



GREEN FUND

Sustainability Through Student Innovation

Project Application

Green Fund Mission Statement: “The NAU Green Fund promotes student participation in and provides funding for projects that reduce NAU’s negative impact on the environment and create a culture of sustainability on-campus.”

Requirements for Funding:

- The project must be implemented on campus.
- The person submitting the project must be a NAU student, faculty, or staff member.
- Projects must provide all necessary documents, letters of support, and authorizations prior to submission.

The Green Fund distributes funding on a **reimbursement basis**. Project teams should partner with an administrative office to provide upfront funding for the project. Once the project has been successfully completed, the Green Fund will reimburse the administrative partner.

- All project applications should be submitted to greenfund@nau.edu for review.

Disclaimer: All applications will go through a comprehensive vetting process. We highly recommend meeting with a Green Fund Committee member prior to submitting the application. The Green Fund Committee member will assist you with every step of writing your project application. If your project is approved, you may be asked to provide more detailed information regarding specific deliverables. The Green Fund is not responsible for acquiring the necessary permits, permissions, or approvals for a project, although we are happy to assist with this process if needed. Additionally, the Green Fund does not provide any ongoing maintenance costs. A sponsoring department must take responsibility for operations and management.

Review Process: Upon project application submission, the Green Fund will review your project within two weeks. At this time, the Green Fund will provide comments on the project. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed until all components are submitted. **Note:** The Green Fund Committee only meets during the academic year. All projects submitted outside of the regular academic year will be reviewed at the start of the next academic session.

Contact Information

Project Leader Name: Kiley Feld Phone: 248-953-231 E-mail: kpf53@naue.du

Expected Graduation Date: May 2023

Project Advisor Name: Francisca Alvarado Phone: 520-265-6261

E-mail: francisca.alvarado@sodexo.com

Sponsoring Department: Sodexo (Campus Dining)

Project name: Zero Waste Food Recovery Network Materials

NAU Department/Unit for funding reimbursements (Attach letter of commitment from departmental representative): Sodexo

Project Overview

Executive Summary

Please provide a brief overview of your proposal. Please address how this project will support the goals of the Green Fund (student involvement, creating a culture of sustainability, and lessening NAU's impact):

The Food Recovery Network at NAU is looking to procure reusable, stainless-steel, zero waste alternatives to the disposable aluminum trays that are currently used in food recoveries. We also would like to purchase a stainless-steel cart for transporting trays from the dining hall to volunteers' vehicles to make for an easier and swifter volunteering experience. FRN's mission is to reduce food waste at NAU as much as possible and divert it to community members experiencing food insecurity in Flagstaff. Along with this commitment to food waste reduction, we are also passionate about being low waste in other areas of life, thus we would like to reduce the waste materials associated with our recoveries as much as possible. Replacing disposable aluminum trays with reusable trays that are plastic-free would allow us to do this. Additionally, in order to sustain volunteer engagement and maintain the consistency of our operations, we find that procurement of a cart would help ease the volunteering process and make it more accessible, hopefully increasing return and overall engagement and contributing to the success of our sustainability initiative.

These ambitions directly reinforce the goals that the Green Fund has set forth regarding student involvement in sustainability efforts, creating and sustaining a culture of sustainability at NAU, and lessening NAU's impact on the environment while contributing to the university's ability to advance social justice and meet the needs of the broader Flagstaff community.

Please answer the following questions detailing the components of your project:

1. Does your project require space or construction on campus? If so, where? Please review the "Space Committee Document" located on our webpage and follow the steps to begin requesting a location.

No, it does not.

2. Have you obtained all necessary approvals for this project? Please attach all letters of support to this

application. Letters of support should include confirmation from the sponsoring department that the sponsoring department will cover all upfront expenses and work with the Green Fund Business Manager to acquire reimbursement after project completion. If any ongoing operations and maintenance is required of your project, provide a letter of support from the entity that will be covering those costs and/or services.

3. Will this project provide funding for student wages?

No, it will not.

4. Please list all additional sources of funding you have pursued. Include departments, grants, ASNAU, Graduate Student Government, etc.

Food Recovery Network National provides a \$100/semester grant that is being applied for to supplement these costs as well.

5. Have any of the Green Fund Committee members been involved in this project?

a. If Yes, please identify all committee members:

Kiley Feld, Graduate Student Representative

Project Specifics

Please address the following questions. One or more of these questions may not apply to your particular application. Answer as many questions as are applicable to your project.

