

The Green EDGE Fund

2015-2016 Annual Report



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Introduction to the Green EDGE Fund



Mission Statement:

The mission of the Oberlin College Green EDGE Fund is to support projects that promote environmental sustainability within the Oberlin community while demonstrating innovation, education, and leadership, and projects at Oberlin College that meaningfully improve efficiency and reduce resource consumption.

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 while Sustainability Grants and the Carbon Management Fund Grants are funded through student semesterly green fees.

Sustainability Grants are allocated to projects that promote environmental 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 environmental sustainability as defined by the sitting Board.

Efficiency Loans are 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 the 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. Savings may be calculated based on conservative estimates or measurable changes in resource consumption data.

Carbon Management Fund (CMF) Grants are allocated to projects that provide verifiable sequestration of carbon and are situated in or around Oberlin within a 6-county region including: Lorain, Erie, Huron, Ashland, Wayne, and Medina. These carbon sequestrations are meant to be attributed to specific areas of the College for which carbon offsets have not yet been acquired such as student travel to and from campus. Non-Recourse Carbon Investments do not have payback requirements, but do require a calculation quantifying the carbon saved through the project. Non-Recourse Carbon Investments are awarded based on the relative cost to offset a

metric ton of CO₂ or equivalent greenhouse gases by the project and an additional consideration of non-carbon related benefits resulting from the project.

Green EDGE Fund Board Members and Advisors

Fall 2015:

Chair: Julia Murphy
Vice Chair: Amelia Wallace
Treasurer: Elaine Hinrichs
Public Outreach Coordinator: N/A
Account Manager: Delia Scoville
Student Senate Liaison: N/A
Office of Environmental Sustainability (OES) Liaison: Hillary Pan
Carbon Management Fund Liaison: Maya Sosland
Board Advisor: Sean Hayes
Administrators: Heidi Pycraft, Keith Watkins, Meghan Riesterer

Spring 2016:

Chair: Julia Murphy
Vice Chair: Amelia Wallace
Treasurer: Elaine Hinrichs
Public Outreach Coordinator: N/A
Account Manager: N/A
Student Senate Liaison: Nimo Ismail
Office of Environmental Sustainability (OES) Liaison: Hillary Pan
Carbon Management Fund Liaison: Maya Sosland
Board Advisor: Sean Hayes
Administrators: Heidi Pycraft, Jim Klaiber, Meghan Riesterer

Meeting Times, Minutes

The Green EDGE Fund meets regularly on Wednesdays from 12:15 to 1:15 in the AJLC. On Sunday afternoons, generally from 3:30 to 4:30, the students of the Green EDGE Fund meet and have a working group meeting, where they dedicate some time to work on their tasks collectively. Green EDGE Fund meeting minutes can be found in the [EDGE Fund Minutes Fall 2015/Spring 2016](#) Google document.

Projects Approved in 2015-2016

Projects that have been officially approved by the GEF 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 duration of project development and implementation.

Sustainability Grants Approved Last Year:

Fall 2015:

Equipment for Community Meals Program

Approved December 2nd, 2015

Summary: In the fall of 2015, the board awarded funds to the OSCA Environmental Concerns Committee to purchase bike trailers to bring salvaged food from co-ops to a local church. This funding was contingent on

Background Premise: The funding was contingent on the OSCA Environmental Concerns Committee creating documentation that establishes this as part of the ECC's duties.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: The project has a total cost of \$546.00, and though it does not have a clear calculable payback, it promotes sustainability by using bikes to transport food instead of an energy consuming vehicle, while simultaneously reducing food waste and providing the greater Oberlin community with, particularly those in need, with more meals.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Vermicompost Bin for the Science Center

Approved December 2nd, 2015

Summary: In the 2015 Fall Semester, the board funded the purchase of a Vermicompost Bin, to be placed in the Science Center. The funds also went to maintaining the Worm Factory 360, which will be housed in the Woodland St. corridor of the Science Center.

Background Premise: This project was proposed as part of the Fall 2015 ENVS 101 Community Based Experience Project, and facilitated by Keith Watkins and the Oberlin College Resource Conservation Team (RTC).

Cost-Benefit Analysis: The project has a total cost of \$150.00, and though it does not have a clear calculable payback, it promotes sustainability by encouraging the recycling of organic waste and educating students on worm composting.

[Link to Approval Document](#)

RCT Greenhouse at J House Garden

Approved December 2nd, 2015

Summary: In the 2015 Fall Semester the board funded a hoop-house style greenhouse at the J House garden. The greenhouse was proposed by the Resource Conservation Team (RCT) and is managed by them as well.

Background Premise: The RCT is an important student group on campus whose goals align with those of the Green EDGE Fund. By approving this project the RCT is able to extend the growing season for produce grown in the greenhouse.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: The project cost which include materials and installation amounts to \$4765.17 and though it has no calculable payback benefits the Oberlin community by providing fresh produce, education about gardening and greenhouses and adds another green space that students can engage with to our campus.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

RCT and Harkness Green Roof Project

Approved December 9th, 2015

Summary: In the 2015 Fall Semester the board funded a project in collaboration with Harkness and the RCT to revitalize a green roof space at the coop.

Background Premise: The project was pursued because it is in line with Oberlin and the Green EDGE Fund's goals for sustainability. Through this collaboration with the RCT and OSCA, the Green EDGE has the opportunity to engage with two large and important student groups on campus.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: The project has a total cost of \$1,900.00 and though it does not have a clear calculable payback, it will provide a benefits in the way of storm water mitigation, better insulation for the building and herbs for use in the coop.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Spring 2016:

Oberlin People's Energy Cooperative Project 1

Approved February 18th, 2016

Summary: The Fund approved a grant of \$5000 to fund publicity for the Oberlin People's Energy Cooperative's (OPEC) Project 1. The grant covers food and meals for OPEC's public meetings, photocopying files and informational handouts at their meetings, and advertisements in Lorain County Newspaper. OPEC intends to gather interest in community solar options in the community through this project.

Background Premise: This grant helps Oberlin's goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2025, and reflects the EDGE Fund's commitment to renewable energy sources and support of community solar options.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: Encourages sustainable energy regeneration and use on a local level through solar panels.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Oberlin People's Energy Cooperative Project 2

Approved February 18th, 2016

Summary: The funds will pay the legal fee for a consultant work about tax return and others that are necessary to affirm the possibility of the establishment of a traditional solar cooperative in Oberlin.

