

Green Fee/Fund Brief History

The Green Fee is a student-led initiative that began in 2005 with a proposal by religion major Katherine Wilkinson (C'05). The University accepted the Green Fee proposal and allotted \$6 from each students' tuition payment to a Green Fund that was used at the time to purchase Renewable Energy Credits (REC) from the Tennessee Valley Authority through the Green Power Switch program. This was done to further Sewanee's progress towards meeting the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC), monitored by Second Nature, and our pledge to be carbon neutral by 2030.

In 2013, through another proposal presented to the Student Government Organization (SGO) by Sewanee students, funding was directed away from RECs (which had become "invisible" payments made by Physical Plant Services) and used to initiate a shade-coffee based reforestation program in Haiti, called "Zanmi Kafe". The idea was that students could opt to use their green fee to support carbon sequestration by Haitian agroforestry, and that spring break outreach students could monitor progress towards that goal through annual tree surveys on Haitian farms that would be used to calculate carbon payments.

In May 2015, Zamni Kafe distributed the first carbon payments to 45 families. The ongoing research, monitoring and outreach activities will continue in Haiti for the foreseeable future; however, support from Green Fee funds (50% per year) will only continue through 2022, or, until alternative funding is awarded. Should no alternative funding for Zamni Kafe arise, the opportunity to apply annually will persist beyond 2022.

Beginning in 2018, 50% of annual funding will be available to fund other sustainability projects and any unused funds will be rolled over each year to be used exclusively for the Green Fund grant program. From 2023 forward, all funding is available to support other sustainability projects.