



# GREEN FUND

**Date:** March 16, 2015

**To:** University of Arizona Students, Faculty, and Staff  
**From:** The UA Green Fund Committee

**Subject:** Advice Allocations Fiscal Year 2016

The Green Fund Committee has recommended and the Senior Vice President, Student Affairs and Enrollment Management and Senior Vice Provost, University of Arizona has accepted the following allocations from the Green Fund Committee for Fiscal Year 2016.

**Green Fund Committee Recommended Funding  
Open Board Meeting held March 3, 2015.**

## Green Fund FY16 Recommendations

Project #	Project Title	Department	Funding Requested	Committee Recommends
GF 16.01	The UA Community Garden	ASUA	\$5,800	\$5,800
GF 16.02	2015 UA Food Day Fair	Campus Health Service	\$6,500	\$3,000
GF 16.03	Rincon Heights Herb and Pollinator Garden	Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	\$16,100	\$11,600
GF 16.04	Redesign to Reconnect	Social and Behavioral Sciences	\$14,500	Declined
GF 16.05	UA Sierra Vista	Cooperative Extension	\$31,900	\$31,900
GF 16.06	MycoCats: Recycling with Mushrooms	Plant Sciences	\$47,200	\$47,200
GF 16.07	Linking Edible Forests	Soil, Water, and Environmental Science	\$53,800	\$20,900
GF 16.09	Solar Water Pumping Demonstration Systems	Agricultural Education	\$5,000	\$5,000
GF 16.11	Highland Garage Cistern	ASUA	\$9,900	\$9,900

GF 16.12	Ring Road/JPN Stormwater Harvesting	Planning, Design, and Construction	\$38,000	Declined
GF 16.13	Aquaponics and Education	Education	\$27,100	\$27,100
GF 16.14	Agricultural Renewable Energy	Agricultural Education	\$32,100	Declined
GF 16.16	James 4-H Camp	Arizona 4-H Youth	\$41,300	\$30,000
GF 16.20	From Footprint to Pawprint	Residence Life	\$5,000	\$5,000
GF 16.21	Greening the Game	ASUA	\$6,300	\$6,300
GF 16.22	Sky School Sustainability	School of Natural Resources and the Environment	\$9,400	\$6,400
GF 16.25	Reducing Household Waste in Off-Campus Populations	Cooperative Extension	\$32,400	Declined
GF 16.26	McClelland Hall Zero Waste	Eller School of Management	\$57,000	\$14,300
GF 16.29	Compost Cats	ASUA	\$48,800	\$48,800
GF 16.31	Sustainability & Science Curriculum at Biosphere 2	Biosphere 2	\$12,500	\$8,500
GF 16.32	GPS Tracking System for ASUA SafeRide Vehicles	ASUA	\$7,200	Declined
GF 16.33	Building a Sustainability Initiative to Drive the UA 100% Engagement Goal	Office of Sustainability	\$17,500	\$17,500
GF 16.35	Enabling a Data and Mapping System	Planning, Design, and Construction	\$23,800	Declined
GF 16.36	UA Green Team	Office of Sustainability	\$23,300	\$23,300
GF 16.40	Cooperative Extension and Externships	Cooperative Extension	\$38,000	\$38,000
GFMG 15.22	Lose the Plastic!	Public Health	\$700.00	\$700.00
GFMG 15.23	PAC12- Zero Waste Challenge	Office of Sustainability	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00

**Funds Available to Allocate – FY2016**  
**Board Approved Allocations – FY2016**

**\$362,000**  
**\$360,500**

## **Green Fund Committee Funding Rationale:**

### **GF 16.01: The UA Community Garden**

This proposal seeks funding of \$5,800 to pay a manager to oversee the garden for the FY16 school-year, to put on a permaculture workshop and to cover general garden costs such as maintenance and water. The committee recommends full funding in the amount of \$5,800.

#### Specific Committee Feedback:

- I really like this project's connection between food and sustainability and the collaboration with other organizations both on and off campus.
- I'm a little concerned about whether this project, and others, will continue to require funding year after year from Green Fund, which ties up the funding for new projects. But, it's a relatively small amount and brings sustainability down to an individual level.
- This is such a great project, which has obviously grown a lot over the years.
- I'm in support of funding this grant to get the UACG one step closer to being financially stable.