Background Premise: This grant helps Oberlin's goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2025, and reflects the EDGE Fund's commitment to renewable energy sources and support of community solar options.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: The EDGE Fund understands that the project may not be workable but believe solar as energy source and reduction of carbon is worth aspiring to. EDGE funded \$2000 as sustainability grant.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

O-Bees Learning Apiary

Approved March 9th, 2016

Summary: The Green EDGE Fund awarded \$775.80 to O-Bees for the purchase and care of several bee hives, with an additional \$105 in case the emergency purchase of an additional queen bee is necessary.

Background Premise: This sustainable and non-profit Bee Hive initiative in an accommodating location. George Jones Farm hosts a top-bar Apiary for community learning at large, accommodating people with different physical abilities.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: It is self-sufficient and it is designed to last in perpetuity, and has many educational benefits in terms of nature, biology, and community cohesion for all people.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Kade Rain Garden

Approved March 10th, 2016

Summary: The fund collaborated with ENV5 101 students in Fall of 2015, and funded several proposals including the Kade Rain Garden. The \$5,600 grant funded the planting of the rain garden in front of Kade House on South Professor Street. This rain garden features black-eyed

susans, purple dome aster, ironweed, queen of the prairie, and several other native Oberlin plants.

Background Premise: The Green EDGE Fund takes on several students from ENVS 101 for their Community Based Experience project. It is a great opportunity to introduce more people to the Green EDGE Fund and fund exciting projects.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: Rain gardens prevent pollution of waterways and flooding. Native plants filter storm run-off and are planted on a slope, with a berm at the bottom to slow storm water.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Ecolympics Prizes, Materials, and Speaker Expenses

Approved April 13th, 2016

Summary: Sustainability grant of \$4592.75 used to fund Ecolympics prizes of a fruit tree, four drying racks, and a water refill station and for a town banner and transportation costs for Ecolympics speakers. A change was made to the original proposal in that the bike racks originally proposed were swapped out for drying racks, which we believed were a better investment.

Background Premise: The Green EDGE Fund has historically supported Ecolympics by providing funds to purchase prizes each year. This sustainability grant is a continuation of that tradition.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: All of the prizes encourage environmentally sustainable habits and practices like not using a dryer to dry clothing, not using disposable water bottles, and engaging with the environment directly through fruit trees.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Oberlin Early Childhood Center Sustainability Project Phase II

Approved June 2nd, 2016

Summary: The Green EDGE Fund approved a \$22,500 sustainability grant for efficiency improvements in energy and water utilities, including low flow sink aerators, lighting occupancy sensors, low flow toilets, demand control ventilation, high efficiency water heaters, and a higher efficiency water boiler.

Background Premise: The Green EDGE Fund want to support the OECC's efforts improve their efficiency and follow through on the recommended upgrades and their utilization of all resources, particularly the Columbia Gas Audit program.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: This reduced the OECC's costs of operation and their environmental impact. This project was also funded because it is important to incorporate sustainability into all Oberlin community projects.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

New Agrarian Center Composting Toilets

Approved April 25th, 2016

Summary: The Green EDGE Fund officially approved a sustainability grant of \$15,065.44 to George Jones Farms to construct a bathroom with composting toilets instead of a traditional sewage system.

Background Premise: George Jones Farm wanted to have a small public bathroom so that it could increase the amount of people who could get there on class field trips and other educational opportunities.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: The toilets encourage a local feedback loop and reduce water usage. Additionally, the composting toilets promote sustainability by allowing students to learn at the farm.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Green EDGE Fund Representative at AASHE Conference

Approved July 11th, 2016

Summary: Sustainability grant of \$1216.19 to fund Amelia Wallace, Vice Chair of the Green EDGE Fund, to represent the Green EDGE Fund at the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education on October 25th through 28th, 2015.

Background Premise: The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (ASSHE) Conference is a place where college student across the country share their ideas and findings about how to pursue sustainability goals in higher education.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: We pursued this project because we think there are many things that the Green EDGE Fund could benefit from having a representative at this conference such as learning from other organizations, coming up with ideas for new sustainability, efficiency and carbon management projects, and provide a platform for networking opportunities.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Efficiency Loans Approved Last Year:

Fall 2015:

Campus-Wide Academic Building Hand Dryer Installation

Approved April 27th, 2015

Summary: Efficiency loan of \$42,000 to fund the installation of XLERATOR XL-ECO hand dryers in academic buildings across campus.

Background Premise: Currently, the bathrooms in academic buildings have paper towels, Comac One hand dryers, or nothing at all to dry hands. This poses a safety hazard and/or inefficient way

to dry hands. Based on research on various hand dryers on the market, the XLERATOR XL-ECO hand dryers seem to be the best fit for our campus.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: The addition of XLERATOR hand dryers will reduce both electricity costs and paper towel usage, with an ROI of 4.3 years.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

John Deere Tractor Veggie Oil Conversion

Approved November 20th, 2015

Summary: Efficiency loan of \$3840 to equip a 3 year old, out of warranty John Deere loader tractor with a veggie oil fuel system. This tractor is scheduled to be in service for another 17 years.

Background Premise: Dennis Greeve, Oberlin Grounds Manager, has been retrofitting out of warranty tractors so that they can run on veggie oil from on-campus sources. This equates to saving resources (namely, diesel to run the tractor).

Cost-Benefit Analysis: The ROI is 4 years for 100% payback and 6 years for a 150% payback.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

3540 Kubota Veggie Oil Tractor Conversion

Approved November 20th, 2015

Summary: Efficiency loan of \$2402.75 to equip an out-of-warranty 3540 Kubota Tractor with a veggie oil fuel system.

Background Premise: Similar to project 14, Dennis Greeve has been retrofitting out of warranty tractors so that they can run on veggie oil from on-campus sources.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: The ROI is 1.33 years for 100% and 1.5 years for 150% payback.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Science Center 4 Pin CFL Retrofit to LED

Approved November 20th, 2015

Summary: Efficiency loan of \$19,639.62 to fund the purchase and installation of LEDs to replace CFLs in the science center.

Background Premise: The Green EDGE Fund has been trying to upgrade as much lighting as possible to the most current and efficient light bulbs to date in order to save the College electricity.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: Yearly savings of \$9137, which totals to a lifetime saving of \$45,686. This project has an ROI of 2.2 years and will reduce carbon emissions of the college by 48.9 tons.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Fall 2015:

Environmental Dashboard Expansion - Phase II

Approved April 23rd, 2016

Summary: An efficiency loan of \$150,000 was granted to fund the expansion of the environmental dashboard.

Background Premise: This project was pursued because we feel it will greatly improve energy efficiency on campus in the present and will continue to help us identify issues of inefficiency for future projects. It will also promote education through the visual aids that accompany the dashboard and can be seen throughout campus and in the local community.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: The 150% payback will be paid in full in a 2.5 year period.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Carbon Management Fund Grant Approved Last Year:

Fall 2015:

CMF Local Offset Accounting Proposal

Approved November 11th, 2015

Summary: A grant of \$15,066.90 to fund Tani Colbert-Sangree's Local Offsetting Account through The Oberlin Project. We will be giving funds for the creation of accounting protocols and methodologies to fulfill ACUPCC accounting requirements, including carbon offset accounting for considering non-local applications.

