



NAU

Green Fund

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NAU Green Fund finances Climate Action Plan

The Northern Arizona University Green Fund is excited to announce that it is providing majority funding for the NAU Climate Action Plan (CAP), a strategic document that will guide the university towards lessening consumption and carbon emissions and creating a more sustainable institution. The Green Fund is a committee of students, staff, and faculty who oversee the funds paid by students from the Green Fee. The Green Fund voted on April 24th, 2020 to allocate a portion of their yearly budget to support the CAP and ensure that initial planning could begin as soon as possible. This step has allowed NAU to hire consultants from AEI Engineering who will compile and analyze data on emissions and resource usage campus wide to develop targets and roadmaps for the CAP.

This approval of funding for the Climate Action Plan reinforces that climate and carbon neutrality are priorities of NAU's student body. It also comes at a critical time for sustainability work at the university. In 2010, NAU created its first Climate Action Plan, which centered around the goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2020. Unfortunately, despite this plan creating the foundation for various facets of sustainability work on campus such as the Office of Sustainability and the Green Fund, it was not enough to reach an ambitious goal in only a decade. The 2020 plan will improve upon this with more detail, including specific carbon reduction targets with active tracking and substantial commitments from stakeholders on and off campus.

A subsequent Sustainable Action Plan was drafted in 2015 to support and expand upon the 2010 plan, but likewise fell short. In 2018, Flagstaff passed its Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, with a new goal of carbon neutrality by 2030, and declared a City Climate Emergency. This spurred the university to reevaluate its own efforts and align more closely with Flagstaff's initiatives. The steps taken by the city of Flagstaff, in combination with the ever-growing impacts of climate change in our region, brought NAU to work towards the creation of a more thorough, well-planned CAP that sets realistic goals that can be achieved through concrete steps and realistic action items.

Upon the initiation of the new Climate Action Plan, the university will be able to ensure that both the campus and greater Flagstaff communities will be increasingly resilient to the impacts of climate change and will be held accountable for their contributions to the issue. Furthermore, it will allow NAU to create a framework for its own sustainable future through the implementation

of the Living Laboratory initiative, which is a concept to define how research, campus needs and student learning can come together to foster an active learning community.

To track the progress of the Climate Action Plan, check out www.nau.edu/cap.

Do you have an idea to make campus more sustainable? Fill out the Green Fund [idea summary!](#)