

## **The Green Grant 2025-2026**

### **Context**

The Student Government Association's (SGA) Sustainability Commission acts as the senior advisor to the SGA in all matters of sustainability and has recognized the absence of funding at Skidmore College for student-led initiatives for interdisciplinary sustainability efforts. Numerous higher education institutions have implemented a green/sustainability grant to improve community and on-campus sustainability, including some of Skidmore's peer and aspirant schools: Vassar College, Colgate University, Oberlin College, Middlebury College, Union College, and Haverford College.

As a result, the SGA Sustainability Commission presented Resolution 33-36: The Green Grant Act (Sponsored by Madison Situ and Apolonia Alvarez) to the SGA Senate in the spring semester of 2023 to create a designated fund available to all students to develop Skidmore's Campus Sustainability Plan. As a result, beginning with the academic year 2023-2024, the SGA agreed to allocate funding to a Green Grant program overseen by the SGA Sustainability Commission and the Green Grant Review Committee.

### **Description**

The Green Grant is a competitive grant managed by the Sustainability Commission in collaboration with the Sustainability Office to support students in pursuing sustainable initiatives on campus to improve student life and the environment. The projects must be based on Skidmore's Campus Sustainability Plan (Appendix A) while addressing intersecting spheres within sustainability, such as social equity, economic viability, and environmental stewardship. All students are eligible to apply for the Green Grant.

### **Structure**

#### *I. Funding*

The fund amount for the Green Grant 2025-2026 will be \$4,000, provided by the SGA. Any project is eligible for funding up to \$4,000, however, if a selected project does not use the entirety of the fund, it can be distributed among more than one project.

The Co-Chairs of the Green Grant Review Committee and the SGA Accountant will oversee the purchases for each selected project. Students cannot make any purchases for their project without first meeting with the SGA Accountant. Any selected project can have its funding suspended if the project fails to meet the SGA Financial Policies.

If an applicant plans to complete the project in the summer and/or is a graduating senior, the grant cannot be used to cover housing expenses. The applicant(s) are expected to seek alternative funding resources at Skidmore to cover additional costs such as housing expenses.

If the entirety of the grant has not been used after the chosen project(s) budget has been approved, then the remaining fund amount will be returned to the SGA Reserves. Projects selected for funding with timelines that exceed the fiscal year (FY) will have their budget carried over into the following FY(s) until the project is completed.

## *II. Application*

All applicants will be required to fill out an application accessible through both the Sustainability Office's and SGA's web pages on the Skidmore College website. Only one application is required per group or individual. Applications must be submitted with the application template to be considered. Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis, with a final deadline of the Sunday before Thanksgiving Break, November 23rd, 2025, at 11:59 pm. EST. The chosen project(s) are expected to be announced at the end of the break.\*

\*Any group may be subject to meet with the GGRC after applying to address follow-up questions, concerns, and application edits, and will have the opportunity to reapply with a revised application

The application will consist of three general parts:

1. Overview
  - a. Required information such as members of the group, estimated project duration, requested budget amount, etc.
2. Short Essay
  - a. Please write a short essay (no more than 3 pages) that explicitly defines the proposed project.
3. Additional Documentation
  - a. Provide a timeline of the project, an explicit budget, and other attachments you feel may be useful for the reviewers to understand your experience and/or project.

In addition, the requirements for the applicant(s) are the following:

- Applicant(s) must be in good academic standing with Skidmore College.
- Applicant(s) may work individually or in groups (no more than 3 people).
- Applicant(s) must appoint a faculty or staff advisor to assist with project management and execution.
- Applicant(s) awarded funding must complete their project within the timeline approved by the Green Grant Review Committee.\*

\*If an emergency, transfer, or unavoidable conflict occurs during the execution of the project, please contact one of the Co-Chairs of the Green Grant Review IMMEDIATELY for assessment

