

Application Details

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

1. Research must be primarily conducted by either an undergraduate or graduate student who is currently enrolled full-time at NAU.
2. Research must be conducted under the guidance and approval of a full-time NAU faculty member.
3. Research design and goals must focus on improving sustainability on NAU's Campus.

What research are we looking to support?

- Research Priorities:
 - Does it pertain to NAU campus?
 - Is it in line with our climate research goals?
 - NAU Climate Action Plan
(<https://in.nau.edu/green-nau/nau-climate-action-plan/>)
 - Is there a direct tie to decreasing carbon emissions?
 - Will it identify a key sustainability problem with actionable steps if a solution is found?
- Want to do research but don't know where to start? Find a list of project ideas [HERE](https://in.nau.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/136/2025/11/UGRADGFSustainabilityResearchIdeas.pdf) (<https://in.nau.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/136/2025/11/UGRADGFSustainabilityResearchIdeas.pdf>) for research prompts connected to sustainability.

Only a complete application package will be considered for funding. A complete package includes:

- **Abstract** of the project's goals, expected results, and broader impacts to the NAU campus community (200–300 words).
- **Detailed project proposal** with specific information about current literature, research goals, methods, data collection and dissemination, and how this research will improve sustainability at NAU (1–2 pages).
- **Questionnaire** (filled out using the provided template).
- **Project budget** (filled out using the provided template).
- **Project timeline** (filled out using the provided template).
- **Letter of recommendation** from the faculty supervisor addressing the student's ability to conduct and complete the research (may be submitted separately, but must be received by the deadline).
- **Signed student commitment to present a status update of their research** in both an oral presentation to the Green Fund Committee and a poster/exhibit presentation at the Undergraduate or Graduate Symposium, within one year of receiving funding.

Additional Requirements and Rules

- Funding provided by the Green Fund may not be used in any way for faculty salary.
- Funding may allow for student wages depending on project specifics and explicit Green Fund approval. The Green Fund recognizes that some projects require significant time and labor, not just materials.
- If funding is used for student wages, the applicant must coordinate payment through the department of the project advisor. The Green Fund does not coordinate student positions.
- Funding is limited to one proposal per student per year, but applicants may apply across multiple years.
- A student who has previously received a Green Fund Student Research Grant is neither more nor less likely to receive funding again.
- Recipients of the Student Research Grant are determined at the sole discretion of the Green Fund Committee, based on merit and goals-based review of all complete applications.

Application Availability and Deadlines

- Soft-close deadlines at week 12 each semester:
For Spring funding please apply by **Dec. 1**
For Fall funding please apply by **April 20**
- Open during the school year on a rolling basis
- Applications can be submitted during the summer, but due to minimal meetings, the committee may not review the application until Fall semester.

Project Coordination and Funding Distribution

- Applicants are responsible for contacting other university entities if the research involves space use or alteration of existing infrastructure.
- Upon approval, funding will be disbursed to the department of the project advisor or designated sponsoring department.
- Any unused or remaining funds must be returned to the Green Fund after the research project is completed.

Student Wage Guidelines

- Students may budget \$15.50/hour for up to 200 hours maximum.
- Any increase or decrease in wage values is at the discretion of the Committee.
- 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.