

The Green EDGE Fund

2019-2020 Annual Report



Table of Contents

Introduction to the Green EDGE Fund

Mission Statement.....[3](#)

Funding Structure.....[3](#)

Green EDGE Fund Members.....[4](#)

Meeting Times, Minutes.....[4](#)

Projects Approved in 2019-2020

Sustainability Grants.....[6](#)

Efficiency Loans.....[13](#)

Carbon Management Fund Projects.....[14](#)

Previous Projects

Fall 2018.....[14](#)

Spring 2019.....[15](#)

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 College & City community while promoting innovation and education and projects at Oberlin College that meaningfully improve efficiency and reduce resource consumption. We define sustainability as “an assemblage of mutual interests between social equity, viable economics, and a healthy environment. The sustainable society is one that recognizes these interconnected mutual interests and creates productive affiliations between them.”

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

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 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. 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

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 2019

Chair: Olivia Vasquez '20

Vice-Chair: Audrey Kamal '22

Treasurer: Emily Rosenberg '22

Public Outreach Coordinator: Wenling Li '21

Community Liaison/Project Generator: Hannah Scholl '21

Account Manager/Community Liaison: Phoebe von Conta '22

Secretary: Johan Cavert '20

OES Liaison: Stephan Ciulla '21

Board Advisors: Ben Hobbs

Administrative Advisors: Heidi Pycraft

Spring 2020

Chair: Olivia Vasquez '20

Vice-Chair: Audrey Kamal '22

Treasurer: Emily Rosenberg '22

Public Outreach Coordinator: Wenling Li '21

Community Liaison/Project Generator: Hannah Scholl '21

Account Manager/Community Liaison: Phoebe von Conta '22

Secretary: Johan Cavert '20

OES Liaison: Stephan Ciulla '21

Board Administrators: Ben Hobbs

Administrative Advisors: Heidi Pycraft

Spring 2020 Hires:

Alayna Bierly '22, Noemi Duker'23, Justin Lee'22, and Nina Liloia '22

Meeting Times, Minutes

During the fall 2019 semester, the Green EDGE Fund Board met regularly on Wednesday from 12:15 pm - 1:15 pm EST in the Adam Joseph Lewis Center (AJLC) in the conference room. The student board would meet on Sunday afternoons to prepare for the weekly board meetings and tasks. During the first half of the spring 2020 semester, the Green EDGE Fund Board met regularly on Mondays 12:15 pm - 1:15 pm in the AJLC, 1024. Student board meetings took place on Sunday afternoons. Due to COVID-19, both meeting times were shifted to Zoom for the remainder of the semester. Link to the minutes from fall 2019 to spring 2020 [here](#).

Projects Approved in 2019-2020

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 the duration of project development and implementation.

Sustainability Grants Approved

Fall 2019

Projects

George Jones Farm Food Forest

Approved October 3, 2019

Summary: This project was approved in the fall of 2019, the board awarded funds to Maya Seckler for the purchase of perennial crops and irrigation equipment for her George Jones Farm Food Forest project.

Background Premise: The project was contingent on the agricultural education components this project will provide. It is expected to be used as a part of an ENVS 101 Community Based Education project.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: The project came to a total cost of \$5,791.00, while there is not a clear and calculable payback, it promotes sustainability through the form of sustainable agricultural education. The Food Forest would also serve to grow food for City Fresh, a local produce distributor and nonprofit in Oberlin.

Link to [Approval Document](#)

Link to [Proposal](#)

Gap Grants for Energy Efficiency and Requisite Small Repairs

Approved November 18, 2019

Summary: This project was approved in the fall of 2019, the board awarded funds to POWER - Providing Oberlin With Efficiency Responsibly, for the use of providing gap grants to Oberlin homeowners and residents. These gap grants provide extra funds for residents to pay for home heating improvements in emergency situations. David Snyder acted as a representative of this project throughout this process.

Background Premise: This project was contingent on the verbal communication between Ben Hobbs and POWER regarding the allowance of up to \$5,000 or 2 furnaces to be replaced in emergency situations. Additionally, this project is contingent on the City of Oberlin's efforts of improving energy efficiency in low-income households.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: This project came to a total cost of \$20,000.00. Although there is no calculable payback, it promotes energy efficiency and acts with the interest of humanitarian needs. This project works on increasing energy efficiency within the City of Oberlin and within low-income homes.