### **GF 16.02: UA Food Day Fair**

This proposal seeks funding of \$6,500 to pay for the rental of two large tents and for healthy food samples provided by UA Culinary Services' *Smart Moves* 2015 options at UA Food Day. The committee recommends part funding in the amount of \$3,000 to pay for the tent rental.

#### Specific Committee Feedback:

- Without a doubt, UA Food Day Fair has had a great track record around student engagement and food education. I am happy to see they plan to incorporate more environmentally sustainable facilities such as the "Water Monster" in next year's event.
- Food Day engages a lot of students and is great for visibility of sustainability and the Green Fund. I like the idea of including more food at the event because I think that will engage even more students. I don't like that the event consistently relies on mostly Green Fund dollars.
- I don't like that funding from the Green Fund would go towards food samples that don't necessarily have to do with sustainability or make the event more sustainable. I think the project managers should seek other sources of funding for this or apply for a Green Fund Mini Grant next year if they can find a way to make the food samples more sustainable.

**GF 16.03: Rincon Heights Herb and Pollinator Garden**

This proposal seeks funding of \$16,100 to pay for student employees to develop education and outreach projects and build a shed, a greenhouse and a mushroom hut at the Rincon Heights Community Garden. The committee recommends part funding in the amount of \$11,600 to pay for everything except construction materials to build the mushroom house.

Specific Committee Feedback:

- I like how this involves a neighborhood community and UA students leading workshops and other educational programs.
- This project has done some great outreach to Rincon Heights community members and to local schools.
- I thought that some of the proposed additions, specifically the mushroom shed and the greenhouse, were not justified in the proposal.

**GF 16.04: Redesign to Reconnect**

This proposal request funding of \$14,500 to install a garden in the Maricopa Residence Hall courtyard. The initial project will serve the residents of Historic Lane which includes the Maricopa, Yuma and Gila Halls. The goal is to connect students living on campus to sustainable practices and foster a greater understanding between students and the systems on Earth. The committee does not recommend funding for this project.

Specific Committee Feedback:

- I really like how this project aims to give residence hall students greater access to sustainable and local food.
- I also liked how the grant writers took the time to conduct a survey to show student interest in the project.
- I am concerned that there will not be sustained student interest in the project, especially from the other dorms and that this project will be reliant on Green Fund funding in the future.
- While I support the idea of this project I had some concerns with the feasibility including how the project will sustain interest in the garden when students move out of the dorms year by year as well as ease of access by students not living in Maricopa. Additionally, I felt that the maintenance costs were underestimated.
- I liked that the project aimed to incorporate the garden into resident programming. I also appreciate that a very thorough job was done in working out the particulars and writing the grant.

**GF 16.05: UA Sierra Vista**

This project seeks funding of \$31,900 to create an outdoor classroom area situated in an educational high desert garden on the UA Sierra Vista Campus. Some funds will go to student workers in order to engage UA Sierra Vista students during the building phase of this project. The committee recommends full funding in the amount of \$31,900.

Specific Committee Feedback:

- This project would be a great way to support the sustainability of UA Sierra Vista and help that community to grow.
- Very well thought out project, and I have full faith that it will be executed successfully and have a great impact on the Sierra Vista community.
- This project appears to be planned out very well. The budgets for this project could have been much higher were it not for their efforts to utilize other resources such as community volunteers and existing plant material. So I really appreciate that.

**GF 16.06: MycoCats**

This proposal requests funding for \$47,200 to create systems where fungi will recycle waste generated at the UA campus. This will then generate growth of the mushrooms to be sold to the Student Union Dining Services and students through the School of Plant Sciences. The committee recommends full funding in the amount of \$47,200.

