability Council is responsible for recommending allocations of Green Fee funds.. These recommendations will be presented to the Stout Student Association for deliberation and approval.

General Funding

"Funding" is defined as the distribution of monies pertaining to the requested amount within approved sustainabilitycategories. The SSA Sustainability Director is responsible for monitoring the funds after they are allocated and making sure they are spent before the fiscal year deadline. In the case that funds are not spent, the Director is to work with the Sustainability Coordinator and the Student Life Services Business Manager to ensure the funds are redistributed to the Green Fee account.

Green fee funded projects require ongoing maintenance in order to keep them functional. \$500 out of the Green Fee Account shall be earmarked per academic year for necessary maintenance for existing projects

Project Categories

Projects will be funded from one of the following categories:

Educational – The Educational category grants monies to campaigns to raise awareness and inform students of a sustainability opportunities on campus.

Energy – Renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives can be covered in whole or a portion will be allocated to assist in improving the campus' energy footprint. This may also address alternative energy credits and installation of alternative energy means.

Food – This category can be used to increase sustainable food, as defined by the AASHE Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Ratings System (STARS) definition, which includes: local/regional healthy, culturally diverse, and environmentally and socially progressive food options. This category may also use funding to increase transparency of on-campus food services.

Promotion – Promotion will include, but not be limited to, sticker campaigns, informational booths and kiosks, reusable resources etc..

Buildings, Design, and Construction – The sustainable design portion will support portions of sustainable construction and design on-campus.

Maintenance - Green fee funded projects require ongoing maintenance in order to keep them functional. \$500 out of the Green Fee Account shall be earmarked per academic year for necessary maintenance for existing projects

Landscaping – Projects in this category will work with the Campus Exteriors Development Committee to approve and implement sustainable garden design and sustainable landscaping practices. Funds can be used to protect and preserve the naturally existing ecology as well.

Water – This category addresses water conservation, pollution, and storm water mitigation.

Waste Reduction – Projects must address the improvement of recycling and composting rates on campus. The waste reduction category can be used to promote the reduction and reuse of materials.

Transportation – Transportation will include all sustainable travel methods with low to no fuel; biking, walking, carpooling, carsharing, etc. Note: this funding is not to be used for campus and community bussing systems as they are funded by alternate segregated fees.

Capital Projects

Capital projects, physical improvement to campus, can be funded by Green Fee funds in one of the above areas in the following circumstances:

- ☐ A full project can be funded if applied to a segregated fee supported building (Memorial Student Center and Price Commons)
- ☐ A portion of a capital project can be funded if the University matches funding
- ☐ A small scale pilot of a project may be fully funded with the intent of the university funding the full project
- ☐ A full project can be funded with the exception that any and all savings be paid back to the Green Fee account for the university half of the project
- ☐ Priority should be given to self-sustaining projects
- ☐ Liability from all projects must be taken on by UW-Stout

Academic Projects

The range of projects is broad with one main exception, because segregated fees support the Green Fee Fund, it cannot be used for direct individual learning experiences and course credit; however, events that facilitate extracurricular group experiences are permitted. Segregated fees can fund projects that increase awareness of sustainability or physical changes to campus but cannot be solely used in a course setting.

Approval Process

Green Fee funds will be allocated during the fall and spring semesters only. Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to provide project ideas to the SSA Sustainability Council at any time of the year. The SSA Sustainability Council will consider these project ideas from the campus, as well as project ideas the Sustainability Council generates themselves.

Once the Sustainability Council has decided on projects, the SSA Sustainability Director will prepare a formal motion outlining all accepted project details and allocations. The motion shall be presented to the current Congress of the SSA for approval.

The Sustainability Council will make recommendations to the U.S.S. of the Stout Student Association for approval. Once approved, the funds will be disbursed to the appropriate campus departments. Funds must be encumbered by the end of each fiscal year.