Link to [Approval Document](#)

Link to [Proposal](#)

Legion Field Community Garden Sustainable Improvements

Approved November 2, 2019

Summary: This project was approved in the fall of 2019, the board awarded funds to the Legion Field Community Garden for the purposes of improving the garden through the replacement of garden raised beds, fencing, and the composting system.

Background Premise: The project was contingent on the continued support of the LFCG's initiative in promoting sustainable food production practices, along with the sustainable management of Oberlin's land, water, and waste materials.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: The project came to a total cost of \$1,358.02, there is no clear and calculable financial paybacks. However, the Legion Field Community Garden provides many different education programs on sustainable land and resource management in addition to its community garden program.

Link to [Approval Document](#)

Link to [Proposal](#)

High School Internship Legion Field Garden with Revised Budget

Approved November 3, 2019

Summary: This project was approved in the fall of 2019, the board awarded funds to the Legion Field Community Garden for their high school internship program.

Background Premise: This project was contingent on the continued support and relationship with the LFCG's continued efforts in promoting sustainable food production education among community youth and their subsequent benefits.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: This project came to a total cost of \$8,153.65, with no clear and calculable financial paybacks. However, we see the increase in sustainability of natural resources and their benefits to the community through this program as a payback.

Link to [Approval Document](#)

Link to [Proposal](#)

Urban Forestry Initiative

Approved January 7, 2020

Summary: This project was approved in the fall of 2019, the board awarded funds to the Urban Forestry Initiative proposed by Jeff Bauman on behalf of the City of Oberlin, for the purpose of purchasing trees for the city's urban forest.

Background Premise: This project was contingent on the continued support and relationship with the City of Oberlin and the Public Works Department. This project supports the implementation of green infrastructure and has a positive impact on local environmental resiliency.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: This project came to a total cost of \$5,000.00, with no clear and calculable financial paybacks. However, we see that urban forests increase carbon sequestration, improves air quality, and contribute to an overall greener Oberlin.

Link to [Approval Document](#)

Link to [Proposal](#)

Chimney Swift Tower at WRLC

Approved November 19, 2019

Summary: This project was approved in the fall of 2019. The board awarded funds to the Chimney Swift Tower within Lorain County proposed by the Western Reserve Land Conservancy. This project aims at building a chimney swift tower and its educational component of the involvement of the local Girls Scout Troop.

Background Premise: This project was contingent on the continued support of wildlife conservation and educational efforts facilitated by this project and its relationship with the Girl Scouts, the Black River Audubon, and the Ohio Ornithological Society.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: This project came to a total cost of \$554.00, with no clear and calculable financial paybacks. However, we recognize the community and environmental benefits of educating community youth on conservation and the continued efforts of environmental stewardship in protecting the native species of the chimney swift.

Link to [Approval Document](#)

Link to [Proposal](#)

Free Store Mending Station

Approved December 9, 2019

Summary: This project was approved in the fall of 2019, the board awarded funds to the Free Store Mending project. This project aims at increasing the Free Store, managed by the Resource Conservation Team, capacity to supply materials needed to reuse and upcycle materials and provide education resources to the Oberlin community.

Background Premise: This project is contingent on the collaboration with the Resource Conservation Team and the education components on reusing and upcycling textile materials.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: The project came to a total cost of \$214.79, with no clear and calculable financial paybacks. However, we recognize the importance of supporting the reuse, repurposing, and repair of clothing and fabrics.

Link to [Approval Document](#)

Link to [Proposal](#)

Bike Fix-It Stations

Approved January 8, 2020

Summary: This project was approved in the fall of 2019 when the board awarded funds to the Bike Fix-It Stations project. The project aims to build on prior efforts and the existing presence of fix-it stations on campus by providing new pumps and new stations throughout the college and town. By investing in bicycle infrastructure, GEF aims to support breaking down financial, behavioral, monetary, and accessibility barriers to local bicycle ridership.

Background Premise: This project is contingent on the future support of bicycle maintenance throughout Oberlin and the Oberlin community.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: The project came to a total cost of \$8,935.00, with no clear and calculable financial paybacks. However, we recognize the importance of making bike infrastructure and maintenance available and accessible.

Link to [Approval Document](#)

Link to [Proposal](#)

Buying Reusable Menstrual Products for SIC

Approved December 22, 2019

Summary: This project was approved in the fall of 2019, the board awarded funds to the Buying Reusable Menstrual Products proposed by the Sexual Information Center (SIC). This project aims to increase the amount of available reusable menstrual products to meet current and future needs.