Specific Committee Feedback:

- I think it's great that MycoCats is directly engaging many UA students in the production of fungi, however, since this project relies on student labor there are questions about its ability to produce enough mushrooms/spawn to be self sustaining in future years. The educational aspects of this project are spot on; I think it's time to engage other campus units (Eller, perhaps?) to help with the business aspect.
- One aspect of this project that I really appreciate is the effort to maintain it as an educational model as well as finding ways to bring in revenue. I also like that the MycoCats have fostered many community relationships. One concern is that the project could try selling mushrooms to the Student Union at market price to potentially break even. Additionally I feel that this project exemplifies using campus waste to make a marketable product.

**GF 16.07: Linking Edible Arizona Forests (LEAF) on the UA Campus**

This proposal requests funding in the amount of \$53,800. This project seeks to continue their fruit harvesting efforts on campus. Deliverables would include olive oil and preserves to be sold at the bookstore, harvesting best practice reports, and educational publications and videos. The committee recommends part funding in the amount of \$20,900 to pay for everything except the graduate student salary/ERE and the video equipment.

Specific Committee Feedback:

- I'm a bit concerned about the cost of this project, especially since it is a significantly larger request than last year and there's not really a clear business plan for financial sustainability or independence. For example, the UA library has video equipment for making short clips about LEAF, so I think these kinds of projects should take advantage of existing resources. We were impressed with the quality of the olive oil. It was very tasty.
- This project is very visible and has great success with advertising and project promotion. We appreciate campus relationships with the arboretum and Facilities Management that minimizes waste from the trees.

**GF 16.09: Solar Water Pumping Demonstration Systems**

This proposal requests funding in the amount of \$5,000. This proposal will pay for Solar Water Pumping Demonstration Systems that will help teach undergraduate agricultural students how to install water pumps driven by solar energy. One of the systems will be installed at Tucson Village Farm as a teaching tool for both students and visitors. The other system will be installed at the Agricultural Technology Educational Center teaching facility. The committee recommends full funding in the amount of \$5,000.

Specific Committee Feedback:

- I think this is an excellent use of money from the Green Fund. I like how they have an educational component to it and provide students with an experiential learning opportunity.
- I think this project would have a significant educational impact for the small amount of funds requested and that it will have a permanent educational component both at Tucson Village Farm and at the Agricultural Technology Education Center.

### **GF 16.11: Highland Garage Cistern Project**

This proposal requests funding on a sliding scale from \$9,900 for one cistern to \$38,000 for three cisterns. This proposal lays out the plan to finish the work needed to install water cisterns at Highland Garage. The water collected will be used to offset the UA Community Garden water bill. The committee recommends part funding in the amount of \$9,900 to pay for the installation of one cistern at the Highland Garage located just south of the UA Community Garden.

Specific Committee Feedback:

- I really like this project and, even though it has run into a few roadblocks along the way, this current proposal provides a clear path forward. I like that it can meet some of the watering needs of the community garden, one of their biggest expenses, and if successful could be a great demonstration project for rainwater harvesting and reuse on a large scale.
- I've had some concerns about this project, given all of the obstacles that it has seen in recent years that have held the project back, however, it has a great goal to reduce the water budget and provide for future education about rainwater collection.
- I appreciate that Students for Sustainability wrote a grant to the IT Student Advisory board to cover the costs of their solar/electrical work for these cisterns. It shows this group's initiative in seeking other sources of funding and demonstrates that other UA areas support sustainability projects.

### **GF 16.12: Ring Road/JPN Stormwater Harvesting Proposal**

This proposal requests funding in the amount of \$30,700. This proposal seeks funding to create 10 basins in the Jefferson Park Neighborhood in order to mitigate storm flow, capture pollutants, increase the quality of life for the neighborhood and build University-community relations. The committee does not recommend funding for this project.

Specific Committee Feedback:

- I am really impressed with this project because it tries to tackle a severe flood problem located on the UA campus and adjoining community. I am concerned about the project success due to the number of partners necessary to carry out this project such as the City of Tucson, UA Facility Management and WMG (Watershed Management Group).
- I like the amount of student involvement in the planning and construction of this project, but I don't think Green Fund dollars should be used to fix City or University storm water management problems.

**GF 16.13: Aquaponics and Education**

This proposal requests funding in the amount of \$27,100. This proposal requests funding for graduate and undergraduate students to plan, install and manage four Aquaponics systems at schools and educational centers throughout the state. The funding would also be used for marketing, van rental and conference travel. The committee recommends full funding in the amount of \$27,100.

