



Ohio State Sustainability Fund Project Funding Criteria

Fund Governance

The Office of Energy and Environment (OEE) manages the Ohio State Sustainability Fund with review and advice from the President and Provost's Council on Sustainability (PPCS).

OEE's responsibilities include:

- Continually review sustainability funding requests from the Ohio State campus community throughout the fiscal year
- Announce the availability of funds to the Ohio State campus community at the beginning of the fiscal year, provide information about fund availability online, and provide routine updates on fund availability to members of the PPCS
- Establish fund allocation percentages (for example, the percentage of funds that will be allocated to projects that will yield cost savings)
- Ensure grant priorities align with the sustainability goals and priorities of the university
- Provide written grant parameters and a submission form to applicants
- Monitor projects to ensure accountability for allocated funds
 - Require grantees to document project environmental, social, economic, or other impacts
 - Require interim status [mid-range] and final project reports
- Submit an annual detailed summary of the projects funded, account financial status, and project impacts to PPCS, Office of Academic Affairs and Office of the President. OEE will also routinely communicate information about specific projects to interested audiences and provide a more general annual public summary that will be included on the university sustainability website and be available for public review
- OEE will pre-screen all project proposals and bring recommended projects to the PPCS for review and advice

Eligibility Criteria

The following criteria have been established to determine eligibility of proposed projects for funding consideration.

Criteria are as follows:

Contribute to sustainability – Projects improve the sustainability of campus operations and/or improve the sustainability awareness of campus populations.



Campus impact – Projects are restricted to Ohio State campuses and must be led by a staff or faculty member.

Existing university operating budget – Projects that are covered by an existing university operating budget are not eligible. Projects and project funding are not intended to be an alternative path to the normal annual budgeting process.

Partial funding support – The Sustainability Fund should be used to seed, catalyze, or gap-fill funding on projects rather than be the sole funding source. The fund may be used to support the launch of a program but not for regular year-over-year programmatic funding.

Evaluation Criteria

OEE will use the following criteria for project review before recommending funding to the PPCS:

Feasibility – Is the project likely to succeed? Has the project accounted for contingencies and major obstacles?

Sustainability Impact – Does the project measurably improve or accelerate the sustainability of Ohio State's campuses or the realization of Ohio State's [Sustainability Goals](#) and priorities?

University Population Impact – Does the project lead to increased understanding, greater engagement, or sustainable behavior change in the university community?

Economic Impact – What are the financial benefits? What are the cost-savings, return on investment, or payback over time? Positive return on investment is strongly encouraged.

Innovation – Does the project exhibit innovative technology, processes, or application of knowledge?

Institutionalization/Scalability – Can the project become embedded in the University's routine operation? Does it need only start-up funding to then sustain itself over time? Can it be expanded to other campus locations if successful?