



GREEN FUND

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 the Flagstaff Mountain 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.

DISCLAIMERS: All applications will go through a comprehensive vetting process, and you may be asked to provide more detailed information. **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 unless otherwise specified by the committee. A sponsoring department must take responsibility for operations and management. 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.

REVIEW PROCESS: Upon project application submission, the Green Fund will begin to review your project within two-three weeks. At this time, the Green Fund will provide comments on the project. **This process can extend for long periods of time depending on the scope of the project.** Incomplete applications will not be reviewed until all components are submitted.

We highly recommend meeting with a Green Fund Committee member prior to submitting the application. The Green Fund Committee member will assist you with the proposal writing process, if needed.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact Information

Project Leader Name: Danielle Linthicum

Phone: 928-523-0517

NAU Email: danielle.linthicum@nau.edu

Project Name: Building Energy
Conservation Initiative

Project Advisor Information

Project Advisor Name:

Phone:

NAU Email:

NAU Department/Unit for Funding
Reimbursements:

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability, for questions that are not applicable, please list N/A.

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 NAU Office of Sustainability's [Building Energy Conservation Initiative](#) (BECI) conducts audits of high energy consuming buildings around campus, develops recommendations for best energy conservation practices, and does outreach and education about energy conservation at NAU. This proposal seeks funding to help the project in two ways:

1. **Provide materials to facilitate energy conservation behaviors.** We will purchase electric blankets that people can use to replace space heaters, and power strips so people can easily turn off all of their devices. One barrier to engaging in new behaviors is a lack of access to materials that would facilitate those behaviors. By providing electric blankets and power strips free of charge, we eliminate that barrier and make it easier for people to adopt energy-saving behaviors.
2. **Print behavioral prompts and signage for buildings.** These will be displayed in the buildings that we work with to remind people to do things like turn off the lights, close windows and window coverings, and unplug electronics. One barrier to behavior change is that people simply forget to do something, so by placing reminders close in space and time to our desired behaviors, we hope to increase the number of people

engaging in our recommended energy conservation behaviors.

The space heater initiative is based on successful programs at multiple other universities, including [Indiana University Space Heater Exchange](#), [Utah State University Space Heater Exchange Program](#), [Boise State Space Heater Exchange Program](#), and the [University of Utah Space Heater Trade-In](#). These programs ask people to trade in their space heaters in exchange for blankets, but we decided against collecting people's personal property for the following reasons: 1) we would need to figure out how to store and dispose of them, 2) people can continue using them in their homes, we are just trying to discourage their use on campus, and 3) the blankets will remain university property, so we can spend more than \$25 on the blankets without them being subject to income taxation. Instead, we will offer to loan blankets to staff or faculty members who pledge not to use a space heater and who demonstrate a need for a space heater.

Interested people will visit our webpage and fill out a form to request a blanket, where they will answer a few questions about why they are requesting the blanket, conditions in their building, and if they currently use a space heater. If they are approved, they can receive a blanket to use. We will offer a choice between both electric blankets and regular blankets. The blankets will be stored in the penthouse of the Student and Academic Services building, and the Conservation Programs Coordinator will arrange blankets to either be picked up or delivered.

We will similarly offer power strips free of charge to staff and faculty members who fill out an interest form and pledge to use the power strip to turn off all of their electronic devices when leaving the office. We will offer regular power strips that can allow people to turn off multiple devices in their office at once, and smart power strips for common spaces that can sense when people aren't in the room and will automatically turn off electronic devices. The power strips will be requested, stored, and delivered in the same way as the blankets.

We surveyed the residents of Eastburn Education and Riles - our first two buildings to go through the BECI program - to evaluate support for the program (you can see the survey [here](#)). We had 57 respondents between the two buildings (although some didn't answer every question, so the total number of respondents is noted in the tables below when it differs). The survey found that 51% of respondents were "extremely likely" or "somewhat likely" to use a blanket instead of a space heater, while 38% were "extremely unlikely" or "somewhat unlikely" and 11% were neutral. When asked what kind of blanket they would prefer, 72% wanted an electric blanket while 28% would prefer a regular blanket. Support for the power strip initiative was overwhelmingly positive, with 88% of respondents saying they would use a power strip if they were given one.