Specific Committee Feedback:

- I think it's great that it has such a strong educational component to it and will impact multiple communities and stakeholders across Arizona.
- I appreciate that after the costs of setting up the Aquaponics stations, this project does not require any additional funding from the GF to maintain them.

**GF 16.14: Agricultural Technology Education Center: Renewable Energy Demonstration System**

This proposal requests funding in the amount of \$32,100. The funding would be used to acquire the necessary materials and components for the installation of an 8.1 kilowatt grid-tied photovoltaic system which was first installed in 2008 at the Agricultural Technology Education Center. The committee does not recommend funding for this project.

Specific Committee Feedback:

- I like how this PV system in this project is tied to the laboratory classroom so students get to have hands-on experiences and learning after the system is installed
- I am concerned that the Green Fund would be funding infrastructure improvements that should otherwise be funded by the departments.
- There are a number of things I like about this project. I think that for the agriculture students it's an awesome way to get hands on experience. I also like that the technology can be used for a long time and that there was a clear plan for maintaining the system. I wish there were more support from the university outside of the Green Fund in supporting infrastructure projects such as this one where ultimately the university or specific departments will be saving money.

**GF 16.16: University of Arizona James 4-H Camp “Off the Grid” Sustainable Living Initiative**

This proposal requests funding in the amount of \$41,300. This project seeks funding for a solar array system, electric heaters to replace malfunctioning gas heaters, a student worker to develop a sustainable living curriculum for use at the camp, and funding for two student trips to publicize the camp to UA student groups. The committee recommends funding of \$30,000 to install the solar panels and purchase associated equipment.

Specific Committee Feedback:

- The UA James 4-H Camp is a fantastic place with a lot of opportunity to grow and provide students from all backgrounds a unique set of experiences.
- I believe this is a very important proposal which if implemented, will really set the camp up for future endeavors.
- I like how part of the funding aims to draw more visitors from the university to the camp, although I am concerned about the level of interest considering its distance from campus.
- I appreciate that the camp does not plan on asking for more Green Fund funding and I am sure this funding would help the camp succeed in the future.
- Given the high cost of this project, I’m not sure I support paying someone to develop sustainability curriculum. I would like to see the project manager look for volunteers or interns to do this.

**GF 16.20: From Footprint to Pawprint**

This proposal requests funding in the amount of \$5,000. This project seeks funding for the Off Campus Housing Sustainability Coordinator to continue providing education about sustainability to students living in local apartment complexes. The committee recommends full funding in the amount of \$5,000.

Specific Committee Feedback:

- This is a great project that works to disseminate information to students who may not be already involved in sustainability. It incorporates university ideals into off campus lifestyle. I also appreciate that Residence Life is incorporating this position into their program.
- This project has been successful in the past and is already demonstrating their ability to expand. The impact is high at a low cost.

**GF 16.21: Greening the Game: Football and Beyond**

This proposal requests funding in the amount of \$6,300. This project has been highly successful during the past few years in reducing waste at football games and is looking to expand its efforts into softball and baseball. The committee recommends full funding in the amount of \$6,300.

Specific Committee Feedback:

- This project has been very strategic with their approaches to greening different sports, and it has become more efficient with personnel and club stipends this year, which is admirable. I totally support this project and think it's a good fit for the GF, but I wish that the university, through either Facilities Management or Athletics, contributed more support to the project since it is ultimately saving the university money.
- This project has seen great success in the past with very high metrics on how much waste is diverted to be recycled and composted. I also think this project highlights sustainable ideas to people who may not know or be exposed on a regular basis. Additionally I like that the project is expanding to different athletic events and is so high impact for the cost.

**GF 16.22: Sky School Sustainability**

This proposal requests funding in the amount of \$9,400. This project seeks to improve waste management practices at the Sky Center Campus by composting and recycling and to fund a student to develop and pilot a resource sustainability study for the campus. The committee recommends part funding in the amount of \$6,400 to pay for student stipends, compost waste bins, industrial scale, signage, and student curricular materials.

