



Associated Students of Western Washington University Green Energy Fee (GEF) Taskforce

WWU Board of Trustees approved Peer List

Appalachian State University

In March 2004, 81% of voting students at Appalachian State University supported a \$5 per semester increase in student fees to fund the installation of renewable energy technologies on campus. The increase was approved by ASU's Board of Trustees in fall 2004, and by the University of North Carolina Board of Governors in spring 2005. The fee went into effect at the beginning of the 05/06 school year, and generates between \$120,000 and \$150,000 annually. The funds are administered by a Renewable Energy Initiative Committee, comprised of six students selected by the committee through an application process, one member from Student Government Association, three faculty members, one staff representative, and a representative from ASU Design and Construction. The fee increase is to be collected for three years, meaning that it will expire before the 08/09 school year unless an extension is approved.

University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

In February 2003, 75% of voting students at UNC-Chapel Hill supported a \$4 per semester fee increase to fund the installation of renewable energy technologies on campus. The increase was approved by UNC-Chapel Hill's Board of Trustees in January 2004, and by the University of North Carolina Board of Governors in March 2004. The increase went into effect in Fall 2004, and covers both undergraduate and graduate students. It generates approximately \$185,000 a year, which is administered by the Renewable Energy Special Projects Committee (RESPC). RESPC comprised of 7 students appointed by the Student Body President (2 students), the Speaker of Congress (1 chair and 2 members), and the Graduate and Professional Student President (2 members). Members are advised by ex officio members including the Sustainability Coordinator, the Director of Energy Services, the Vice Chancellor of Campus Services, and other faculty and staff. The original referendum stipulated that students would revote on the fee increase within two years. In February 2005, 85% of voting students re-approved the fee, and in February 2009, 83% of voting students re-approved and expanded the fee to allow funds to be used for energy efficiency projects as well.

University of Wisconsin, La Crosse

In April of 2008, students were asked if they wanted to invest five dollars per semester in renewable energy and energy efficiency on campus. The answer, with 2222 votes and from 89% of students voting, was a resounding, "Yes."

University of Colorado at Colorado Springs

In April 2008, 76% of voting students at University of Colorado at Colorado Springs voted in favor of a \$5 fee per semester to fund the installation of solar panels on university buildings.

University of Colorado at Boulder

In April 2000, 83% of voting students at CU Boulder supported a \$1 per semester fee increase to purchase renewable energy. The fee went into effect at the beginning of the 00/01 academic year, and continued for 4 years.



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Currently Circulating Campus "Shovel-ready" possible projects

- **Anaerobic Digester: \$100,000.** This project would passively digest dining hall waste to form natural gas to power the steam plant and also provide fertilizer to grow food. This could evaluate the potential for installing several systems at each dining hall and digesting landscaping waste to offset our natural gas use.
- **Demonstration Solar Array: \$25,000.** This would continue implementing solar energy for campus similar to the VU but this would be on South Campus building. A yearly plan to build one solar array per year could establish precedent to steer towards campus energy independence.
- **Compost Bins: \$25,000.** Financing additional composting bins are unavailable and would divert trash away from landfills. Why are there more trash cans than recycling and compost bins?
- **Building Energy Audit: \$15,000.** This project would audit buildings and provide a cost-estimate for future energy efficiency projects that effectively reduce energy use and future project revolving loan funds.
- **Lobby Building Energy Monitor: \$5,000.** Live-time building energy use monitors available in lobby utilizing old computer monitors would inform students of the electricity demand and also provide information on how to apply for projects.
- **Green Fee Reusable Textbook Bags: \$35,000.** This would be the initial Green Fee publicity event and provide reusable bags in the bookstore that include instructions on how to apply for projects.
- **Automated pool cover for SRC: \$50,000.** This would drastically reduce the amount of energy required to perpetually refill and heat the pool overnight. This project has already been researched by Students for Renewable Energy and was shelved due to lack of funding.
- **Demonstration elliptical gym machine generator: \$15,000.** This would finance a demonstration excessive machine in the SRC that would generate electricity from the user with the possibility of replacing all future machines.
- **Reusable water bottles: \$20,000.** This project could finance purchase of reusable water bottles for any interested student to greatly reduce their use of petroleum-based plastics.
- **Bicycle generators to power concerts: \$3,000.** This could be used to power AS concerts without fossil-fuel electricity.
- **Finance study for solar powered outdoor campus night lighting: \$800.** This study would investigate the potential for solar-powered lights and batteries to better illuminate our campus to be safe for students at night.
- **Study for on-campus edible landscaping: \$400.** How possible would it be for edible landscaping to be incorporated into our campus to provide fruits and nuts.

