Office for Sustainability Education, University of Utah

Experiential Green Grant (EGG) Fund

The **Experiential Green Grant (EGG) Fund** supports applied sustainability learning by transforming the University of Utah and its surrounding community into a dynamic learning environment where students address real-world sustainability challenges. The fund empowers faculty, staff, students, and community partners to integrate teaching, research, and campus operations through collaborative projects that advance the university's sustainability and climate goals.

The EGG Fund is overseen by a program manager and an Allocations Committee representing a broad range of campus stakeholders. The committee evaluates proposals based on their educational value, sustainability impact, feasibility, and alignment with the University's sustainability and climate goals.

Project Selection Criteria

General Requirements

To be eligible for funding, all proposed projects must meet the following requirements:

- Address sustainability through environmental stewardship, social well-being, and/or economic resilience.
- Benefit the University of Utah campus, strengthen partnerships between the university and surrounding communities, or improve the sustainability impacts of university activities beyond campus.
- Include clearly defined goals, measurable outcomes, and a realistic implementation plan.
- Be sponsored by a University of Utah faculty or staff member if submitted by students.
- Be submitted by current University of Utah students, faculty, or staff. Individuals or organizations outside the university may participate as partners but may not serve as primary applicants.
- Obtain all necessary approvals from the appropriate university departments before funding is awarded.
- Propose work that goes beyond projects already required by law or University policy.

- Include a plan for evaluating project outcomes and submitting a final report to the EGG Fund Program Manager.
- Include consideration of education, outreach, equity, and public engagement.
- Strongly encourage meaningful student participation throughout the project.
- Consider impacts on campus health and wellness whenever appropriate.

Project Categories

Projects may address one or more of the following sustainability focus areas:

- Air Quality
- Built Environment & Communities
- Climate Change
- Ecological & Environmental Change
- Energy
- Food Systems
- Recreation and Culture
- Social Resilience and Access
- Water
- Meeting the needs of current and future generations

Evaluation Criteria

Projects will be evaluated on how effectively they address **at least one** of the following criteria. **Applicants are not expected to address every criterion.** Strong proposals clearly demonstrate meaningful impact in one or more of these areas.

Projects may address:

- Educational outreach and public engagement
- Collaborative partnerships across campus and with community organizations
- Student leadership development and experiential learning

- Social resilience and community well-being
- Sustainability literacy and increased participation in sustainability initiatives
- Health and wellness
- Sustainable purchasing and procurement
- Campus operational improvements that reduce environmental impacts
- Energy conservation and efficiency
- Greenhouse gas emissions reductions
- Pollution prevention, including:
    - Hazardous waste
    - Solid waste
    - Liquid waste
    - Air emissions
    - Stormwater and wastewater reduction
- Water conservation

Projects demonstrating measurable outcomes and meaningful educational experiences will receive stronger consideration.

Funding Priorities

While not required for eligibility, preference may be given to projects that:

- Demonstrate a holistic approach to sustainability by integrating environmental, social, and economic considerations.
- Provide significant opportunities for student leadership and applied learning.
- Leverage matching funds, in-kind contributions, or partnerships with university departments or external organizations.
- Align with the University's Climate Action Plan
- Deal directly with one or more of the following:
    - Campus Engagement

    - Public Engagement
    - Air & Climate
    - Buildings
    - Energy
    - Food & Dining
    - Grounds
    - Purchasing
    - Transportation
    - Waste
    - Water
    - Coordination & Planning
    - Student Success & Belonging
    - Wellbeing
- Directly advance the University of Utah's Sustainability Plan and Climate Action goals.
- Produce long-term benefits that continue after project completion.
- Create innovative solutions that can be replicated or expanded across campus.
- Engage students in project planning, implementation, assessment, and reflection while addressing real-world sustainability challenges.

Meeting one or more of these priorities strengthens a proposal but is **not required** for funding consideration.

Additional Selection Criteria

The Allocations Committee may establish additional priorities for a specific funding cycle to respond to emerging sustainability challenges or university initiatives. Any additional criteria will:

- Remain consistent with the mission of the Experiential Green Grant (EGG) Fund.

- Be communicated publicly before the application deadline.
- Be applied consistently to all proposals submitted during that funding cycle.

Student Compensation and Internships

The Experiential Green Grant (EGG) Fund primarily supports project implementation and applied learning experiences rather than ongoing personnel costs or research funding.

Limited compensation may be approved when it directly supports the educational objectives and successful implementation of a project.

When a project proposes creating an internship or compensated student position, applicants must:

- Obtain approval from the responsible university office or department.
- Use an open and equitable hiring process, or create the position for someone other than the Project Executive.
- Submit a letter explaining:
    - The purpose of the position.
    - Why the position is necessary.
    - How it advances sustainability and experiential learning.
    - Why funding through the EGG Fund is appropriate instead of departmental funding.
- Include signatures from the appropriate departmental leadership and supervisors.

The EGG Fund Program Manager may request additional documentation before or after project approval to ensure compliance with university policies.

Reporting Requirements

Recipients are responsible for documenting project outcomes and demonstrating how funded activities achieved the goals outlined in their proposal.

Final reports should summarize:

- Project accomplishments

- Educational outcomes
- Sustainability impacts
- Student participation
- Partnerships developed
- Challenges encountered
- Lessons learned
- Recommendations for future projects

Projects with long-term impacts may be asked to provide follow-up assessments after implementation.