Q2 - If offered the opportunity to replace your office space heater with a regular blanket or electric blanket for free, how likely would you be to participate?	Count	Number of responses (55 total)
Extremely unlikely	10	10
Somewhat unlikely	11	11
Neither likely nor unlikely	6	6
Somewhat likely	11	11
Extremely likely	17	17

Q4 - Given the choice, which would you prefer?	Count	Number of responses (50 total)
Electric blanket	36	36
Regular blanket	14	14

Q5 - If you were given a free power strip, would you plug in your electronics and turn it off every day when leaving the office?	Count	Number of responses
Yes	50	50
No	7	7

Project Components

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.*

We will need space in the Office of Sustainability offices and penthouse storage space to

store the blankets and power strips, and we have approval to use this space.

- 2. Have you obtained all necessary approvals for this project? 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. 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.*

This project is a partnership with the Office of Sustainability (including Erik Nielsen, Chief Sustainability Officer; and Avi Henn, Sustainability Manager) and Facility Services (including Erin McAnally-Trejo, Energy and Water Manager). Everyone is on board with this addition to our BECI efforts.

- 3. Does the project include any continued maintenance costs? The Green Fund does not provide any ongoing maintenance costs unless specified within the budget and approved by the committee. A sponsoring department must take responsibility for operations and management.*

No

- 4. Will this project provide funding for student wages? Coordination of wages must be done through the sponsoring department and must be included within the project budget.*

No

- 5. Please list all additional sources of funding you have pursued, including department, grants, ASNAU graduate, student government, etc.*

None

Project Specifics

- 1. Is there a public outreach plan? How do you plan on communicating your project with the NAU community? Do you require assistance from the Green Fund in your outreach plan?*

We will advertise the program to the university community through our standard marketing outlets (newsletters, social media, digital advertising boards, etc.) People will be directed to a webpage where they can learn about the program and fill out forms to apply for space heaters or power strips. We would love help from the Green Fund to disseminate information about the program.

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

Yes – we are working with Facility Services and the Building Managers to help conduct the audits, gather information about building energy usage, and communicate with building occupants.

Project Parameters

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

The environmental benefit of this project is reduced energy use on campus. Our office is currently tasked with reducing university utilities bills by \$1 million, and this program will be part of that effort. If we can provide incentives and resources to get people to reduce their energy use voluntarily, we can collectively reduce our campus energy use.

Through our work with the Building Energy Conservation Initiative, we are finding that many buildings heavily use space heaters in the winter, which can contribute significantly to building energy bills. An electric blanket uses 90% less energy than a space heater, making it a more sustainable alternative. Space heaters also interfere with a building's heating and cooling systems, causing thermostats to incorrectly register a higher temperature for the building. When this happens, the heating process is disrupted for the whole building. For example, if a person has a thermostat located in their office and runs a space heater, the thermostat will register a higher temperature and shut down its heating process, thus preventing people in other offices from receiving heating.

The environmental cost of the blankets and electric blankets include the materials and energy used to create these items, and the energy used by electric blankets. However, we consider these acceptable costs because they are lower than the environmental costs of using space heaters.

Many electronic devices use vampire energy when plugged in but not in use, which means they are still drawing a little bit of power at all times. By disseminating power strips, we will make it easier for people to turn off all their devices and reduce the amount of vampire energy use on campus. This is a cheap and easy way to start eliminating excess energy use. The [US Department of Energy](#) estimates that vampire energy accounts for 5-10% of all energy use, so this can make a significant dent in our campus energy use.

2. Is this a one time expense or will you require future funding for your project?

We may come back to the Green Fund to purchase more blankets, power strips, and signage if this program proves to be popular and successful. But this application is only seeking funding for a one-time expense, which is purchasing the initial set of materials.

3. How will you measure and monitor the impact of your project after its implementation?

Through the blanket request form, we will collect data about everyone who requests a

blanket. From this information, we can estimate how much energy we are saving by calculating how much energy those people would have used with a space heater, and how much they are subsequently using with regular or electric blankets.

