

MTSU Sustainable Campus Fee Funding Request Form

The Sustainable Campus Fee (SCF) supports projects that advance sustainability at MTSU. This form allows students, faculty, and staff to propose initiatives that contribute to a greener campus through energy efficiency upgrades, infrastructure improvements, education, research, and efforts to enhance campus biodiversity.

There are 5 sections to the application: Section I: Contact Information, Section II: Project Category, Section III: Project Description, Section IV: Project Cost, and Section V: Project Performance Information (For applicable projects).

The Sustainable Campus Fee is administered through a partnership with the Office of Student Affairs, the Center for Student Involvement & Leadership, and the Center for Energy and Sustainability (CES).

Date Thursday, September 24, 2026

Request Number **SCFR27000064**

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SECTION II: Project Category

Please note that all proposed projects will have to comply with MTSU campus guidelines and recommendations.

1. Select the category that best describes the project. (Select One - See Descriptions Below)

Recycling

CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

Energy Conservation/Efficiency - (e.g. installing LED light bulbs, adding insulation to walls, replacing old appliances with energy-efficient models, installing programmable lighting, etc.)

Renewable Energy - (e.g. implementing projects to harness naturally replenishing sources like wind, water, and sunlight to generate electricity - like solar-powered picnic tables, etc.)

Sustainable Transportation - (e.g. installing covered bike racks, replacing fuel vehicles with electric vehicles, etc.)

Alternative Fuels - (e.g. setting up electric vehicle charging stations, implementing hybrid or electric vehicles, purchasing electric or propane power equipment, etc.)

Recycling - (e.g. purchasing recycling bins, improving signage, recycling difficult materials, etc.)

Waste Reduction - (e.g. establishing a reuseable to-go container program, reducing food waste, installing waterbottle filling stations, etc.)

Water Conservation - (e.g. purchasing rain barrels, creating a rain garden, switching to low-flow water fixtures, installing low-flow water valves, etc.)

Biodiversity - (e.g. planting pollinator garden, tree planting, installing bird boxes, etc.)

Education - (e.g. hosting a sustainability fair to raise awareness about green practices, hosting bike repair and/or safety workshops)

Research and Innovation - (e.g. researching the effects of microplastics, solar feasibility study, etc.)

SECTION III: Project Description

Please include as much detail as possible in this section. The more information you provide, the better equipped the adjudication committee will be to fully understand your request and make an informed decision.

To expand a text box, click and drag the two diagonal lines in the bottom-right corner. This allows you to adjust the size and view of your content as you type.

1. Project Title

Recycle Right: Enhancing Campus Recycling Through Improved Appearance and Visibility

2. Scope: Work to be accomplished

This project will improve the appearance, visibility, and effectiveness of campus recycling infrastructure through the purchase and installation of three Max-R recycling stations on campus. Recycling stations, as opposed to individual bins for each material, have been shown to increase recycling participation and reduce contamination and also provide attractive, standardized, and user-friendly collection systems. Similar stations are already present on campus in the Student Union buildings and Murphy Center. We will choose bin locations based on the history of contamination for that location and visibility. Examples of buildings under consideration are the Cope Administration Building, the Walker Library, the Science Building, and the Business and Aerospace Building.

The project will also support updating recycling signage on bins to provide clear guidance on proper waste sorting and reinforce consistent recycling practices across campus. In addition, existing cardboard collection bins will be refreshed by repainting them to improve their visibility.

This project will also include exploring a partnership with the Art Department to engage students in designing and painting select recycling bins, transforming them into creative, sustainability-themed installations that promote recycling awareness while enhancing the campus environment and supporting student education.

Through these combined improvements, the project aims to create more recognizable, attractive, and effective recycling spaces that encourage proper recycling behaviors and support MTSU's sustainability goals.

3. Scope: Benefit Statement

This project will improve the visibility, appearance, and usability of campus recycling infrastructure, helping to encourage proper recycling behaviors, increase recycling participation, and reduce contamination. Updated recycling stations and signage will make it easier for students, faculty, staff, and visitors to correctly sort materials while reinforcing sustainability practices across campus. The project also provides an educational opportunity for students, particularly those in the Art Department, by engaging them in the design and creation of sustainability-themed artwork for recycling stations and collection bins. This hands-on experience will allow students to apply their creative skills to a real-world sustainability initiative while promoting environmental awareness throughout the campus community.

4. Location of Project

General Campus

5. Participants and Roles

The Center for Energy and Sustainability will coordinate all work on this project. MTSU Facilities Services, will

assist with the painting of cardboard bins. Max-R will provide the recycling stations and BluePrint will provide recycling stickers and signage. The project may also include a partnership with the Art Department, allowing students to contribute creative designs for select recycling bins.

6. Student Participation in the project and/or Student Benefit from the project

This project will benefit students by creating a more attractive, accessible, and effective recycling system that encourages proper waste disposal and supports a cleaner campus environment. Improved recycling stations and signage will make it easier for students to recycle correctly, helping reduce contamination and increase waste diversion. The project may also provide opportunities for students, particularly those in the Art Department, to contribute to the design and enhancement of recycling infrastructure, gaining hands-on experience while promoting sustainability awareness.

7. Future Operating and/or Maintenance Requirements

N/A

8. Additional Comments or Information Pertinent to the Proposed Project

Partial funding would be accepted.

Any supporting documents or attachments will be on the pages following the SCF Request.

Note, all projects are expected to be completed by December 31, 2026.

SECTION IV: Project Costs

1. Project Cost Estimate 22000

2. Source of Estimate

Example of possible purchases and cost break down based on past purchases.

Max-R Recycling Stations (3 stations @ \$5,000 each): \$15,000
MTSU Facilities Labor (paint/refurbish 7 cardboard collection bins): \$2,800
Blue Print (recycling signage production): \$1,600
Paint and Supplies for Art Department: \$500

Subtotal: \$19,900

10% Overhead: \$1,990
Contingency: \$110
Total Project Request: \$22,000

3. Has previous funding from this source been awarded?

No

If Yes, please explain how this request differs from previous funding request.

SECTION V: Project Performance Information

If your project is expected to reduce energy consumption (e.g. through lighting upgrades or HVAC improvements etc.), please provide an estimate of potential savings. Feel free to contact the Center for Energy and Sustainability for help making these calculations at ces@mtsu.edu.

1. Estimated Annual Energy Savings (Estimated in kW, kWh, Btu, etc.)

2. Annual Energy COST Savings (\$)

3. Annual Operating Cost Savings or Other Cost Savings. Specify in dollar amount, if applicable. (\$)

4. Matching or Supplementary Funding (Identify and explain, if applicable)

Acknowledgment

I acknowledge that a project summary and photo must be submitted, if I am awarded funding and upon completion of the project.

Supporting Documentation or Attachments if provided.

Max – R Recycling Station in Keathley University Center:



Current Bins:



Examples of a cardboard bins that need to be re-painted:





 **MTSU RECYCLES**
Broken Down
CARDBOARD
Thanks for recycling

TOW ZONE
NO PARKING

DUMPSTERS ARE FOR THE
EXCLUSIVE USE OF AUTHORIZED
MTSU PERSONNEL

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