

Energizing UVM: The Clean Energy Fund



A Report from the Office of the Vice President for Finance
University of Vermont, September, 2016

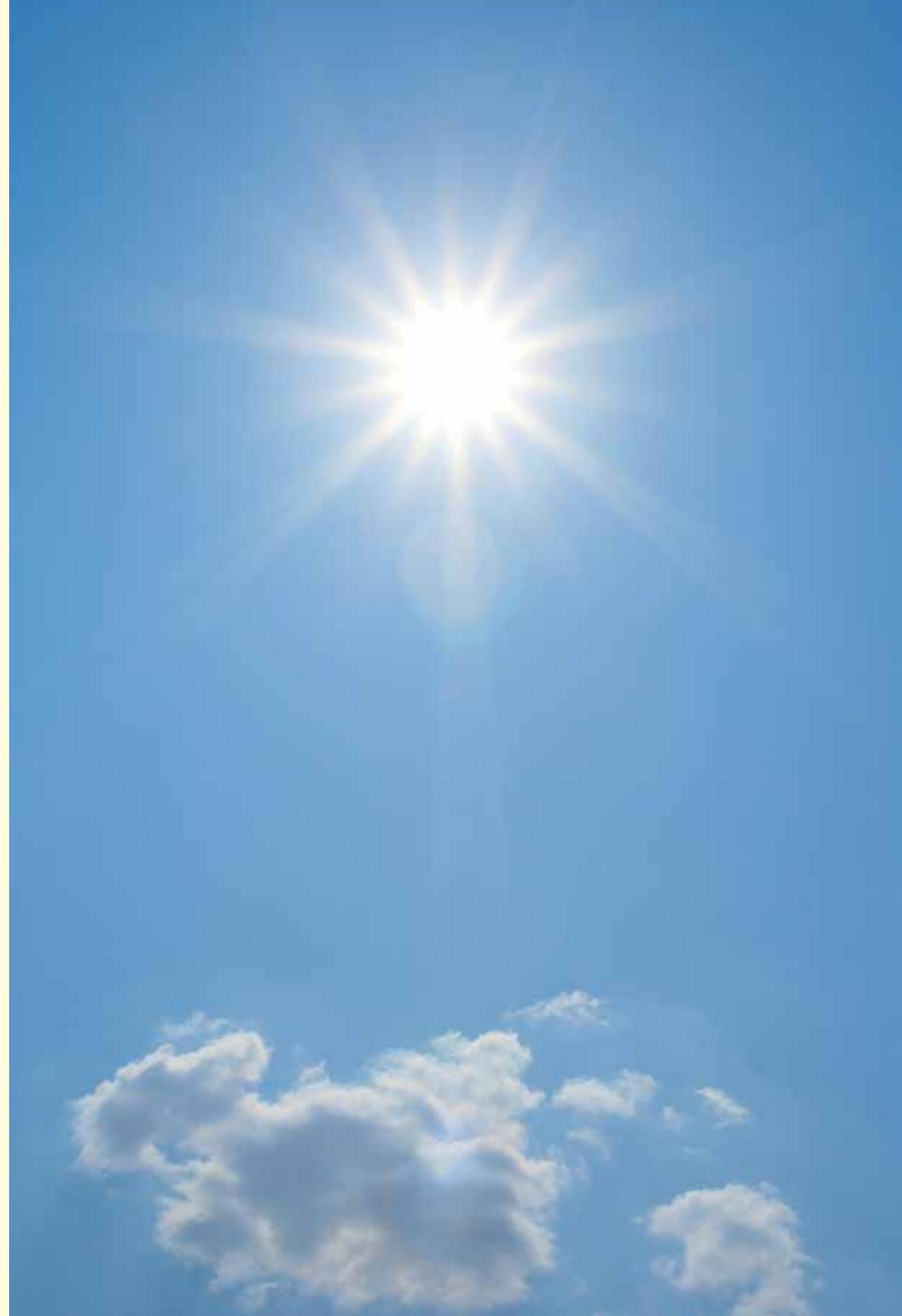
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A Letter from the Vice President for Finance

It has been an exciting seven years to be involved with the Clean Energy Fund (CEF). Launched in 2007 as a student-led initiative, the fund has since invested about \$1.3 million in more than 35 university energy-related projects and programs. The fund started when a group of students challenged UVM to increase investment in energy education and campus renewable energy projects. Working with UVM staff and faculty, these students championed the idea of increasing the student comprehensive fee by \$10 and allocating the new funds to the CEF. The idea gathered momentum, and the students won approval from student government, the Faculty Senate, and ultimately the UVM Board of Trustees.



