

# Green Fee Proposal

## Statement of Reason:

Recent legislation, scientific findings, and public demand demonstrate the growing movement toward environmental sustainability. Higher education institutions have played critical roles in support of progress in sustainability through research, commitment, and enthusiasm. It is essential that the University of Massachusetts Amherst seize the present opportunity to demonstrate stewardship, ability to rise against a pressing challenge, and to play a leading role in pursuance of a common goal.

Members of the campus community devoted to the development of long-term economically viable sustainable practices for the university are sometimes obstructed only by a significant lack of funding in the short-run. With the adoption of a Green Fee, to charge every member of the student body a five dollar, non-waivable fee per semester, would allow the realization of such ideas.

As the funding would come from the students, the ultimate goal of all related projects will be to benefit the student body at large. In accordance with this guarantee, a committee will manage all revenue generated by such a fee. This committee is to always hold student members as the majority.

## Allocation of Funds:

Revenue acquired from the Green Fee would go directly to work for the students. The money would be used to create a better and more sustainable campus with more resources to educate its population. With the Green Fee in place, it is the goal of the Sustainability Initiative to use the money to aid and support the students in a variety of ways:

### Student Projects and Initiatives

Students with a green initiative or project would be able to present ideas to the Green Fee Committee for potential funding. If the student's idea is environmentally sound, feasible, and aligns with the mission of the Green Fee the committee would allocate resources to support it

### Speakers

An important part of creating a greener campus is education. With the funds provided by the Green Fee, the Sustainability Initiative would be able to bring in speakers to help educate our student population around environmental issues and policies.

### Trips

Education is sometimes obtained through experiencing a variety of places. With the Green Fee, trips or students to various areas of special environmental significance would be possible.

### Hiring student interns

Previously established and new internships would be funded through the Green Fee. These internships would help students gain experience in the field of sustainability and would allow the University to benefit from their work.

### Eco-Rep Program

Already a force on campus, the Eco-Rep Program would be able to expand its influence on campus and foster a greater sense of environmental literacy among the student

population. Program members would be able to hold more events through which they can educate students in the residence halls.

### Campus Betterment Projects

The funds from the Green Fee would be directed to the betterment of the campus to help make the University move toward a more sustainable future. Projects that are currently in mind are more bike trails and green building projects.

### **Structure of the Green Fee committee**

A committee consisting of both student and administrative representatives will manage the Green Fee. There will be one chair and six members who will all serve as equal voting members. There will be four student members and three faculty members. All members will meet regularly over the course of the academic year to decide how to best allocate the funds. A majority vote with a quorum of the Chair and four other committee members will make decisions about how the money will be allocated. In the event of a tie, the Chair's vote presides.

The Chair of the Green Fee Committee will be the current Sustainability Coordinator. The remaining six members will include:

- The current Student Sustainability Coordinator
- The current Student Government Association's Secretary of the Environment
- An Eco-Rep Program Manager
- A Senator elected by the Student Government Association Senate
- A representative from the Office of Administration and Finance
- A representative from the Environmental Performance Advisory Committee