Relationship to NAU Climate Action Plan (CAP)

1. How does your project align with one of the seven CAP categories (Energy, Water, Transportation, Waste Minimization, Sustainable Landscaping, Environmental Justice, Communication)?

This project aligns with the goal of waste minimization because we will be reducing the material wastes such as aluminum trays associated with our operations. Diverting food waste also aligns with waste minimization goals. It aligns with environmental justice goals as well, by providing food that would otherwise be thrown away and contributing to emissions to community members in Flagstaff experiencing food insecurity.

Community

2. Is there a public outreach plan? How will faculty, staff, and students learn about this?

The Food Recovery Network is a volunteer-based program, including students and staff from a variety of backgrounds. Students are made aware of the program through tabling events at the Union and the Open Air Market, newsletters, social media posts, word-of-mouth, email lists and advertisements around campus. These materials will assist current and future volunteers in making the process of transporting food easier with minimized waste. The Staff Advisor Council (SAC) has been contacted about being included in the volunteer force. Currently, there are 70 students signed up for the email list, who receive information about what the FRN is, and volunteer opportunities to get involved.

3. Are you working with other groups on or off campus? If so, describe your partnership.

We are partnering with the Sunshine Rescue Mission, who takes our food donations. We also bring food donations to the Flagstaff Family Food Center when we have dry goods or produce. We will potentially be able to donate food to Louie's Cupboard when we receive it. We also work with campus dining, who supplies us with the food and materials for tracking food waste diversion.

Project Parameters

4. What are the environmental costs and benefits associated with your project?

The most apparent environmental benefit is waste diversion, both material and food. In just three weeks of operation, FRN has diverted more than 1000 pounds of food waste. As we continue this project, the impacts of this waste diversion will be even greater- specifically, emissions reduction related to food waste. Additionally, because we recover so much food and will continue to do so, especially as we expand operations to more locations on campus, we need a lot of trays to transport that food. Using stainless steel trays instead of disposable aluminum trays for this will help to keep all of those trays out of the landfill. Additionally, the environmental impacts related to the production of our trays are lower because they are not made of plastic. The same goes for the stainless steel cart that we will procure.

5. Provide an economic cost/benefit analysis for your project. Focus on identifying specific cost savings.

This project will completely stop the need for the purchasing of single-use aluminum food transport containers for the program, saving campus dining and the university money over time. The initial cost for the reusable materials is low and will be a one-time expense for this dining hall.

6. Is this a one-time expense or will you require future funding?

We expect to expand our operations to the DuBois center dining hall, when we do this we may require more reusable trays. In this event, I will submit an addendum requesting additional funds that will likely mirror those being requested at this.

7. When your project members no longer attend NAU, who will be responsible for running the project?

I plan to be here until the end of Spring 2023, so this can be fleshed out in more detail in the future. However, since we already have such a broad and continually building volunteer base, I don't think that it will be difficult to find students willing to take on leadership roles when the time comes that I am preparing to leave.

8. How will you monitor the impact of your project after implementation?

The Data Analyst of the Green Fund can consistently track weekly food waste saved and create benefit graphs and metrics over time. The total food waste is broken down into categories, so specific types can be tracked as well.

Project Budget

Food Recovery Network Materials

| Item | Price | Quantity | Total |
|------------------|---------|----------|----------|
| Large Pans | \$28.49 | 20 | \$569.80 |
| Large Lids | \$22 | 20 | \$440 |
| Small Pans | \$19.21 | 10 | \$192.10 |
| Small Lids | \$11.22 | 10 | \$112.20 |
| Stainless Steel | \$245.7 | 1 | \$245.70 |
| Cart | 0 | | |
| Contingency (5%) | | | \$77.99 |

Total Cost: \$1559.80

Project Timeline

The timeline should include significant implementation dates for your project. Please add information such as shipping time and consider any holidays or breaks.

Example:

Zero Waste FRN Materials Timeline

| Action | Parties Involved | Month/Year |
|---|--|-------------------|
| Propose project to Green Fund Committee | Project Leader, Green Fund Committee Member | Early April 2022 |
| Order materials | Project Leader, Campus dining purchase materials | April 2022 |
| Receive and begin using materials | Food Recovery Network | End of April 2022 |

Project Checklist

Please ensure you have completed all of the following items before submitting your application:

- Meet with a Green Fund Committee member
- Obtain all necessary letters of support (sponsoring department, ongoing maintenance, etc.)

Project Overview

- Project Specifics
- Project Budget
- Project Timeline
- Complete Project Checklist

Thank you for your submission. We deeply appreciate your commitment to sustainability at NAU, and we look forward to working with you.