## *III. The Green Grant Review Committee*

The Green Grant Review Committee (GGRC) is comprised of faculty, staff, and student representation. The committee members were chosen to embody Skidmore College's interdisciplinary sustainability approach and efforts. A majority vote within the committee will determine the final projects chosen for funding. A member of the committee cannot serve as an applicant or a faculty overseer for a Green Grant proposal. If matters pertaining to project application or implementation are not covered in this framework, it is at the discretion of the Green Grant Review Committee for review. Each member of the committee will be expected to attend 4 meetings throughout the academic school year to discuss:

- Green Grant Initial Meeting
- Green Grant Applications
- Green Grant Project Selection
- Green Grant Program Evaluation and Development

#### *A. Project Selection*

The Green Grant Review Committee will base its final decision on the following criteria:

- Content: The project must build on one of Skidmore College's sustainability goals identified in Skidmore's Campus Sustainability Plan as well as have a comprehensible plan of how the project can be self-sufficient after implementation.
- Quality: The application needs to demonstrate students' knowledge or experience in their desired project.
- Creative Thought Matters: The project must show creativity through either an original idea or the development of a current or previous Skidmore College initiative.
- Intersectionality: The project is not required, but encouraged to consider Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity (DEI) in collaboration with sustainability.

The projects that have been selected must use their own time, overseen by the designated advisor, to complete the project. Advisors may only sponsor one project per Green Grant Cycle. Advisors must meet with their applicant(s) at the start of the project and as needed to keep their applicant(s) on track with their approved timelines. **Advisors are expected to provide guidance and oversight of the project throughout the entirety of its execution and are required to meet at least once with the student and GGRC together.** Lastly, advisors are to be informed on The Student Government Association Bylaws Title VIII: Financial Policies and Procedures Section 9.13, the Green Grant, and Resolution 33-36: The Green Grant Act.

Additionally, once the project is completed, participant(s) must present their project to the SGA Senate at the following SGA Senate meeting on the impacts and results of the project. Throughout the entirety of the implementation of the project, the participant(s) must report to the Green Grant Review Committee Co-Chairs at least once a month for updates and feedback.

#### *B. Membership*

- Co-Chairs: *Tarah Rowse*, Sustainability Office Director, and *Madeline Bace*, SGA Sustainability Commission Chair
- Environmental Science and Studies Department Representative: *AJ Schneller*, Associate Director and Associate Professor of Environmental Studies and Sciences
- Facilities Services Representative: *Bruce Murray*, Director of Facilities Leadership Activities Department Representative: *Emily Poole*, Associate Director of Leadership Activities
- Appointed Student Representative: *Austin Zhang*, Class of '29

## **Resources**

The SGA Sustainability Commission and Sustainability Office are committed to being a consistent resource to students throughout the application and implementation process. The SGA Sustainability Commission will hold an annual Green Grant workshop event in the fall semester to assist in the application process and answer questions students may have about the Green Grant. The Green Grant Review Committee members will also be encouraged to attend to support students applying.

The Sustainability Office at Skidmore has initiated many sustainable projects since it was established and has a strong understanding of campus initiatives. If students have questions about the guidelines for their potential projects, the GGRC is available to offer assistance and share what has been successful or unsuccessful in the past. The GGRC can also provide examples of projects that could be carried out on campus to guide students in their efforts. Please reach out to [greengrant@skidmore.edu](mailto:greengrant@skidmore.edu) with any inquiries about project ideas.

## **Timeline (2025-2026)**

- Fall Semester: Green Grant Workshop October 21st, 2025
- End of Fall Semester: Application Deadline November 23rd, 2025
- Winter Break: Applications reviewed by the Green Grant Review Committee
- End of Jan: Chosen projects announced
- Spring Semester: Project timeline to be completed

# Skidmore College Campus Sustainability Plan Goals for 2025



Goal 1: 60% of our electricity from renewable sources

- Currently 45% of our electricity from renewable sources

Goal 2: 60% of our heating and cooling from renewable sources

- Currently 40% of heating and cooling from renewable sources

Goal 3: 75% reduction in our GHG emissions

- Currently 48% reduction in GHG emissions

Goal 4: 60% reduction in energy use for heating and cooling per student and square foot