Background Premise: The Carbon Management Fund (CMF) was established in the Fall of 2012 in response to student referendum support for adding a waivable \$10 per year term bill line item to fund carbon offsetting. Approved by Student Senate and by the Board of Trustees, this increase to the 'Green Fee' was implemented in the Spring of 2014. The fee now generates ~\$25,000 a year for local carbon offsetting projects, working towards achieving the College's commitment for carbon neutrality in 2025.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: This grant does not have a payback that can be currently tangibly measured, but the money will go towards projects which will offset carbon emissions.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Previous Projects:

Following is a list of all of the Green Edge Fund's past approved projects, in reverse chronological order. Links to the original Approval Documents has been provided for ease of access.

Previous Sustainability Grants Projects:

Zion CDC: High Tunnel Greenhouse and Rainwater Irrigation System

Approved May 16th, 2015

The Green EDGE Fund officially approved a sustainability grant of \$6,000 to fund Zion CDC's Legion Fields Community Garden Greenhouse and Rainwater Irrigation System. This project was approved because the board felt that it promoted sustainability within the Oberlin community, and because it helped further the efforts and mission of Zion CDC's Legion Fields Community Garden.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Zion CDC: Green Affordable Housing

Approved May 16th, 2015

The Green EDGE Fund officially approved a sustainability grant of \$50,000 to fund Zion CDC's Affordable Green Housing Initiative. We will be giving funds for the construction and development of environmentally sustainable residences in Oberlin. The GEF pursued this project because the board felt that this project was an example of using resources of the Green EDGE Fund to help make Oberlin a more sustainable community.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

OECC Columbia Gas Audit

Approved May 10th, 2015

The Green EDGE Fund officially approved a sustainability grant of \$3,000 to the Oberlin Early Childhood Center to finance a Columbia gas audit. The GEF pursued this project because it promotes sustainability, allowing for energy efficiency retrofits to be made at OECC. Furthermore, it takes advantage of the discount offered by Columbia Gas.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

POWER: Gap Grants to Complete Energy Efficiency Projects

Approved April 29th, 2015

The Green EDGE Fund officially approved a sustainability grant of \$10,000 to fund the continuation of POWER's gap grants for residents to complete energy efficiency projects in their home. This project was pursued because of GEF and POWER's longstanding relationship, and because of the clear benefits these energy efficiency projects generate for the community.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Restoration of Don Scott House at Vel's Purple Oasis in Cleveland

Approved April 26th, 2015

The Green EDGE Fund officially approved a sustainability grant of \$8,000 for final repairs on the Don Scott house, located next to the community garden Vel's Purple Oasis in Cleveland. Both sites are managed by the nonprofit organization New Image Life Skills Academy. This project was pursued for three main reasons; first, because the restoration of the house will make the kitchen and building functional for cooking demonstrations, thus furthering the ability of community members to cook fresh, local foods in a culturally appropriate and healthy way. Second, although physically distant from Oberlin, Vel's Purple Oasis has strong ties to Oberlin College through the ongoing involvement of Professor Janet Fiskio's Environmental Studies classes and individual Oberlin students in projects and activities at the garden. Third, the project used sustainable building practices and energy efficient appliances, which were researched in more detail by a student assistant provided by Janet Fiskio for the summer and fall of 2015.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Structural Prizes for Ecolympics 2015 Winning Dorms

Approved April 21st, 2015

The Green EDGE Fund officially approved a sustainability grant of \$1,300 for the purchase and installation of one fruit bearing tree, one water refill station, and one covered bike rack to be used as incentives for Ecolympics 2015. This project was pursued for two main reasons; first, because Ecolympics (a competition that awards dorms that reduce their resources usage with prizes) typically results in savings of over 24,000 gallons of water, 12,000 kWh, and 27,000 lbs of CO₂; and, secondly, because awarded prizes will promote sustainability among current and future students who live in the dorms in which they are placed in addition to rewarding current residents for their efforts to reduce consumption.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Foresight Prep: Scholarship Money

Approved April 21st, 2015

The Green EDGE Fund officially approved a sustainability grant of \$27,600 to fund Foresight Prep on the condition that the scholarship money was given to students from Lorain County high schools and that Foresight Prep looked to other funding sources in the future to aid in the funding of their summer program.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

CBSM Union Street Laundry Meters

Approved April 21st, 2015

The Green EDGE Fund officially approved a sustainability grant of \$2,200 to fund Community Based Social Marketing (CBSM) Union St. Laundry Meters. The installation of new laundry meters were implemented to provide data on hot and cold water consumption of the house, which enabled CBSM research team to continue its study on reducing greenhouse gas emissions through behavior change programs.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Boys and Girls Club

Approved April 21st, 2015

The Green EDGE Fund officially approved a sustainability grant of \$1,065, \$300 for a kitchen evaluation and equipment removal, \$250 for raised beds, \$120 for shovels, \$20 for trowels, \$20 for rakes, \$25 for watering cans, and \$40 for seeds, etc. The board approved this project because it promotes sustainability through the building of a community garden, and has a meaningful educational impact for children at the Boys and Girls Club.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Bike Co-Op Backshop Renewal

Approved April 21st, 2015

The Green EDGE Fund officially approved a sustainability grant of \$2,000 for the Bike Co-Op Backshop Renewal. The board approved this project because it promotes sustainability by encouraging students to use bikes as a sustainable mode of transportation.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

O-Bees Student Hives at the George Jones Farm

Approved April 21st, 2015

The Green EDGE Fund officially approved a sustainability grant of \$640 for the O-Bees student hives at George Jones Farm. The funds went to the purchase of equipment to assemble beehives and extract honey (which is not sold for profit) and included a \$100 buffer for disease and pest management equipment to be purchased as needed.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Western Reserve Land Conservancy South Woods

Approved November 19th, 2014

The Green EDGE Fund officially approved a \$10,000 sustainability grant and an additional \$10,000 from the Carbon Management Fund for a total of \$20,000 to help purchase 62.75 acres of Oberlin South Woods in order to conserve the property as a natural area. This joint grant would be allocated if and only if the larger proposal submitted by the WRLC is funded by Clean Ohio.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Tree and Meadow Labels for Carbon Management Fund Carbon Sequestration

