



NAU Green Fund Project Application

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.”

In support of the Green Fund’s Mission Statement and its ability to improve sustainability on campus, the Green Fund encourages proposals for projects that aim to understand, reduce, or otherwise mitigate NAU’s environmental impact. Project proposals may use this funding as support to pilot new ideas, expand existing initiatives, or develop innovative solutions that align with the Green Fund’s goals of sustainability and student engagement.

Grants will be awarded using rolling deadlines and the Committee will enforce a priority date with a soft close during week 12 of the semester. Due to limited time and a reduction in weekly meetings at the end of the semester, the Committee may not review applications submitted after.

Submit completed application packages to: GreenFund@nau.edu

Application Details

All applications **must** meet the following requirements to be considered for funding:

1. The project must be implemented on campus.
2. The person submitting the project must be a NAU student, faculty, or staff member.
3. Projects must provide all necessary documents, letters of support, and authorizations prior to submission.
4. 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.
5. 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 unless otherwise specified by the committee. A sponsoring department must take responsibility for operations and management.

REVIEW PROCESS: Upon project application submission, the Green Fund will begin to review your project within two 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.

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.

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 Project Application writing process, if needed. Please reach out to GreenFund@nau.edu for assistance.

Contact Information

Contact Information	
Project Leader Name:	Jeff Baranowski
Phone:	928-523-3550
NAU Email:	Jeffrey.baranowski@nau.edu
Date:	10/8/2025
Expected Graduation Date:	N/A
Project Name:	ULT Freezer Challenge

Department / Advisor Information	
Project Advisor Name:	Shelley Jones
Project Advisor Department:	Environmental Health and Safety
Phone:	928-523-7268
NAU Email:	Shelley.jones@nau.edu
NAU Department / Unit for Funding Reimbursement:	Environmental Health and Safety

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

1. 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 Freezer Challenge Core Team—composed of representatives from Environmental Health & Safety, Sustainability, and Utilities—proposes to launch NAU's first campus-wide participation in The My Green Lab International Freezer Challenge in 2026. This initiative will engage students, researchers, and campus support staff in a collaborative effort to improve laboratory sustainability practices while directly reducing the university's energy footprint.

Laboratory cold storage is one of the largest sources of energy consumption on campus, second only to fume hoods. By providing the supplies, tools, and incentives necessary for labs to participate, this program will empower research teams to adopt best practices in freezer maintenance and sample management. Activities such as regular defrosting, filter cleaning, and inventory organization reduce unnecessary energy consumption while extending the life of expensive equipment and safeguarding valuable research samples. Student involvement is central to this project. Students will collaborate with faculty and staff to track progress, promote competition, and encourage sustainable behaviors across multiple labs. In addition, the challenge fosters a culture of sustainability by connecting everyday lab practices to measurable environmental benefits—helping participants see how small changes generate significant energy savings.

To strengthen engagement, NAU will host an "Institution-Specific Competition" within the international challenge, offering recognition and incentives to the top-performing labs. These awards will both celebrate leadership in sustainability and motivate broader campus participation in future years.

By supporting this initiative, the Green Fund will help establish a lasting, student-driven

program that reduces energy use, lowers NAU's environmental impact, and positions the university as a national leader in sustainable laboratory practices. This pilot year will create a foundation for long-term change, integrating operational excellence with hands-on sustainability education.

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.

N/A

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.

No permits are required. We have the support of EHS, Sustainability, and Utilities. Individuals from each team are represented on the freezer challenge core team.

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.

N/A

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.

N/A

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

N/A

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?

The core team has communicated intentions to ULT freezer users during routine biosafety lab inspections, core team members plan to attend lab/faculty meetings to present the challenge to broader groups, and the Office of the Vice President of Research (OVPR) will communicate information about the program in their newsletter.

The Green Fund can assist by spreading awareness to students and encouraging engagement, especially if they work in labs that use ULT freezers, during meetings and events. Student lab users and managers can have a much bigger impact on engagement than NAU staff.

Sustainability can inform attendees of the Energy Mentor Program and other sustainability events. We also plan to publish an article/poster in the Green Flash newsletter for further visibility.

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

The biosafety team has been identifying freezers that need immediate defrosts during lab inspections and encouraging labs to participate in the upcoming Freezer Challenge. We're working with lab users and PI's to spread awareness of the challenge and explain our intentions.

The sustainability and utilities teams are particularly interested in the energy cost savings aspect of this program. They will help track energy savings and support hands on activities as needed.

