

Colorado Mountain College Sustainability Tuition

Sustainability tuition fees are a very common way for university administrations and students to come together and fund specific sustainability goals. In fact, during the CMC sustainability survey that was sent out to students, nearly 72% of respondents said that they would be willing to pay from \$5 to more than \$20 per semester to support a student-controlled sustainable initiative fund (15% said they would be willing to pay more than \$20).

The dollar amount of tuition add-on fees per term varies across colleges and universities and from program to program based on the initiative, but most programs kept their sustainability tuition fee under 0.5% of tuition.

Institution	Location	Year Established	Fund Name	Student Fee per Term (\$)	Semester Tuition Sticker Price (\$)	Sustainability Program Fee (%)
Appalachian State University	North Carolina Boone	2005	Renewable Energy Initiative (REI)	10.00	8890	0.11%
Austin Community College	Texas Austin	2009	Sustainability Fee	1.00	6811	0.01%
Community College of Denver	Colorado Denver	2007	Sustainable Campus Program Fee	5.00	6954	0.07%
Green Mountain College	Vermont Poultney	2005	Student Campus Greening Fund	30.00	22223	0.13%
Oberlin College	Ohio Oberlin	2008	Green EDGE Fund	20.00	29842	0.07%
University of Montana	Missoula Montana	2010	Kless Revolving Energy Loan Fund	4.00	8720	0.05%
University of Vermont	Vermont Burlington	2008	Clean Energy Fund	10.00	13894	0.07%
University of California, San Diego	California San Diego	2006	The Green Initiative Fund	2.60	15957	0.02%

Going on the assumption that current resident tuition and fees at CMC are under \$5000 per semester, if a \$5 sustainability fee was added a semester, this would be a 0.1 % increase and boost sustainability

funding by \$50,000 a semester. Breaking that down, here are some options regarding how this fund could be split in the following areas:

- Sustainability Director 40% or \$2 per person
- Student Led Sustainability Directive 10% or \$0.5 per person
- Campus wide energy efficiency projects 20% or \$1 per person
- Renewable Energy projects 30% or \$1.5 per person

These programs alone would enable CMC to jumpstart the college's sustainability program. For example, the Sustainability Director could serve as a primary liaison for all program areas (Energy, Waste, Grounds, etc.) and act as a conduit of between leadership and stakeholders (Green Team, students, NGOs), take the lead role in institutionalizing sustainability at CMC through appropriate centralization. Meanwhile, support for student led and or campus specific initiatives through this program would help students and other stakeholders to better identify with CMC's efforts by connecting with local, visible projects.