Specific Committee Feedback:

- I appreciate that the Sky School was willing to contribute matching funds for executing the project developed by the sustainability intern. This shows investment in making a change.
- The purpose of the Sustainability Graduate Fellow was a little unclear to me, since it sounded in the application like the graduate fellow would be working on sustainability curriculum in addition to their regular Sky School Graduate Fellow duties.
- I like this project because it serves the community and introduces kids to this education-living lab and the natural beauty of Sky Islands. Even though I don't have much knowledge of this intern identified program, I support this project because of its proximity to the UA community and past success.

### **GF 16.25: Reducing Household Waste in Off-campus Student Populations**

This proposal requests funding in the amount of \$32,400. This project aims to educate students on when food has expired and how to prolong refrigerator life in order to reduce waste produced by students not living on campus. Additionally a website and promotional materials would be developed to educate students. The committee does not recommend funding for this project.

Specific Committee Feedback:

- I liked the idea behind this project but am concerned about the implementation. Behavior changes are really difficult to make, and I'm not sure the household guides or products to extend product freshness are the best strategy for busy college students. I think this project would be better on a smaller scale, to first demonstrate that the proposed strategies work and then in subsequent years to scale it up because the ultimate goal is very important. Perhaps the group can write a mini grant to demonstrate proof of concept?
- This project has a really important goal and can have a very meaningful impact on increasing the health of students as well as demonstrate sustainable living.
- I had concerns about the execution strategy and the success of the project given the high cost. Given that it is still in the pilot stages, I think this project should start out with smaller goals and more clearly define the target population and implementation strategy.

### **GF 16.26: McClelland Hall Zero Waste**

This proposal requests funding in the amount of \$57,000. This proposals aim to reduce the building's environmental footprint by adding 16 Dyson Air blade Dryers and 4 water bottle refill stations. The committee recommends part funding in the amount of \$14,300 to fund 4 hand dryers and 1 water bottle refill station.

Specific Committee Feedback:

- As one of the biggest colleges in our university, any green commitments made by the Eller College of Management show great models that lead the way for other colleges. The involvement between many classes from Eller and different campus groups can also help spread the word out about sustainability. I am not sure how much impact it will have to change student behavior but am confident it is a good start point.
- I like the idea of a zero-waste building on campus and the fact that by supporting this project, we would be sending a message to the University that students want campus buildings to be more sustainable. I don't like the expense of replacing perfectly good water fountains with water bottle refill stations.

### **GF 16.29: Compost Cats**

This proposal requests funding in the amount of \$48,800. This proposal seeks funding to pay student employees to continue current operation of the Compost Cats organization. The funding would also be used for maintenance, fuel, safety supplies, and general operations expenses. The committee recommends full funding in the amount of \$48,800.

Specific Committee Feedback:

- Compost Cats has become an iconic, student-driven grassroots sustainability initiative on campus.
- It's vital that we support this program for the fiscal year as it will bring it one step closer to becoming financially independent and sustainable.
- This project has accomplished an impressive amount since its inception in 2011. It is an excellent example of student involvement and engaging the community in sustainability. Thank you to the Tohono O'Odham Nation for being so generous with their space, which has been essential to the success of this project. Thank you to the City of Tucson for the working partnership.

### **GF 16.31: Sustainability Science Curriculum at Biosphere 2**

This proposal requests funding in the amount of \$12,500. The project will develop a new curriculum focused on sustainability to be taught during outreach field trips at Biosphere 2. Approximately 10 advanced UA science undergraduate students, and 10 advanced UA student teachers will be invited to attend a 2-day working retreat, with additional follow up meetings and conversations to complete the implementation of the course. The committee recommends part funding in the amount of \$8,500 to pay for everything but the undergraduate student salary/ere.

Specific Committee Feedback:

- One aspect of this project is that it brings together both STEM students and student teachers to develop a curriculum with school teachers; it brings together many groups with different types of expertise.
- I am concerned that \$4,000 for student wages is not the best use of GF money. It is our hope that students will still be interested in this opportunity even if it isn't paid.
- One aspect that I like about this project is that it engages university students to develop the curriculum that will teach younger students what sustainability is. While the content of the curriculum was not yet determined I did like that the focus was on aspects of sustainability applicable to the Biosphere. I also feel confident that the demand for a sustainability curriculum means that the materials developed will be widely used.