Background Premise: This project is contingent on the continued support and relationship with the SIC and their efforts towards sustainability and sustainable education.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: The project came to a total cost of \$1,455.43, with no clear and calculable financial paybacks. However, we recognize the need and importance of providing reusable menstrual products.

Link to [Approval Document](#)

Link to [Proposal](#)

GEF Fall Banquet

Approved December 9, 2019

Summary: This project was approved in the fall of 2019, the board awarded funds to the Green EDGE Fund Banquet: A Sustainability Celebration. This project aims to support this event and its efforts to bring the Oberlin community and college together.

Background Premise: This project is contingent on this event and its influence to serve as a structure for future events held by the Green EDGE Fund.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: This project came to a total cost of \$850.00, with no clear and calculable financial paybacks. However, we recognize the importance of fostering city and college relations especially within the context of working towards the goal of sustainability.

Link to [Approval Document](#)

Link to [Proposal](#)

Sustainability Grants Approved Spring 2020

Build-A-Garden

Approved April 7, 2020

Summary: This project was approved in the spring of 2020, the board awarded funds to the Build-A-Garden project proposed by Oberlin Community Services. This project aims to increase garden access for people in Lorain County. This project will provide participants with materials and educational support to create their own gardens.

Background Premise: This project is contingent on the continued support and relationship with Oberlin Community Services and its efforts to combat food insecurity within Lorain County.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: This project came to a total cost of \$2,000.00 with no clear and calculable financial paybacks. However, we recognize the importance of supporting educational efforts in creating sustainable and innovative gardening to community members.

Link to [Approval Document](#)

Link to [Proposal](#)

Installation and Implementation of Environmental Dashboard in Oberlin's New PreK-5 School

Approved April 6, 2020

Summary: This project was approved in the spring of 2020, the board awarded funds to the Installation and Implementation of Environmental Dashboard Monitoring, Display and Educational Programming in Oberlin's New PreK-5 School, proposed by Oberlin Public Schools.

Background Premise: This project is contingent on the continued support of environmental education and its integration into schools through the Environmental Dashboard.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: This project came to a total cost of \$45,331.87 with no clear and calculable financial paybacks. However, we recognize the importance of fostering environmental stewardship and awareness among youth through the use of the Environmental Dashboard within the Oberlin community.

Link to [Approval Document](#)

Link to [Proposal](#)

Oberlin Prairie Improvements and Wildflower Giveaway

Approved: May 27, 2020

Summary: This project was approved in the spring of 2020, the board awarded funds for portions of the Oberlin Prairie Improvements Project, proposed by the Western Reserve Land Conservancy. Specifically, the Board funded a Bike and Bench installation and also funded structural improvements to the Chimney Swift Tower, as well as the installation of an informational kiosk.

Background Premise: This project is contingent on the continued support of the Oberlin Prairie and the Western Reserve Land Conservancy's efforts of conservation.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: This project came to a total cost of \$13,519.90 with no clear and calculable financial paybacks. However, we recognize the benefits of encouraging more community members to explore the prairie and all the educational opportunities it offers. We believe that the bike rack, and bench will help to make the Prairie more accessible to visitors and encourage sustainable transportation to the Prairie. We believe the Chimney Swift Tower improvements will extend the project's lifetime and continue to promote environmental education through its informational kiosk, and will support wildlife conservation efforts.

Link to [Approval Document](#)

Link to [Proposal](#)

OCS Farm Field Gleaning Pilot Project

Approved: May 19, 2020

Summary: This project was approved in the spring of 2020, the board awarded funds to the Farm Field Gleaning Pilot Project proposed by Oberlin Community Services. This project has the objective of improving local food systems and reducing food waste.

Background Premise: This project is contingent on the continued support of Oberlin Community Services and its efforts to support the Oberlin community.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: This project came to a total cost of \$5,960.00 with no clear and calculable financial paybacks. However, we recognize the importance of this project within Oberlin. We have pursued this project because we value the work Oberlin Community Services does for the Oberlin community, especially during these uncertain times. We recognize the importance of creating more sustainable food systems with the combined efforts of reducing food waste.

Link to [Approval Document](#)

Link to [Proposal](#)

OCS Garden Outreach

Approved: May 23, 2020

Summary: This project was approved in the spring of 2020, the board awarded funds to the Garden Outreach Project proposed by Oberlin Community Services. The objective of this project is to support and provide community members with information and resources to grow their own food.