Richard Cate

Seven years later, much has been accomplished. The fund has supported a broad array of events and programs across the university. The campus's continued investment in solar has been a direct result of the fund, and the educational programming the fund spurred has been both informative and effective in building student interest in clean energy.

UVM faculty, staff, and students are actively engaged in state and national conversations on energy use. The Clean Energy Fund has collaborated to bring those conversations and knowledge back to campus.

In this report, "Energizing UVM: The Clean Energy Fund," we present an overview of the projects and programs that are the direct results of the Clean Energy Fund. You will learn about projects that invest in renewable energy, energy-related research, and student education programs.

We are pleased with the accomplishments of the last seven years and look forward to continuing to energize UVM with the Clean Energy Fund going forward.



Richard Cate
Vice President for Finance

Program Goals

The Clean Energy Fund seeks to engage students in education, outreach, and research related to reducing energy use at the University of Vermont. There are three program goals:

1. Developing high-impact projects that bring clean energy to UVM.
2. Engaging students in clean energy research and education.
3. Increasing awareness of renewable energy and energy alternatives.

Funds have been allocated to six categories: infrastructure and feasibility studies, co-curricular activities, research, lectures and seminar series, outreach expenditures, CEF operations, and building renewables.

Fund Expenditures through June 30, 2016

End use of fund	Total	# of Projects	%
Infrastructure and feasibility studies	\$ 779,350	13	58%
Co-Curricular Activities	\$ 72,156	5	5%
Research	\$ 168,007	5	13%
Lectures and Seminar Series	\$ 83,603	11	6%
Outreach Expenditures	\$ 210,513	n/a	16%
CEF Operations	\$ 21,843	n/a	2%
Total	\$1,335,472	34	100%

The Beginning: 2007-2008



Research associate Gary Hawley and students and faculty stand in front of the first solar array funded through the Clean Energy Fund — the Aiken Solar Trackers located on Spear Street.

“We envision a UVM of the future that runs efficiently on a fraction of its current energy needs, powered by clean, locally produced renewable energy that fills university needs and supports the local economy. We believe students can and must be the first movers on the critical issue of global climate change, and can make meaningful differences with the support of the entire UVM, Burlington, and Vermont communities.”

— Clean Energy Fund student proposal approved by the UVM Board of Trustees, May 2008

Concerned about climate change, student leaders, starting in 2005, challenged the University of Vermont to address campus energy use and offer more energy-related courses. Their timing was fortunate. In 2007 UVM joined a growing movement of campuses committed to addressing climate change as one of the charter signatories to the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment. Other campuses across the United States were developing “green fees” to put student funds into action.

Determined to create a green fee at UVM, three student organizers, Dan Belhumeur, Ken Bagstad, and Nikola Janjić, conducted background research, polled students in a campus-wide survey, and developed a comprehensive proposal for a Clean Energy Fund. The students gained support from the Student Government Association, the Graduate Student Senate, and the Faculty Senate. In May 2008 the University's Board of Trustees voted to establish the fund and raise the student fee by \$10 per student per semester.

The Board of Trustees directed the fund to be managed by the newly established Office of Sustainability, with oversight by the Vice President for Finance.

THE FIRST PROJECTS

Following the guidelines approved by the Trustees, the Office of Sustainability recruited and coordinated the Clean Energy Fund Committee in 2008–2009. This is a group composed of students, faculty, and staff who review projects and make project recommendations to the Vice President for Finance. To help administer the fund, the office hired a project coordinator in the Office of Sustainability to staff the committee's project selection process. UVM's green building coordinator assisted with vetting and implementing infrastructure-related projects. Both met with Project Champions to review project plans. In the fall of 2009, the Office of Sustainability put out the first call for proposals. Dozens of Project Champions — interested faculty, staff, and students — submitted ideas for clean energy projects.

In 2010 a graduate student was hired to conduct outreach, promote the fund on campus, and document projects.