Approved November 11th, 2014

The Green EDGE Fund officially approved a sustainability grant of \$620 for the purchase of labels that will be attached to trees and installed next to meadows planted for carbon offsets, and cable ties for mounting the tree labels. The Carbon Management Fund and the Oberlin Grounds Department will adjust the tree tags annually to account for tree growth from year to year, and the tags are expected to last for 10 years. This project increases visibility and knowledge of current carbon sequestration efforts in the Oberlin community, promoting education and action toward sustainability.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

“Off the Grid” - Energy Efficiency Approaches to Theatrical Lighting

Approved October 9th, 2014

The Green EDGE Fund officially approved a sustainability grant of \$4,191 for energy efficient theatrical lighting and installation costs. This promotes environmental sustainability, and provides education benefits to the class it is serving.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Bike Repair Stations

Approved June 23rd, 2014

The Green EDGE Fund allocated a sustainability grant of \$574 for the purchase of weatherized bike pumps to be installed with Bike Fixit Stations, This aligns with the intentions of the initial grant to support bike-related infrastructure on campus.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Oberlin Farmers' Market Food Stamp (SNAP) Incentivization Pilot Program

Approved May 1st, 2014

The Green EDGE Fund officially approved a sustainability grant of \$1,300 to create a SNAP-incentivization pilot program for the Oberlin Farmers' Market (OFM) over the summer of 2014, allowing for the purchase of additional standardized Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) tokens from the USDA. The program distributes one dollar in tokens for every dollar a SNAP client spends at the market, providing a 100% increase in purchasing power and an incentive to shop at the OFM.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Permaculture Design and Natural Meadowing for OSCA Spaces

Approved April 27th, 2014

The GEF approved a sustainability grant of \$5,420 for the creation of natural meadows on campus. The All-OSCA Environmental Concerns Committee in collaboration with the Permaculture Exco and the Oberlin Grounds Department designed a meadowing project for the lawn spaces next to Harkness and behind Old Barrows. They plan to create sweeps of meadow landscaping. The spaces will emulate nature and “foster a sense of place and the realization that nature welcomes our presence if we manage encounters wisely.”

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Hybrid Hydraulic Drive Systems for New Refuse & Recycling Collection Vehicles

Approved April 27th, 2014

The Green EDGE Fund approved a \$30,000 sustainability grant to support the City of Oberlin's investment in hybrid technology for their new refuse and recycling collection vehicles. Three vehicles needed to be purchased, but it was unclear if the City of Oberlin would approve an additional \$100,000 for each of the three vehicles to equip them with hybrid hydraulic drive systems. In order to incentivize this investment, the Green EDGE Fund approved a \$10,000 award for each vehicle purchased with the hybrid technology.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Food Rescue Bike Trailer

Approved April 27th, 2014

The GEF approved a sustainability grant of \$1030.20 for the cost of purchasing a bike trailer. This bike trailer will be used to bring food from various places in Oberlin to Oberlin Community Services in order to reduce food waste and bring more healthy produce to food banks.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Community Based Social Marketing Pilot Studies

Approved April 27th, 2014

In the spring of 2014, the GEF approved and funded a proposal of \$750 made by Cindy Frantz of the Oberlin Psychology Dept. and Bridget Flynn of the Office of Environmental Sustainability to conduct a Community Based Social Marketing pilot study to determine students' responses to different types of power strips, shower timers, as well as conduct a survey on local transportation.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Foresight Leadership and Sustainability Initiative

Approved April 27th, 2014

The GEF allocated a sustainability grant of \$11,600 for the purchase of 16 bicycles and 2 scholarships for local Ohio high school students to attend the new Foresight Leadership and Sustainability Initiative camp in Oberlin this summer. Noel Myers served as project manager for this proposal.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Ecolympics Prizes for Winning Dorms

Approved April 26th, 2014

The Green EDGE Fund awarded a sustainability grant of \$3,750 to the Oberlin Environmental Sustainability Office to purchase three water refill stations as prizes for the winning dorms of the annual Ecolympics campus-wide competition. These refill stations serve as infrastructural improvements to these ResEd facilities.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Dionysus Disco Glassware

Approved April 26th, 2014

The GEF allocated \$1,615.75 to the Student Union Board for the purchase of plasticware for serving beer and other beverages at the Dionysus Disco (the 'Sco). These reusable plastic cups will replace disposable plastic cups, lowering the 'Sco's cost of operations and reducing a sizable portion of the venue's plastic waste output.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Standardized Waste Receptacles

Approved December 16th, 2013

The GEF approved a grant of \$36,000 for the purchase of new waste receptacle stations as part of a pilot study to decrease contamination of recyclables on campus. The proposal was written by Bridget Flynn in the Office of Environmental Sustainability (OES) and the Resource Conservation Team (RCT), a student group on campus dedicated to reducing resource consumption at Oberlin College. The proposal was for 25 waste receptacles to be put in Fairchild Dormitory, the Science Center, and Philips Gym with the intent of further expansion if it proved to be an effective means of educating and clearing confusion regarding waste on campus.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Carbon Management Fund Tree Planting Purchases and Labor Costs

Approved October 2013

The Green EDGE Fund approved \$900 to fund the purchasing of 10 white swamp oak trees and 8 red oak trees in North Fields on campus. A separate grant was also approved for \$376 to fund the labor costs of planting the trees. The project was proposed as a sort of pilot for the GEF's newest branch: the Carbon Management Fund (CMF).

No Approval Document available.

CMF/ENVS 101 Map Printing

Approved fall of 2013

The Green EDGE Fund granted \$35.70 for the printing of site maps for potential carbon offset projects. Two students in ENVS 101 proposed creating and hanging the maps around campus to raise awareness of the efforts being taken to achieve carbon neutrality.

No Approval Document available.

Power Shift Conference

Approved fall of 2013

The Green EDGE Fund approved a grant of \$990 to supplement Student Finance Committee (SFC) funding for Oberlin students to attend Power Shift 2013 in Pittsburgh, PA. The grant provided partial funding for 9 students and full funding for 9 students.

No Approval Document available.

“From Coal to Carbon Neutrality” Workshop Raffle Prizes

Approved fall of 2013

The Green EDGE Fund supplied a number of prizes that promote sustainability for the “From Coal to Carbon Neutrality” workshop event. The prizes included 1 bike, 20 bike lights and 30 water bottles and funded by a grant of \$975 from the GEF.

No Approval Document available.

Lilian Molina Workshop

Approved fall of 2013

The Green EDGE Fund contributed a sustainability grant of \$900 to the honorarium of grassroots organizer Lilian Molina. These funds were combined with funds from Student Finance Committee’ ad hoc, student organization Anti-Frack, and the Environmental Studies Department to fully cover all the expenses of bringing Lilian Molina to Oberlin College.

No Approval Document available.