Background Premise: This project is contingent on the continued support of Oberlin Community Services and its efforts to support the Oberlin Community.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: This project came to a total cost of \$12,000.00 with no clear and calculable financial paybacks. However, we recognize the importance of Oberlin Community Services' work in providing Oberlin Community members with resources to create and maintain their own gardens.

Link to [Approval Document](#)

Link to [Proposal](#)

Oberlin Food Hub Warehouse

Approved: May 22, 2020

Summary: This project was approved in the spring of 2020, the board awarded funds to the Oberlin Food Hub Warehouse project proposed by the Oberlin Food Hub. The objective of this project is to increase capacity at the Oberlin Food Hub for the warehousing, sorting, packing, processing, and distributing of local foods from hyper-local farms. This project emerged in the last 6 months as the Oberlin Food Hub's operations have grown. The need has increased with the addition of Coronavirus-related feeding programs, particularly for "grab and go" meals for K-12 schools in Northeast Ohio.

Background Premise: This project is contingent on the continued support of the Oberlin Food Hub and its efforts in the Oberlin community.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: This project came to a total cost of \$45,331.87 with no clear and calculable financial paybacks. However, we recognize the importance because we want to continue supporting efforts to create sustainable food systems in the Oberlin Community. We have pursued this project because we are excited to work with the Oberlin Food Hub in their effort to bring local food to the Oberlin community, particularly as their operations grow as a result of Coronavirus-related feeding programs.

Link to [Approval Document](#)

Link to [Proposal](#)

Efficiency Loans Approved

There were no Efficiency Loans approved during the fall of 2019 and spring of 2020.

Carbon Management Fund Projects

There were no Carbon Management Fund projects during the fall of 2019 and spring of 2020.

Previously Approved Projects

Projects that have been officially approved by the GEF during the 2018 - 2019 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 project development and implementation.

Fall 2018

Title	Type	Amount Funded	Approval Doc
Art in the Community	Sustainability Grant	\$360.00	Approval Doc
Build-A-Garden Project Expansion	Sustainability Grant	\$3,000.00	Approval Doc
People's Garden Winter Project	Sustainability Grant	\$11,200.00	Approval Doc
AJLC Lighting Retrofit - Phase II	Sustainability Grant	\$8,000.00	Approval Doc
Reusable Bags for OC Students	Sustainability Grant	\$6,200.00	Approval Doc

Spring 2019

Title	Type	Amount Funded	Approval Doc
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Carbon Neutrality Implementation Plan: Phase II	Sustainability Grant	\$133,000.00	Approval Doc
Increasing the Biodiversity of the Living Machine	Sustainability Grant	\$500.00	Approval Doc
Expanding Semi-Processed Hyper-Local Veggies to K-12 Schools	Sustainability Grant	\$9,800.00	Approval Doc
2018 Fall Oberlin Interact Backpack Program	Sustainability Grant	\$635.24	Approval Doc
Pollinator Education Project	Sustainability Grant	\$1,246.00	Approval Doc
Gap Grants for Energy Efficiency and Requisite Small Repairs	Sustainability Grant	\$20,000.00	Approval Doc
Legion Field Community Garden Sustainable Improvements	Sustainability Grant	\$1,875.80	Approval Doc
Williams Field House Lighting Retrofit	Sustainability Grant	\$30,576.15	Approval Doc
AJLC - Improving Biodiversity of the Barrier Woodlands	Sustainability Grant	\$800.00	Approval Doc
Bringing Green New Deal to Oberlin	Sustainability Grant	\$422.00	Approval Doc
High School Garden Internship Program	Sustainability Grant	\$8,153.65	Approval Doc
Local Pollinators Garden	Sustainability Grant	\$2,850.00	Approval Doc
OCS Summer People's Garden Project	Sustainability Grant	\$4,410.00	Approval Doc
Slow Train/The Local Community Greening	Sustainability Grant	\$1,000.00	Approval Doc
Building Community One Home at a Time in Partnership with Oberlin Land Trust Project	Sustainability Grant	\$50,000.00	Approval Doc

Material Collection Stations Project	Sustainability Grant	\$34,312.00	Approval Doc
Phillis Wheatley Community Center Renovation Project	Sustainability Grant	\$12,500.00	Approval Doc
Copeland-Peace Preserve Signage Project	Sustainability Grant	\$13,688.00	Approval Doc
Reusable Drinking Straws Project	Sustainability Grant	\$5,500.00	Approval Doc
Funding of 25% of the Mudd Lighting Retrofit	Efficiency Loan	\$19,334.10	Approval Doc