Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What is the Green Fund?**
   The Green Fund is a competitive grant program that funds environmental services, projects and research at UT-Austin and its affiliated locations.

2. **Who can apply?**
   Active UT-Austin students, staff and faculty with positive hour appointments may apply to the Green Fund.

3. **How can I apply?**
   Go to the Office of Sustainability Green Fund grant application website to access the grant application and to upload your completed application.

4. **When is the next application cycle?**
   The next application cycle begins December 1, 2018. Grant applications are due at midnight on February 17, 2019.

5. **Where does the funding come from?**
   A small portion of every student's tuition each semester is allocated to the Green Fund. The amount is $5.00 for each full semester and $2.50 each summer session the student is enrolled.

6. **Who decides which projects receive funding?**
   The student majority Green Fund Committee makes the funding decisions. The Committee is comprised of six students and three faculty and staff.

7. **Who serves on Green Fund Committee?**

   <u>Voting Members</u>
   One (1) student appointed by the Student Government
   One (1) graduate student appointed by the Graduate Student Assembly
   Four (4) students at-large appointed by the outgoing Green Fund Committee
   One (1) faculty member appointed by the Provost
   One (1) staff member appointed by the Vice President of Student Affairs
   One (1) staff member appointed by the Chief Financial Officer

   <u>Non-Voting Members</u>
   Green Fund program manager hired by the Office of Sustainability

   The Director of the Office of Sustainability

8. **How can I serve on the Green Fund Committee?**
   Applications for the four at-large student positions are accepted in the Fall semester. Contact the Green Fund program manager at greenfund@austin.utexas.edu if you would like to receive an application. The application will also be posted on the Office of Sustainability Green Fund website during the application period.

9. **How much money is available?**
   The Green Fund receives approximately $500,000 each year. Funds are used to support program management as well as Green Fund projects and research.

10. **Is there limit to how much I can request?**
    While there is no request limit to the General Application, a typical grant award is in the $5,000-30,000 range. There is a $2,500 limit on a Student Research Application for undergraduate research and a $5,000 limit on a Student Research Application for graduate research.

11. **Which application should I complete?**
    Submit a **General Application** if your project falls into one of the following three categories:

    General Project: This is a project led by a team or an individual, usually proposing collaboration between multiple units, for campus improvement and awareness. The overall intent of this kind of project is to make a permanent or semi-permanent change to campus (e.g. permeable pavement, a recycling program, a pollinator garden or native landscape, energy or water conservation infrastructure).

    Student Interest: This is a project led by an individual student or group of students, which may have some existing institutional support but is primarily an idea that students want to examine more closely for long-term relevance to campus. Student organization-supported projects fall under this category, as do most projects created by independent student teams. (e.g., aquaponics, recycling effort, or a one-time outreach event).

    General Research: This category is for projects led by faculty, or by named academic units, which use campus as a Living Lab, studying different aspects of campus for education and improvement. The projects should have relevance to current students and ideally engage students in professionally and academically beneficial ways. The strongest applications will propose a path for implementing the results of the research on campus, or making data available for use by future students and researchers. (e.g., solar installations, air quality assessments, waste reduction, best management practices).

    Submit a **Student Research Application** if you are an undergraduate or graduate student seeking support for your sustainability research project.

12. Is there a match requirement for Student Research Applications?
A 25% cash match is required for Student Research Applications for graduate research.

13. Is there a match requirement for the General Application?
A cash match is required for grant requests over $20,000 from non-academic, self-funded units (e.g. Athletics, Housing and Dining, University Unions, Parking and Transportation Services, etc.):

Green Fund Grant Requests	Required Cash Match from non-academic, self-funded units
Less than $20,000	0
Between $20,000-$50,000	10%
Over $50,000	25%

14. Can Green Fund grants be used to support salaries?
Green Fund grants may not support staff salaries. Student and Faculty salaries are eligible with the following restrictions:

Undergraduate Students (All Titles)	Not to exceed $2,500/semester
Graduate Students (Non-Academic Titles)	Not to exceed $5,000/semester
Graduate Students (Academic Titles)	Not to exceed 70% Average Departmental Stipend
Faculty	Not to exceed one month summer salary or $6,000

15. If awarded, how long will I have to spend the funds?
A typical grant is funded for 12 months. Amendments to extend a project timeline are reviewed and considered by the Green Fund Committee.