OSCA ECC Purchase “Shift Change” Film

Approved fall of 2013

OSCA’s Environmental Concerns Committee (ECC) was granted \$165 by the GEF to allow for purchase the documentary Shift Change. The documentary is about worker cooperatives and focuses on Evergreen Cooperatives in Cleveland and Mondragon, Spain. The purchase of the film has helped the ECC form a relationship with Evergreen Cooperatives and educate membership about the nearby worker cooperative.

No Approval Document available.

Zion CDC Infrastructural Improvements

Approved May 6th, 2013

In the spring of 2013, the GEF approved an allocation of \$2,300 for infrastructural improvements at Zion Community Development Corporation (CDC). The grant covered a rainwater collection system as well as for improvements to existing plant beds in the Zion CDC garden to allow for higher plant yield.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Oberlin Community Services People's Garden

Approved May 6th, 2013

Back in 2011, the GEF funded the implementation of the OCS People's Garden. In spring of 2013, the GEF allocated a grant of \$2,100 to fund the expansion of this garden along with a weekly garden education workshop for children. The produce from the garden goes directly to the community rather than being sold. This project promotes sustainability and expands food access within the community of Oberlin.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Bike Repair Stations

Approved May 6th, 2013

The Green EDGE Fund approved a sustainability grant of \$3,500 to the Office of Environmental Sustainability for the implementation of 3 separate bike repair stations on campus. Located in centralized locations on campus, each bike repair station is equipped with a pump as well as tools that are necessary for basic bike maintenance. The project is intended to promote bike use at the college by providing 24 hour access to bike care.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

George Jones Farm Solar Powered Irrigation

Approved April 7th, 2013

In the spring of 2013, the GEF provided a grant of \$14,500 towards the implementation of a solar powered irrigation system, a composting yard, and a vegetable oil capture and filtration system at George Jones Farm. This local organic farm supports Lorain county and the surrounding areas by providing organic food as well as education to the local community.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Ecolympics Prizes for Winning Dorms

Approved April 7th, 2013

The Green EDGE Fund allocated \$3,800 to prizes for the winning dorms of the annual Ecolympics campus-wide energy-reduction competition. The winning dorm was given one of four prizes: a Wonder Wash and spin-dryer, shower timers, clothes drying racks, or a water refill station. Each of the four prizes was installed in a winning dorm. If used, each of them provides savings opportunities. The prizes have the potential for saving the college at least 24,000 gallons of water, 12,000 kWh and 27,000 lbs. of CO₂.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Covered Bike Racks

Approved April 1st, 2013

The GEF allocated \$25,000 for the purchase and installation of 5 additional covered bike racks of a slightly modified design to be placed in high-usage locations. This project is part of a comprehensive effort to improve bicycle-related infrastructure on campus and therefore promote the use of bicycle transportation at Oberlin College. This grant goes hand in hand with the proposal for installation of bike repair stations on north campus, south campus, and Wilder bowl.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Bonner Center Tree Purchase

Approved April 1st, 2013

The Green EDGE Fund officially approved a sustainability grant of \$970 for the purchase of 3 Redbud trees, 3 Kentucky coffee trees, and 1 Lilac tree, for \$470. The GEF also approved a \$500 for grounds crew labor. This project is commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Bonner Center.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Drying Racks: OSCA Residential Locations

Approved March 5th, 2013

The Green EDGE Fund approved a sustainability grant of \$550 for the purchase of clothes-drying racks and lines for placement in OSCA housing co-ops as an alternative method for drying clothes. This reduces electricity consumption for the residential halls.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Carbon Offsetting Tree Purchase

Approved January 25th, 2013

The Green EDGE Fund officially approved a sustainability grant of \$3,250 for the purchase of 25 Red Oak, 25 Red Maple, 25 Black Gum, and 25 Skyline Locust seedlings. The GEF also approved a \$250 buffer should any unexpected costs occur. These trees were planted in April of 2013 with student involvement. These additional trees on campus will sequester carbon and be highly visible to the student body and visitors.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

OSWAMP Rain Gardens at Prospect Elementary School

Approved May 21st, 2012

The Green EDGE Fund approved a sustainability grant of \$995 for Oberlin Stormwater Management Project (OSWAMP) to install a rain garden at Prospect Elementary. The \$995 covers all the necessary costs for this installation including all necessary materials for the project. This project created a more sustainable stormwater management system in Oberlin, and promotes sustainability within Oberlin and more specifically at Prospect Elementary.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Bioregional Dashboard in Prospect Elementary

Approved May 2nd, 2012

The Green EDGE Fund allocated \$29,000 to fund the purchase and implementation of a Bioregional Dashboard system at a local school, Prospect Elementary. The system included both Building and Bioregional Dashboard components, the former showing real-time information specific to Prospect's resource consumption, and the latter displaying resource flows throughout the city of Oberlin. The project was an extension of research being conducted on resource consumption feedback strategies and technologies, and was funded in part to support the efforts of the Oberlin Project. This Bioregional Dashboard project also served as the pilot program for the highly anticipated installation of similar systems in the other three Oberlin public schools.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Six Spin Dryers

Approved May 2nd, 2012

The Green EDGE Fund purchased six spin dryers for two clusters of residential dorms (ZEBRA and FYRE) as part of a larger washer-dryer sustainability project the GEF funded earlier in the year that proved popular among students. A \$1,500 sustainability grant covered the cost of purchasing the spin dryers, which were available for student use by the fall of 2013.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Covered Bike Racks

Approved May 2nd, 2012

The GEF allocated \$25,000 for the purchase and installation of 5 additional covered bike racks of a slightly modified design to be placed in high-usage locations. Senior class and alumni gifts to the GEF cover half of the total project costs of \$30,000. This project is part of a comprehensive effort to improve bicycle-related infrastructure on campus and therefore promote the use of bicycle transportation at Oberlin College. As of spring 2014, these covered bike racks have been installed directly south of French House, south of Langston, west of Bibbins Hall, and south of Dascomb.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

POWER Low-Income Home Weatherization

Approved May 2nd, 2012

The Green EDGE Fund helped finance weatherization of approximately three inefficient low-income homes in Oberlin after proposal submitted by Providing Oberlin With Efficiency Responsibly (POWER). A sustainability grant of \$10,000 was allocated to POWER that accounts for contractor expenses estimated at \$3,000 per house, with a \$1,000 buffer.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Oberlin Beekeeping

Approved May 2nd, 2012

The GEF provided start-up funding for a student and community run apiary at an off-campus blueberry farm in the city of Oberlin. The sustainability grant of \$1,000 funded the purchasing of bees and beekeeping equipment and the cost of hive maintenance. The apiary preserves traditional practices of beekeeping and provides a unique educational opportunity for Oberlin students and the community. The honey produced is sold to local sources for funding to operate the apiary.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Expansion of Dascomb Reusable Container Program

Approved May 2nd, 2012

The GEF allocated a \$7,000 sustainability grant towards the expansion of the Dascomb dining hall reusable container program to all students who eat in CDS. The program directly reduces solid waste by replacing disposable take-out containers with reusable containers.