- **Oil presser/seeds for producing biodiesel: \$700.** This project could provide funding to grow biodiesel feedstocks and press them on-campus to run generators for the outback.
- **Funding 3 quarterly waste audits: \$1,100.** The Huxley chapter of Air and Waste Management has been doing campus waste audits of how much trash is compostable, recyclable or landfillable. This would continue to build the dataset that has shown almost 80% of "trash" is compostable.
- **Finance student co-op vendor's row demonstration: \$15,000.** This project could be used to pay for a demonstration student co-op on vendor's row to serve a local and sustainable food alternatives on campus.
- **Compost in residence halls: \$30,000.** This project would provide compost stations inside residences halls.
- **Waste sorting stations: \$100,000.** This would providing funding to post-sort all trash and allow increased use of existing recycle and composting facilities.
- **Bike Library: \$100,000.** This project would provide bike-rental stations that are currently being used in dozens of cities in the U.S. and Europe to provide an alternative to bus.
- **Building Energy Monitoring Software for Computer Labs: \$150,000.** This project could finance power reduction software that automatically reduce power in computer labs at night.

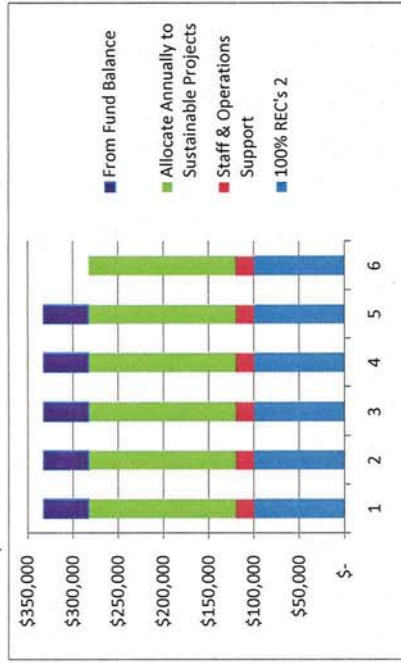
SAMPLE

Green Energy Fee

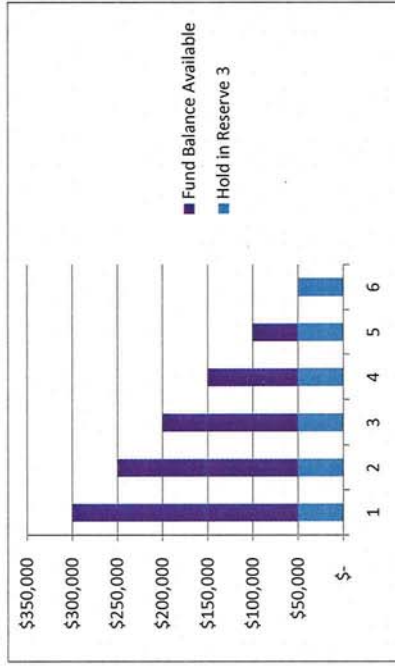
\$7 Fee Level Projections, Including 5-Year Spend Down of Reserve

(Leaves \$50,000 minimum in Reserve in Perpetuity)

Annual Collections at Various Levels (Assumes \$2.50 per REC)	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Student Fee Level	\$ 282,870	\$ 282,870	\$ 282,870	\$ 282,870	\$ 282,870	\$ 282,870
Projected Fee Revenues at \$7 Fee Level ¹	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
100% REC's ²	\$ 182,870	\$ 182,870	\$ 182,870	\$ 182,870	\$ 182,870	\$ 182,870
Available Revenues	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Staff & Operations Support	\$ 162,870	\$ 162,870	\$ 162,870	\$ 162,870	\$ 162,870	\$ 162,870
Allocate Annually to Sustainable Projects						
5-Year Spend Down of Reserve						
From Fund Balance	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ -
Available for Projects at \$7 Fee Level	\$ 212,870	\$ 212,870	\$ 212,870	\$ 212,870	\$ 212,870	\$ 162,870



Projected Fund Balance (Spend down over 5 years)	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 300,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 50,000
Hold in Reserve ³	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Fund Balance Available	\$ 250,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 50,000	\$ -
Allocated to Sustainable Projects	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ -
Remaining Fund Balance	\$ 200,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ -





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- I. Our priority is to be responsive to the overwhelming student support (over 80%) for an increase while demonstrating responsible spending and representing students' campus wide; not just those who voted.
- II. Stabilization of the GEF over time will be beneficial to students while reducing the reserve steadily over a 5 year period rather than reducing it over one or two years
- III. Capability of funds
 - a. If we do not allocate enough money for projects next year we will not give an accurate representation of what projects students are capable of putting forth, thus not presenting accurate reasoning for raising the fee the following year
 - i. We need to accurately gauge demand
 - ii. We should not stifle possible projects

Proposed Motion:

Move to approve the Green Energy Fee monetary level for fiscal year 2011 as \$0.70 per academic credit not to exceed \$7.00 per quarter. With the stipulations that current surplus funds are spent down over the next five years, and no money be spent on sustainable projects (excluding the purchase of REC's) until the process and procedures have been approved by the AS Board of Directors in conjunction with the University.