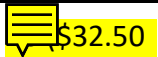
Through the power strip request form, we will collect information about how many people pledge to use power strips and what kinds of devices they plan to plug into it. Using this data, we can estimate how much energy is saved by all of these devices being shut down every day instead of continuing to draw vampire energy.

Finally, we will continually collect building energy use data through the BECI program, so we can see if there are changes in overall energy trends over time.

Project Budget

Please include a thorough breakdown of all project costs as well as **justification for each line item**, as well as a 5% line item for contingency. Based on the parameters of the project, the committee may increase or decrease this contingency. **Make sure to include all potential taxes or costs associated with each item.**

The first version of this proposal asked for materials for just our first 2 buildings (Eastburn and Riles). Erik Nielsen, Chief Sustainability Officer, asked me to edit our proposal to include materials for 4 additional buildings that will be targeted in Spring 2026.

Item	Quantity	Price	Justification
Kohl's Electric Blanket	30 (\$44.79 per blanket)	\$1,343.70	This electric blanket is mid-price range, well-rated, respectable material quality. These will be distributed to people who request them and pledge not to use space heaters, but will remain property of the university and can be collected again once the employee no longer needs it.
Campus Bookstore Standard Blanket	 \$32.50 per blanket)	\$650.00	These are thick, good quality blankets that have the NAU logo and would be purchased through the NAU bookstore.
Power strips from Target	100 (\$9.99 each)	\$999.00	These strips have 6 outlets and an 8 foot cord, which will suit most work spaces. These are available at our local Target, so we can pick them up and eliminate the environmental impacts of shipping.

Isolé® Plug Load Control smart power strips	20 (\$119.95)	\$2,399.00	This smart power strip has 8 outlets and motion sensors that will automatically power devices down when nobody is in the room. These will be distributed with greater selectivity to spaces that have many devices and high traffic.
Prompt signs – turn off lights (4 prompts per page of cardstock, from NAU Printing Services)	100	\$31.02	We will distribute these to 6 BECI buildings by the end of Spring 2026. These will be used in both offices and common spaces, so we will print 75 per building.
Prompt signs – close windows (4 prompts per page of cardstock, from NAU Printing Services)	100	\$31.02	We will distribute these to 6 BECI buildings by the end of Spring 2026. These will be used in both offices and common spaces, so we will print 75 per building.
Prompt signs – unplug devices (4 prompts per page of cardstock, from NAU Printing Services)	100	\$31.02	We will distribute these to 6 BECI buildings by the end of Spring 2026. These will be used in both offices and common spaces, so we will print 75 per building.
Educational signs – energy conservation (48”x36” large posters from NAU Printing Services)	12 (\$62.38 each)	\$748.56	We will distribute these to 6 BECI buildings by the end of Spring 2026. We have accounted for 2 signs per building. These signs will outline all of our recommended energy conservation behaviors and give some info about energy use at NAU.
Subtotal		\$6,233.32	
5% Contingency (5% of total project cost)		\$311.67	
Total Project Cost		\$6,544.99	
Speedchart		4500045F15	

Project Timeline

Please provide a timeline for the significant dates of your project. Please add all relevant information and consider any holidays/breaks and time required to obtain necessary approvals. **Please be as specific as possible.**

Timeline	
Action & Parties Involved	Month/Year
Develop signage and prompts for buildings	February 2026
Purchase materials	February 2026
Launch website to start materials distribution	February 2026
Market program and continue materials distribution	Spring 2026
Print and install signs/prompts for buildings	Spring 2026

Anticipated Date of Completion	We plan to launch the program in February or March 2026 and keep it ongoing throughout the Spring 2026 semester.
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Project Completion Checklist

Please complete all of the following items before submitting an application

- Contact Information
- Project Overview
- Project Budget
- Project Timeline
- Obtain **ALL** necessary letters of support for reimbursement, ongoing maintenance, student wages, etc. Attach the letters of support to the completed application.
- Submit the completed application to GreenFund@nau.edu

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