The grant covered the cost of 2,200 containers and carabineers with a \$434 buffer.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Residential Wonder Washes and Spin Dryers

Approved March 21st, 2012

The Green EDGE Fund approved a sustainability grant of \$975 for the purchasing of 12 Wonder Washes and 2 Spin Dryers for Burton's Sustainability Hall. The project is intended to promote an alternative laundry initiative and provide energy efficient avenues to wash clothes during the annual Ecolympics campaign. Students are encouraged to ask their RA to rent these manual machines for a 3-hour period.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Ecolympics Water Bottles

Approved March 21st, 2012

The Green EDGE Fund provided \$815 for the purchasing of 300 reusable water bottles as incentives to reduce electricity and water consumption during the Ecolympics competition. The water bottles promoted the Office of Environmental Sustainability and the GEF, and are expected to help avoid plastic water bottle consumption by the recipients of the prize.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Johnson House Compost

Approved November 28th, 2011

The GEF approved a sustainability grant to fund the construction of a compost enclosure for the Johnson House Garden for use by student residents. The grant covers \$650 worth of materials and was constructed by an ENVS 101 group in coordination with the Resource Conservation Team and union construction representatives.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Energy Orb Installation

Approved November 8th, 2011

The GEF allocated \$8,000 to fund the total cost of installing 16 new energy orbs in Oberlin College residence halls. These new orbs are an expansion of the Campus Resource Monitoring System and the energy orbs that were installed in six residence halls in 2008.

The visual feedback from energy orbs promotes environmental awareness and stewardship and helps residents increase reduction efforts during the annual Dorm Energy Competition of Ecolympics.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Johnson House Cold Frame Project

Approved October 18th, 2011

The Green EDGE Fund approved the Resource Conservation Team's \$950 grant to fund hand-made cold frames to extend the growing season for their on-campus garden at Johnson House and to increase student participation with gardening. The materials were purchased locally and built by RCT team members during a weekend workshop..

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Rotary International Club's 75th Anniversary Tree Planting

Approved October 17th, 2012

The Green EDGE Fund officially approved a sustainability grant of \$3,000 for the purchase of 30 trees. These trees were part of a gift that the Rotary International Club was giving the city for their 75th anniversary. The GEF pursued this project because the planting of additional trees on campus will offset carbon, provide an opportunity for students to plant the trees, and is highly visible to students and visitors. This particular project also strengthened ties between the GEF and the City of Oberlin. These trees were planted, with the help of the Bonner Center, in October 2012.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

SES for Publicity Services

Approved September 20th, 2011

The Green EDGE Fund approved a donation of \$240 to Students for Environment Sustainability to be used for publicity services. SES was expected to print out stickers advertising the Green EDGE FUND and put them on the existing posters for increased visibility.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Installation of a Walkway and in Zion CDC

Approved May 11th, 2011

The Green EDGE Fund approved a \$5,500 sustainability grant for the construction of an ADA accessible walkway and installation of benches at the Zion Community Development Corporation Legion Field Community Garden.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Replacement of Antiquated Lighting at Oberlin Early Childhood Center

Approved May 11th, 2011

The GEF helped finance \$15,000 worth of electricity and lighting retrofits for Oberlin Early Childhood Center (OECC). This project was pursued for safety reasons as much as resource reduction savings. This project, which would have been an efficiency loan had it occurred on campus, was implemented at the center by a local contractor. After the retrofits, the OECC saw a drop in electricity bills as well as variable costs such as light bulb replacements.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

OSWAMP Rain Gardens

Approved May 11th, 2011

The GEF allocated \$20,000 to Oberlin Stormwater Management Project (OSWAMP) for the design and installation of two rain gardens on Oberlin College's campus. The gardens are used as a sustainable means to mitigate rainwater runoff and erosion on campus. The installation of plants such as deep-rooted native plants and grass sedges stop and reduce water flow from drain sewage systems. The OSWAMP rain gardens reduce the effects of urbanization on streams such as Plum Creek by creating a natural filtration system that prevents excessive pollutants from entering Oberlin's ecosystem.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

WRLC Living in the Vermillion River Watershed

Approved April 25th, 2011

The Green EDGE Fund approved a \$500 sustainability grant to help the Western Reserve Land Conservancy cover the cost of printing 5,000 additional copies of the book *Living in the Vermillion Watershed*. This furthered ecological literacy in our community.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

West Virginia Fruit Trees

Approved April 22nd, 2011

The GEF granted \$482 towards the purchase of 35 fruit trees to be donated and planted in Coal River, West Virginia. The fruit trees will provide local and more sustainable fruit to residents of the community.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Solarity Donation for Publicity

Approved April 22nd, 2011

The Green EDGE Fund approved a \$500 donation to Solarity to be used for publicity purposes. Funds were used to purchase indoor plants that will be donated to various buildings around the school to help increase connectedness to nature and to green our campus.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Expansion of the OCS Community Garden

Approved April 14th, 2011

The GEF provided \$15,000 to expand and improve the Oberlin Community Services building's community garden to increase productivity and accessibility to healthy and fresh produce. The garden is run through volunteer labor and its produce goes directly to those in need in the community rather than being sold.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Infrastructural Upgrades to the Prospect Learning Garden

Approved April 14th, 2011

The Green EDGE Fund officially approved a \$2,600 sustainability grant to fund infrastructural improvements to the Prospect Learning Garden at Prospect Elementary. This covered the construction of a tool shed, materials and labor to construct a fence, mulch and topsoil, seeds, fruit trees, a rain barrell, and tools.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Wonder Wash for SEED House

Approved March 8th, 2011

The Green EDGE Fund officially approved a \$62 sustainability grant to fund a hand-cranked washing machine for SEED House, allowing them to reduce their water and electricity consumption.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Organic Cotton T-shirts

Approved February 16th, 2011

The Green EDGE Fund officially approved a sustainability grant of \$4,000 to the Office of Communications to cover the cost difference between organic and conventional cotton t-shirts for their Class of 2015 t-shirt mailing. 2,500 t-shirts were purchased and mailed out.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

POWER Community Based Social Marketing Campaign

Approved February 16th, 2011

The Green EDGE Fund approved a \$9,000 sustainability grant for POWER to fund the total costs of conducting research on the perceived barriers to and benefits of household energy efficiency improvements, and implementing a marketing campaign aimed at increasing the number of homeowners insulating and weatherizing their homes. This was done because it would greatly increase POWER's capacity to connect low-income Oberlin homeowners with resources available to help improve their homes' energy efficiency.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Kahn Hall Composting