- Currently 50% reduction in energy use for heating and cooling per student and square foot

Goal 5: Maintain electricity use per student and square foot



Goal: 25% Sustainable Food in Dining Services

- Currently 11% Sustainable Food in Dining Services



Goal 1: 60% diversion rate in routine operations

- Currently 27% diversion rate in routine operations

Goal 2: 50% diversion rate for special projects



Goal: Create a comprehensive lands management plan for our lands and grounds



Goal: Make sustainability an essential feature of Skidmore's identity and a value that is integrated into all aspects of the College

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

*What type of projects can the Green Grant support?*

A. George Mason University's Green Fund

- Greenhouse Promotional Signage
  - Amount: \$100
  - The awarded team installed temporary signage to promote opportunities with the Greenhouse and Gardens Program.
- Purple Martin House
  - Amount: \$1,000
  - The awarded student installed a purple martin bird house outside their science center to promote the species's habitat.
- Art Supply Sharing Cabinet
  - Amount: \$1,700
  - The awarded team built a free art supply sharing resource located in the School of Art to promote reuse of materials and divert items from the trash.

B. The University of Texas at Austin's Green Fund

- Compressed Earth Blocks as Passive Removal for Indoor Air Quality
  - Amount: \$5,000
  - Awarded to a graduate student in the department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering, to conduct research on the potential of using compressed earth blocks as a building material to regulate indoor air quality.
- Texas Union Planter
  - Amount: \$1,580
  - Awarded to the Texas Union for the construction of a vertical garden.

C. University Nebraska-Lincoln's Green Fund

- Alumin8
  - Amount: \$8,936.54
  - The awarded team collects aluminum cans and re-purposes them into permanent items to be donated to homeless shelters and other services around Lincoln. The Green Fund Grant allows the project to be campus-wide and offers an easy understanding for individuals on how the lifespan of items can be increased.
- Bugeater Farms
  - Amount: \$4,265
  - The awarded student revitalized the farming production on unproductive farmland on campus and spent the funding reestablishing seed collection and investing in new tools.

*I am not an Environmental Sciences and Studies major, nor a minor, can I still participate in the Green Grant?*

- The Green Grant is based on developing the interdisciplinary aspect of sustainability at Skidmore College. Therefore, the Green Grant is open to all students, no matter their desired/chosen major of interest. What will determine the chosen projects will be their alignment with Skidmore's Sustainability Plan and the development of sustainability at Skidmore College.

*I'm a graduating senior and would like to participate in the Green Grant. Am I still eligible?*

- Graduating seniors are more than welcome to participate in applying for the Green Grant! It is important to consider the timeline of your project as the Green Grant does not cover additional housing fees or wages that may be required if the project is designed to extend into the summer or the following academic school year. However, Skidmore College has many resources available for graduating seniors that fund summer housing.

*I have never applied for a grant before. What can I do to access resources about the application process?*

- In addition to the Fall Semester Green Grant Workshop, you can send any questions or concerns to the email [greengrant@skidmore.edu](mailto:greengrant@skidmore.edu), and one of the Green Grant Review Committee Co-Chairs will respond to your inquiry.

*I would like to apply for the Green Grant, but I would like to form a team with other students interested in my project. What can I do?*

- In the fall semester, SuCo will host a Green Grant Application Workshop, which will consist of an opportunity where students can connect and meet with other interested participants to form groups for an application.

*I don't think I can apply for the Green Grant this year, can I apply for the Green Grant next year?*

- The Green Grant was first piloted in 2023-2024 and then reapproved for 2024-2025 and 2026. The SGA Green Grant Funding will continue to run through the next four academic years thanks to continued support from the SGA and outside donations.

*If my project exceeds \$4,000, can I still receive partial funding from the Green Grant?*

- Yes! The \$4,000 budget does not have to cover the entirety of the project. Projects would need to have identified and secured the additional funding to be approved for Green Grant funds, and must follow all SGA and Green Grant policies