Project Parameters

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

Environmental costs are dependent on lab participation and the number of defrosts performed but will come from sample disposal and contaminated melt water disposal. Environmental benefits includes labs adopting preventative maintenance schedules and best practices. These include performing defrosts (supported by supplies from this grant), warming freezers when applicable, cleaning condenser filters, and removing ice buildup. If labs choose to replace an aging freezer, it is often more beneficial for the environment as newer freezers consume less energy and contain less environmentally harmful refrigerants.

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

This is currently a one-time expense to pilot the Freezer Challenge program at NAU. Depending on the success and participation of the program, the program may look to provide similar funding and incentives to lab participants in the following years.

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

Individual labs will enroll in the Freezer Challenge through an Organization Admin on the Core Team. They will be given a scoresheet to track their energy savings activities by the challenge's built in energy estimates from their score sheet. We will also be checking in with labs periodically throughout the challenge to offer support and encourage continued participation. At the end, we will collect scoresheets to determine the total energy avoidance and announce the winners.

Project Budget

Please include a thorough breakdown of all project costs, as well as a 5% line item for contingency. Based on the parameters of the project, the committee may increase or decrease this contingency.

Budget				
Item	Quantity	Price	Alternative NAU Campus Supply Item #	Alternative Price
Simple Green dPro5 - Quaternary Ammonium Disinfectant	4 (1 gal bottles)	\$120	2008800-UCS	\$90
Palmolive Soap – Mild Detergent	2 (32.5 fl oz bottle)	\$15	2011600-UCS	\$19
Spray Bottles	6	\$20	2000800-UCS	\$10
Lint Free Rags	2 (pack of 50)	\$45	2023000-UCS	\$22
Medium Cold Gloves & Large Cold Gloves	3 pairs each	\$33	--	--
Autoclave Bins	2 bins	\$150	--	--
Water Absorbent Pads	8 boxes (pack of 20)	\$396	--	--
Self-Wringing Mop & replacement heads	1 mop, 3 replacement heads	\$60	--	--
Trash Bags 50 gal	1 (50 count box)	\$25	2010602-UCS (42 gal)	\$41
Ziplock Bags 2 gal	1 (100 count)	\$74	--	--

Disposable Lab Coats	1 (case of 50)	\$137	--	--
Shop Vac	1	\$110	--	--
Nitrile Gloves	3 (packs of 100)	\$62	2019700-UCS	\$19
Dry Ice – Bought internally (not included in 10% Campus Supplies cost)	Estimated 20 defrosts (~15 lbs / defrost at \$4.00/lb)	\$1200	N/A	N/A
1st Place Restaurant Gift Card (not included in 10% Campus Supplies cost)	1	\$200	N/A	N/A
2nd Place Restaurant Gift Card (not included in 10% Campus Supplies cost)	1	\$100	N/A	N/A
3rd Place Restaurant Gift Card (not included in 10% Campus Supplies cost)	1	\$50	N/A	N/A
MVP Award – Temperature Sensor and Hub (includes tax and shipping) (not included in 10% Campus Supplies cost)	1	\$150	N/A	N/A

Ordered Supplies Cost	\$1161
Estimated Shipping \$30 + 10% Campus Supplies Cost	\$1310
5% Contingency (5% of total project cost)	\$3010
Total Project Cost	\$3160

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.

Timeline	
Action & Parties Involved	Month / Year
Attend faculty meetings to spread information and encourage participation	August - December / 2025
Thermo Fisher rep to give ULT freezer class and hands on demonstration	October / 2025
Freezer Challenge core team to distribute scoresheets for labs to keep track of points	August - December / 2025
Freezer Challenge core team to sign up university and labs for official freezer challenge	February / 2026
Freezer Challenge core team perform defrosts	November / 2025 – July 2026
Freezer Challenge core team to check in with labs	February – July / 2026
Collect scoresheets and determine winners	July / 2026

Anticipated Date of Completion	July 2026
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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

Commitment to Update

Please read and sign the statement below, acknowledging your commitment to keep the Green Fund informed about the status of your project.

If selected as a recipient of Green Fund support, we _____ commit to responding to requests for project updates in a timely manner. Updates may be requested by the Green Fund Committee at any stage of the project and may include providing brief progress summaries, photos, or other relevant information by email.

If assistance is needed in communicating updates or preparing outreach materials, the Green Fund's PR Specialist can provide support.

Project Team Representative Signature:

Thank you for your submission. We deeply appreciate your commitment to sustainability at NAU, and we look forward to reviewing your application. Please direct any further questions to GreenFund@nau.edu.