Approved February 3rd, 2011

The GEF approved a sustainability grant of up to \$1,000 for the purchase of a compost tumbler, scale, and wheelbarrow to help finance Oberlin College's first dorm-wide composting system, organized by the Compost Work Group and maintained by residents of Kahn Hall.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Tree Planting Event

Approved February 3rd, 2011

The GEF provided a \$250 sustainability grant to fund Professor Janet Fiskio's Climate Change class 10/10/10 Day of Action tree planting event. The six purchased trees were planted by college and community volunteers at Trail Magic, the carbon neutral home of Carl McDaniel on East College Street.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Conservation Team Free Store Mural

Approved January 10th, 2011

The Green EDGE Fund provided a \$250 sustainability grant to fund a mural painted by Oberlin students to be installed in the Free Store. This will bring educational art to the Free Store and the Oberlin campus, bringing further awareness to environmental issues.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

High-Altitude Wind Power

Approved December 13th, 2010

In December 2010, the GEF approved a grant of \$2,500 to fund a student research project that sought to determine the feasibility of small-scale high-altitude wind power in Lorain County. The grant provided a generator, a weather balloon, and the materials to build a turbine.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

George Jones Farm Pond Construction

Approved December 13th, 2010

The Green EDGE Fund officially a sustainability grant of \$12,500 to fund the total cost of designing and building an irrigation pond at the George Jones Farm. This was done in the interest of creating a sustainable source of water for the farm, reducing their costs of operation and consumption of treated water.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

CDS Stevenson Balcony Garden

Approved December 13th, 2010

An ENVS 101 group and the CDS Recyclers proposed that garden boxes be placed along the balcony railing of Stevenson Dining Hall. The GEF approved a grant to \$3,250 to fund this culinary herb garden, creating a sustainable and local source of herbs for Stevenson.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

George Jones Farm Pond Construction

Approved May 18th, 2010

The GEF approved a grant of up to \$6,000 to help pay for the construction of an irrigation pond for the George Jones Farm. This creates a sustainable source of water for the farm, reducing the farm's construction of treated water and related operating costs. Annual consumption was expected to decrease by 1,171 ccf, worth approximately \$1,431.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Johnson House Garden

Approved May 9th, 2010

The Green EDGE Fund provided \$6,000 worth of start-up funds for a student-run garden behind a residence hall on campus, providing a unique educational opportunity for Oberlin students. The produce from the garden goes to college dining halls and coops.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Compost Tumbler for Union Street

Approved spring of 2009.

The GEF allocated a grant of \$500 for a compost tumbler for the organic materials generated by students living in Union Street Village Housing. The compost tumbler was installed near Union Street housing during the summer of 2009.

No Approval Document available.

Replacement of CRT Monitors

Approved December 8th, 2009

The GEF approved a grant of \$2,500 to replace old CRT monitors in research laboratories with efficient, ENERGY STAR LCD monitors. The project proposal was developed by Walt Owens, and the project is the GEF's first collaboration with the Technology Store.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Spin Dryer for SEED House

Approved spring of 2009

The GEF provided Student Experiment in Ecological Design (SEED) House with a grant of \$150 for a spin dryer to make their laundry system more sustainable and efficient. This model uses less electricity than conventional clothes dryers.

No Approval Document available.

POWER Pilot Project

Approved December of 2008

The Green EDGE Fund provided a \$5,000 seed grant to Providing Oberlin With Efficiency Responsibly (POWER) for the establishment of their offset program. POWER weatherizes and insulates low-income and inefficient homes in Oberlin as a carbon offset program. The amount provided was equivalent to insulating two homes, given the insulation estimates provided by POWER.

No Approval Document available.

Previous Efficiency Loan Projects:

Expanding the Dashboard Proposal

Approved May 14th, 2015

The Green EDGE Fund approved an efficiency loan of \$62,500 to fund the first half of the Environmental Dashboard Program. According to conversations with those associated with the Dashboard (John Peterson, Meghan Riesterer, and Sam Hartman), the return on investment was approximately 1 year.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Elevator Lighting Upgrades

Approved May 14th, 2015

The Green EDGE Fund approved an efficiency loan of \$3,418.80 towards the upgrade and installation of 138 cec light bulbs to LED 1383. The old light bulbs had a life 300 hour lifespan, and used 20 Watts. The new LED light bulbs have a 25,000 lifespan, and only use 2.2 Watts. The return on investment for this proposal was 4 months.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

LCD to LED: Switching to Higher-Efficiency TVs

Approved May 6th, 2015

The Green EDGE Fund officially approved an efficiency loan of \$1,200 to switch from LCD TVs to the more environmentally conscious LED TVs for the Environmental Dashboard program.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Langston Hall Low-Flow Showerheads

Approved April 9th, 2015

The Green EDGE Fund officially approved an efficiency loan of \$1,670 to replace 30 high flow ~ 2.5 gpm showerheads in Langston Hall with Niagara low-flow showerheads.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Village Housing Attic Floor Enclosed Cellulose Dense Pack

Approved October 9, 2014

The Green EDGE Fund officially approved an efficiency loan of \$15,000 for the cost of installing attic floor dense packs in applicable Village Housing. The project should pay for itself in 3.7 years.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Village Housing Attic Floor Enclosed Cellulose Dense Pack

Approved October 9, 2014

The Green EDGE Fund officially approved an efficiency loan of \$30,000 for the cost of installing attic floor dense packs in applicable Village Housing. The project should pay for itself in 4.2 years.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Village Housing Air Sealing at Estimated 300 CFM50 Per Hour

Approved October 9, 2014

The Green EDGE Fund officially approved an efficiency loan of \$34,000 for the cost of performing air sealing in applicable Village properties. The project should pay for itself in 4 years.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

\$100,000 Efficiency Loan to Support and Develop Large Scale Projects at OC

Approved May 13th, 2014

The Green EDGE Fund officially approved the transfer of \$100,000 from our sustainability account into our efficiency loan account. Also included was the creation of the OES Liaison to coordinate and develop large-scale efficiency projects at Oberlin College.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Low-Flow Showerhead Retrofits in Union & Goldsmith Apartments

Approved April 27th, 2014

The Green EDGE Fund officially approved an efficiency loan of \$1,400 for the purchase and installation of 33 low-flow showerheads in Village Housing apartments located on Union Street and Goldsmith Lane. Projected savings for this project total 422,400 gallons of water per year with annual monetary savings of approximately \$7,284 per year.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Vegetable Oil Fuel System Conversion of Facilities Tractor