**GF 16.32 GPS Tracking System for ASUA SafeRide Vehicles**

This proposal requests funding in the amount of \$7,200. This project is seeking funding for one year of service for GPS systems for SafeRide vehicles. Though the use of GPS technology, SafeRide hopes to save fuel and operate more efficiently. The committee does not recommend funding for this project.

Specific Committee Feedback:

- I really like the goal of this project, as it is such a widely used UA Service and could have some benefits from becoming more sustainable. However, I wish there was a wider educational impact and more of an environmental benefit with such an expensive project.
- I like that this project has the potential to raise sustainability awareness to a new part of the student body, but even if the project enables driving efficiency improvements, the resulting environmental impact would be very small.

**GF 16.33: Building a Sustainability Initiative to Drive the UA 100% Engagement Goal**

This proposal requests funding in the amount of \$17,500. This project is seeking funding to employ students to fulfill the Green Engagement Guide and compile sustainability engagement opportunities throughout Tucson. The committee recommends full funding in the amount of \$17,500.

Specific Committee Feedback:

- Excellent opportunity for students to gain valuable networking and project experience.
- This is an important project which will greatly increase community-UA relations and will continue to strengthen the collaborative efforts between the different stakeholders.
- I like how this project aligns with the University's student engagement goals and aims to provide experiences that can be put on student's transcripts.
- I am concerned that this would add significant workload to the Office of Sustainability with its limited budget, but this project would help the Office of Sustainability grow.

**GF 16.35: Enabling a Data and Mapping System**

This proposal requests funding in the amount of \$23,800. This project seeks to develop a database and web mapping system for campus sustainability data in order to increase the visibility of sustainability projects and expand student engagement. The committee does not recommend funding for this project.

Specific Committee Feedback:

- I am concerned about how this project overlaps with (or should be coordinated with) the ongoing Green Engagement Guide efforts. It has a lot of potential to list not only what is already being done around campus related to sustainability, but also to list opportunities for students to become engaged in sustainability efforts. As proposed, I'm not sure who the target audience or users are.
- I don't feel that this is a necessary project, given the current status of the Green Engagement Guide and all of the information it will provide. I am not sure that putting ongoing projects on a map will give students the opportunity to engage in them.

**GF 16.36: UA Green Team**

This proposal requests funding in the amount of \$23,300. This proposal seeks funding to hire six undergraduate students, who will receive training in ways to make events around campus or hosted by campus organizations more green -- by doing things such as having recycling stations, coordinating with Compost Cats, and using the Water Monster. These students will be assigned to different organizations, such as ASUA, and act as advisors. The team will also produce a "Green Events" guide that compiles all campus resources to help with sustainability and can be distributed around campus. The committee recommends full funding in the amount of \$23,300.

Specific Committee Feedback:

- I believe that as the campus wide sustainability movement continues, refinement into more micro-level, individual events are crucial. This project serves exactly this purpose. I was cautious about the feasibility of this project based on limited staffing in the Office of Sustainability.
- I think there is a real need for this project because information about greening events is not readily available. The impact potential is huge, but there's no way to know how successful it may be in actually greening events. I'm concerned that the green events guide developed by the end of this project might not be enough to make events greener after the project ends and the green team no longer exists.

**GF 16.40: Cooperative Extension and Externships**

This proposal requests funding in the amount of \$38,000. This project aims to fund 12 externs and a project manager to work on various sustainability projects in communities throughout Arizona. The committee recommends full funding in the amount of \$38,000.

Specific Committee Feedback:

- This is another flagship, model program and hopefully will continue to have a huge cumulative impact on communities across the state.
- Provides invaluable, paid experience to students seeking careers in a sustainability-related field after college.
- This project has a history of meaningful student engagement. Many of the students return to their home communities to do projects. Extends the reach of the university and the Green Fund.
- It would be nice to see this project pursue some alternative sources of funding.