



UCCS GREEN ACTION FUND 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Prepared by Vee Garcia
GAF Grant Coordinator

WHO WE ARE

The Green Action Fund is a student organization that aims to make UCCS a more sustainable campus through funding various student, staff, and faculty projects.

Originally developed as a solar fee, the Green Action Fund has evolved into a student-run organization where a committee of students and a staff and faculty advisor vote on providing grant funding to sustainable projects.



EMPLOYEES

VEE GARCIA, GRANT COORDINATOR

The Grant Coordinator is, broadly, in charge of handing the grant lifecycle of any GAF project. This position also focuses on education, marketing, and policy. Vee Garcia has acted as the Grant Coordinator since Fall 2023 and will be handing off the position to graduate student, Jenna McCallum, upon graduation in 2024.



CAMPBELL CURCIO, OUTREACH SPECIALIST

In May of 2024, the Green Action Fund voted to trial a new student position, the Outreach Specialist. The purpose of this position is to remove outreach responsibilities from the committee, ensuring fair compensation for time spent tabling, creating marketing materials, and planning events. In Summer 2024, Campbell Curcio was hired in this role and works closely with the Grant Coordinator and Committee to fulfill the duties assigned. In the Summer of 2025, this role will be evaluated to consider it as a permanent position.



This year was a time of growth and reflection for the Green Action Fund. We developed new policies, changed our application methods, and welcomed a new committee, all while campaigning for, and receiving, permanent funding.

-Vee Garcia, GAF Grant Coordinator



COMMITTEE

This year, our committee has grown substantially. At our last meeting of the semester, we had a total of 15 voting members including our staff and faculty advisors.

VOTING MEMBERS

Brett Meurer

Daytona McCombe

Cari Lieberson

Sana Hamad

Emily Elliott

Micah Vacco (Senator of Sustainability)

Dailyn McAdoo (Grad. December 2024)

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Bailey Parenteau – Chair

Alissa Beehler – Vice Chair

Vee Garcia – Grant Coordinator (Grad. December 2024)

Campbell Curcio – Outreach Specialist

Laurel Smith – Secretary (Grad. December 2024)

Alexander Funckes – Treasurer

Michael Brubaker - Staff Advisor Dylan Harris - Faculty Advisor

PROJECTS

SPRING 2024

- HugelKulture
- Mitigating Implicit Bias Research
- Identifying the Responses of Native Insects to Climate Change
- SAA Travel Tour

FALL 2024

- Creating Change Conference
- Bike Lockers
- Game Ranching
- United Nations Conference
- WSECS Conference

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT—SAA TRAVEL TOUR

The purpose of this trip was for the Student Affairs Association to visit other college campuses in California to gain insight on their sustainability practices and bring those ideas to UCCS.



EVENTS



GAF members and student/staff volunteers came together to replace the overrun edible garden to a Native Plant garden to recognize Indigenous People's Day 2024.

FALL RETREAT

With GAF Committee and Advisors

NATIVE PLANT GARDEN

With students from the Native American Student Association

PUMPKIN PATCH

With the UCCS Farm and Student Life

TOTE BAG DECORATING

With Feminist Club



FALL RETREAT

For this year's Fall retreat, GAF spent the day at Cheyenne Mountain Zoo. We trained new members, reviewed bylaws, and learned about conservation!

FINANCES

We are excited to announce that in March of 2024, the Green Action Fund was **PERMANENTLY** funded through an official student vote. The Green Fee was approved for **\$6.39** per student, per semester (\$3.40 in the Summer semester).

This means that the projected income for the Green Action Fund in the 2024 fiscal year is **\$164,159.00**.

ACTUAL PROJECT SPENDING IN 2024

Spring 2024 projects: \$11,582 (+\$1,182.70 Contingency)

Fall 2024 projects: \$28,000 (+\$2,800.00 Contingency)

TOTAL: 43,564.70

PROJECTED 2024 BUDGET

STUDENT EMPLOYEES

This covers all potential earnings for student employees. This does not account for potential work study, which most of our employees have.

\$49,644.00

PROJECTS

This covers the grant funding for all projects supported by GAF. This amount is reserved specifically for the initial investment, support, and upkeep of projects that we, as a committee, approve.

\$90,961.0

CAMPUS SUPPORT SERVICES

This covers GAF's usage of campus services for marketing, MLC, website, and graphic design purposes.

\$13,554.00

\$10,000

PROGRAMMING

This covers all of GAF's marketing, events, tabling swag, merchandise, retreats, and other various operating expenses.

This budget does *not* include the reserves spending that was approved by the committee.