

The SGA Green Grant 2023-2024



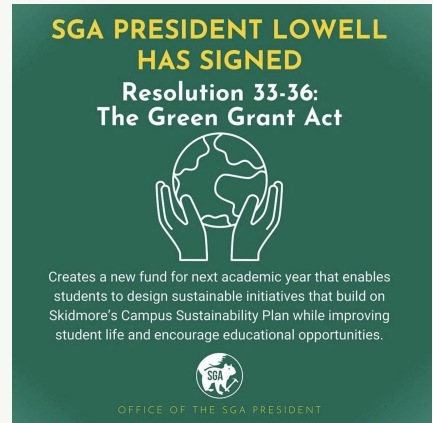
01

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Overview

Context

- **The Student Government Association's (SGA) Sustainability Commission (SuCo) serves as the senior advisor to SGA on all matters of sustainability** and the primary student group responsible for educating and collaborating with students, faculty, staff and the administration with the intent to advance the commitment to sustainability.
- **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.
- 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 in order to create a designated fund available to all students no matter their current or desired major of interest to develop Skidmore's Campus Sustainability Plan. **As a result, beginning with the academic year 2023-2024, the SGA has agreed to allocate \$10,000 to a Green Grant program overseen by the SGA Sustainability Commission.**



Description

- The Green Grant will be 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 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.

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

02

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Structure

Funding

- The fund amount for the Green Grant 2023-2024 will be **\$10,000** provided by the SGA.
- Any project is eligible for funding up to \$10,000, 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 a graduating senior, the grant cannot be used to cover housing expenses.** The applicant(s) are expected to seek other funding resources at Skidmore to cover housing expenses.
- 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.

Application

- All applicants will be required to fill out an application accessible through both the Sustainability Office's and SGA's webpages on the Skidmore College website. Only one application will need to be turned in for each designated group.
- **The deadline for the application is the Friday before Thanksgiving Break, Nov. 17th, 2023, at 12:00 am EST.** Applications turned in after the deadline will not be reviewed by the Green Grant Review Committee. The chosen project(s) are anticipated to be announced at the end of the break.*
- All applications are subject to full, partial, or no funding.
- The application will consist of 3 general parts:
 1. General Information (Member(s), requested budget, project duration)
 2. Short Essay (Defines proposed project, why it's important, how it will improve student-life)
 3. Additional Documentation (Timeline, budget, etc.)

*Any group is subject to be met with during the break for follow-up questions and concerns

Applicant Requirements

- Applicant(s) must be in good academic standing with Skidmore College.
- Applicant(s) may work individually or in a group (no more than 3 people).
- Applicant(s) must appoint a faculty overseer to assist with project management and execution.
- Applicant(s) awarded funding must complete their project within the outlined 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

The Green Grant Review Committee

- **The Green Grant Review Committee consists of faculty, staff, and student representation. The committee members were chosen to embody Skidmore College's interdisciplinary sustainability approach and efforts.**
- Only applications turned in on time will be reviewed by the Green Grant Review Committee.
- A majority vote amongst the committee will determine the final project(s) chosen for funding.
- A member of the committee cannot serve as an applicant or a faculty overseer for a Green Grant proposal; nor can they discuss information about Green Grant applications or decisions outside of designated meetings.
- **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.**

The Green Grant Review Committee Membership

- **Co-Chairs:** *Tarah Rowse*, Sustainability Office Director, and *Apolonia Alvarez*, SGA Sustainability Commission Chair
- **Environmental Science and Studies Department Representative:** *Karen Kellogg*, Associate Professor of Environmental Science and Studies Department
- **Facilities Services Representative:** *Daniel Rodecker*, Associate Vice President of Facilities and Planning
- **Leadership Activities Department Representative:** *Emily Poole*, Associate Director of Leadership Activities
- **Appointed Student Representative:** *Grace Coale*, Class of '25

The Green Grant Review Committee 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 and/or experience in their desired project.
- **Creative Thought Matters:** The project must show creativity through either an original or a 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.

Project Selection

- The projects that have been selected must use their own time overseen by the designated faculty advisor to complete the project.
 - Advisors must meet with their sponsored applicant(s) at the start of the project and as needed after to keep their sponsored 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.
 - 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.
- 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.

03

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Resources

Green Grant Application Workshop

- The SGA Sustainability Commission will hold an annual Green Grant Application workshop event in the fall semester to answer questions students may have about the Green Grant and serve as a networking opportunity to bring students together who may have similar sustainable initiatives. The Green Grant Review Committee members will also be encouraged to attend.

Timeline (2023-2024)

- September 2023: Green Grant Launch and Outreach Begins
- October 18th, 2023: Green Grant Application Workshop
- November 17th, 2023: Application Deadline
- Spring Semester: Funded Projects to be Announced

Thank you!
Have questions?

Contact us!

Email:

greengrant@skidmore.edu