



Green Fund

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(TBD)

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Green Fee to Increase in the 25-26 Academic Year

In the 2025-2026 academic year, the Green Fee, which provides funding for the NAU Green Fund, will increase by 5% to account for inflation since the last increase. Students on the Flagstaff Mountain Campus at NAU currently pay the \$15 fee every semester. The Green Fund uses the fee to fund student projects, research, and events that help NAU meet its climate action plan. In the fall semester of 2025, students will pay \$15.75 toward the Green Fee.

The Green Fee was last increased in the 2018-2019 academic year when it was raised from \$5 to \$15. When accounting for inflation, the Green Fee has been overdue to be raised again to allow the Green Fund to have the same purchasing power. At \$15 per student, the Green Fee currently gives the Green Fund a budget of about \$600,000 annually. With the increase in the fee, it will give the Green Fund an additional \$30,000 in the 25-26 academic year. The Green Fee will continue to rise by 5% every year until it reaches \$20 in 2030.

2030 is a big year for NAU sustainability. The Climate Action Plan outlines several goals to be met by this year, one of which is complete carbon neutrality from the university. The Green Fund is one of two funding bodies for sustainability initiatives at NAU.

The NAU Office of Sustainability has created a list of priority actions that need supplementary funding through the Green Fund to reach carbon neutrality. Some of these projects have already been initiated through the Green Fund, including the hiring of an energy consultant group to lead NAU in its efforts to secure an aggregate Virtual Power Purchasing Agreement (VPPA), which has the potential to decrease NAU's scope two operational emissions by 54%. The full project and procurement of the VPPA will take two to three years and would not be possible without the Green Fund's monetary support.

Another project that directly supports the Climate Action Plan is the purchase of two electric buses to replace two aging diesel vehicles for NAU Transit Services. The Green Fund allocated \$525,000 to this initiative, which will drastically decrease NAU's scope one emissions.

Lastly, the Green Fund has allocated \$158,047.66 towards a 25% grant match that converts turf across the NAU Flagstaff Mountain Campus. Replacing invasive, non-native grass with native landscape that uses less water. This project is projected to save 1,060,000 gallons of water per year. This is equivalent to the yearly water use of 10 households or filling 59 swimming pools.

These projects are only a small portion of the outlined action items, and more projects, such as the decarbonization of NAU's two natural gas district heating and cooling systems, are in the early stages of applying for funding. These projects ensure that NAU meets its climate action goals by 2030, and the fee increase will allow the Green Fund to support these projects while also continuing to fund student-led projects and research.

The Green Fee will remain the lowest student fee at NAU, and the Green Fund is committed to ensuring it continues to be. At \$15.75, the Green Fee is a small way that students can participate in sustainability culture and contribute to a greener NAU.

The NAU Green Fund was founded in 2010 and is comprised of nine students in addition to faculty and staff members who vote to fund projects and research using the \$15 per student per semester Green Fee. All of the Green Fund's meetings are open to the public, and any student, staff, or faculty member can submit a proposal.