Approved April 27th, 2014

The GEF allocated \$3,800 as an efficiency loan to the Grounds Department of Oberlin College for the parts and labor costs of converting another one of their Kubota tractors to run off of vegetable oil fuel. The conversion is projected to save over 750 gallons of diesel annually, resulting in savings of approximately \$3,112.5 per year. This results in a 1.2 year simple payback period.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Convert Facilities Truck 8 to Run Off Veggie Oil

Approved April 7th, 2013

The GEF allocated \$5,000 to the conversion of a Facilities truck to run off of vegetable oil from CDS. This conversion is estimated to save the college \$6,400 a year from the 2000 gallons of diesel avoided, which means the payback period will be less than one year.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Backhoe Vegetable Oil Conversion

Approved May 2, 2012

The GEF approved an efficiency loan of \$3,500 for the parts and labor costs of equipping a Facilities backhoe with a recycled vegetable oil fuel system. The conversion is projected to save over 2000 gallons of diesel annually, resulting in approximately \$6,400 per year. This

particular investment, and the tractor conversions in general, have 100% payback periods of a single year. This project was part of a now larger-scale initiative to convert the Oberlin College Facilities vehicle fleet from diesel to vegetable oil systems.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Low-Flow Showerheads

Approved May 2nd, 2012

The Green EDGE Fund officially approved an efficiency loan for the purchase of low-flow showerheads in East and Barrows residence halls. This loan was for \$2,000: \$1,000 for the showerheads and \$1,000 for to cover the cost of installation.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

CDS Compost Pulper

Approved August of 2011.

A compost pulper was installed in Stevenson Dining Hall to process post-consumer waste more efficiently. The Green EDGE Fund partially funded this project by providing a grant of \$30,000, and partnered with the Senior Class Gift, Bon Appétit, and capital funding to cover the full cost. The project is expected to save 250,000 gallons of water (under conservative assumptions), 650 ccf natural gas, and four short tons of carbon dioxide annually.

No Approval Document available.

Conversion of Lawn Mower to Run on Veggie Oil

Approved May 11, 2011

The Green EDGE Fund financed the conversion of an Oberlin College Grounds Department lawn mower to be run on vegetable oil. This project cost \$1,750 and is expected to reduce diesel consumption by approximately 125 gallons annually. Annual return on investment is estimated at \$500 per year or 29% based on previous rates of diesel fuel consumption by the converted vehicle. At this rate, the project is expected to pay back fully in approximately 3.4 years.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

High-Efficiency Hand Dryer

Approved April 7th, 2011

The GEF allocated \$5,000 to the purchasing and installing of 6 hand-dryers in Philips Gymnasium and Mudd Library to replace paper towel dispensers. This project is expected to reduce Oberlin College waste production by 1,300 tons annually and produce annual net carbon savings of 2.9 metric tons.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

LED Bulbs for EXIT Signs

Approved February of 2011

The GEF allocated \$1,750 to the purchasing of 100 LED kits to install in EXIT signs on campus that previously used incandescent bulbs.

No Approval Document available.

Wilder Light Sensors

Approved March 17th, 2010

The GEF awarded an efficiency loan of \$4,000 for the purchase and installation of seven light switches and twelve light sensors for Wilder Student Union. The estimated annual electricity saving of 10,666 kWh, and average carbon saving of 23,467 lbs. The estimated annual saving were \$900.27, with a total savings of \$4501.33 over the project's lifespan.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Stevenson Lighting Project

Approved May 13th, 2010

The GEF awarded an efficiency loan of up to \$7,000 for lighting efficiency retrofits in Stevenson dining hall. The expected annual electricity savings were 47,000 kWh, and annual carbon saving of 47 metric tons.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Veggie Oil Tractor Conversion and Filtration Unit: New Holland

Approved May 7th, 2010

The GEF allocated an efficiency loan of \$5,500 to convert a second Facilities tractor to operate on waste vegetable oil, and to purchase a filtration system to purify the waste vegetable oil to fuel-grade SVO for all converted tractors.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Hales Gym Lighting Retrofit

Approved March 3, 2010

The GEF financed a retrofit of the lighting in Hales Gym, which is used heavily by a variety of organizations. The project of replacing inefficient light bulbs with twenty-eight 200W high efficiency CFLs was estimated to cost a total of \$3,000 for equipment and labor.

Annually, this project is expected to save 10,000 kWh, approximately \$1,000, and mitigate carbon emissions on the order of 10 metric tons. Simple payback was expected in 3.2 years.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Firelands Water Efficiency

Approved spring of 2010

The GEF awarded an efficiency loan of \$25,000 to cover the material and labor costs of replacing inefficient toilets and showerheads, and installing faucet aerators in the Firelands apartment complex of college housing.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Village Housing Thermostats and Insulation Upgrades

Approved April 27th, 2009

The GEF provided an efficiency loan of \$10,200 to fund a research project headed by two professors. The research aimed to determine the effectiveness of three different methods of promoting energy efficiency. 31 of Oberlin College's village homes were targeted, with 24 of them receiving one of the three treatments: programmable thermostats, caulking and attic insulation, or financial incentives for reducing energy use. The remaining homes served as controls. Two homes on Woodland Street also received extensive efficiency upgrades from a separate loan under the same research project. The estimated payback time from reduced natural gas use is approximately 8 years.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Veggie-Oil Tractor Conversion

Approved April 17th, 2009

The GEF provided an efficiency loan to the Grounds Department of Oberlin College to convert one of their Kubota tractors to run on vegetable oil. This project is ideal because it reduces consumption of a fossil fuel and the college has ready access to large quantities of leftover vegetable grease from the dining halls. The loan of \$2,895.88 covered the initial equipment and labor costs of the conversion by Sam Merrett of Full Circle Fuels, and simple payback was estimated to occur in 1.13 – 2.26 years or sooner depending on fuel prices.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Low-flow Showerheads in Dascomb

Approved January 26th, 2009

The GEF financed the replacement of thirty 2.35 gallons per minute showerheads with 1.5 gallons per minute showerheads in Dascomb Residence Hall. The project cost \$450 for the purchase and installation of the low-flow showerheads, and has approximate savings of 56,355 gallons of water, 34 CCF of natural gas, and \$866 per year.

[Link to Approval Document.](#)

Water-Heater Jackets in Woodland Street Housing

Approved fall of 2008

The Green EDGE Fund took on its first project with the installation of insulating water heater jackets in college-owned Woodland Street houses. The cost of purchasing and installing one water heater jacket was between \$30 and \$40. Jackets were installed on more than 20 water heaters, reducing water-heating costs by an estimated 4-9% per year.

No Approval Document available.