► *Chuck Ross, secretary of Vermont's Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets, delivers a welcome speech at the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the Ellen A. Hardacre Equine Center solar installation.*

“When we first started the Clean Energy Fund, we were motivated by the importance of examining the consequences of on-campus energy sources. We envisioned using the CEF as a financing tool to move clean energy projects for UVM forward. As the fund took shape, we recognized it could provide a venue for both student leadership and learning opportunities through experiences outside the classroom. We thought it was essential to channel student enthusiasm, giving students a voice in shaping UVM’s energy future. The fund is an important reminder of what we can achieve when we come together as a community—exactly what we need in the face of choices related to energy and climate change.”

— Kenneth Bagstad, Rubenstein School of Environment & Natural Resources, 2009; Nikola Janjić, Environmental Studies, 2009; Dan Belhumeur, Environmental Studies, 2009



UVM CLEAN ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY TIMELINE

- 1990** Energy Council created to address efficiency, reliability
- 1992** \$125,000 revolving fund established for energy efficiency
- 1992** Energy Management Engineer position created to oversee efficiency upgrades
- 1996** Environmental Council established, reporting to the President
- 1998** Environmental Council releases Greening UVM, a baseline report on recycling, energy use, and academic programs
- 2002** Environmental Council releases Tracking UVM: Environmental Report Card 1990–2000, which includes energy use, greenhouse gas emissions
- 2005** President approves Green Building policy aiming for minimum LEED Silver. Trustees approve \$19 million bond for utility upgrades
- 2006** 10-kw wind turbine installed on campus as first renewable energy demonstration project
- 2007** UVM joins American College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment
- 2008** President approves transformation of Environmental Council into Office of Sustainability
- 2008** Trustees approve creation of Clean Energy Fund at \$10 per student per semester
- 2009** Provost approves Sustainability Faculty Fellows Program
- 2010** Trustees approve Climate Action Plan with target of local, renewable power starting 2015
- 2012** Trustees approve creation of \$13 million Energy Revolving Fund (ERF)
- 2014** UVM achieves a Gold rating in the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS)
- 2015** Faculty Senate approves general education requirement on sustainability for incoming classes starting fall 2015
- 2015** UVM begins using 100% renewable electricity by purchasing Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs)



Two of the 17 4-kw solar trackers located at the UVM Forest Service complex on Spear Street.

“It is important that students be involved integrally in planning and developing project ideas, such as the Aiken Solar Trackers. Students have the best ideas. If they can be empowered to push them through the university, we’ll get the best outcomes.”

— Michelle Smith, UVM’s green building coordinator

The Clean Energy Fund vision of supporting a transition to cleaner energy sources and wiser use of energy included installing visible new systems that would generate cleaner energy and galvanize interest and attention.

The first infrastructure projects funded by the CEF focused on solar photovoltaics: 17 solar trackers on Spear Street; solar panels at the Ellen A. Hardacre Equine Center in the Miller Research Complex on Spear Street; and solar panels on the roof of the central campus heating and cooling plant next to the library. Smaller infrastructure projects included designing and building solar panels for the roof of the Votey building and installing energy-saving devices for the desktop computers in Kalkin.

In addition to supporting visible projects, CEF has funded several feasibility studies to make decisions about future installations. Already the studies on electric vehicle charging stations, the Johnson House’s net zero goals, and solar siting have resulted in on-campus projects using other funding sources. Conversations continue about the potential to use heat from biomass combustion and about supporting non-motorized transportation. A new software system will provide information that will allow better control of buildings’ energy use.

SOLAR TRACKERS

In 2010 the Clean Energy Fund Committee celebrated the largest installation of renewables to date in the form of 17 solar trackers that are connected to the electric grid. One tracker is located outside the Aiken building, and the rest are located at the UVM Forest Service Complex on Spear Street in Burlington, Vermont. The installation, the first recommended by the Clean Energy Fund Committee, generates close to 100,000 kilowatt-hours per year — about half of the total electricity used in the newly renovated Aiken building at the Rubenstein School of Environment & Natural Resources. The trackers are operated by AllEarth Renewables under a power purchase agreement with UVM, which included a \$1,000 installation fee. The fair market value of the installation is held as encumbered funds, and the university has the option to purchase the trackers in 2020, at the end of the term of the second 5-year power purchase agreement.

VOTEY SOLAR ROOF

Engineering faculty members Dr. Paul Hines and Dr. Jeff Frolik led this project to transform Votey Hall into an integrated, wireless laboratory for the study of the smart grid and renewable energy. In the first phase, students worked with Dr. Hines to design and build two multiple-axis solar photovoltaic tracking systems on the roof of Votey Hall and to install a battery storage system to mitigate the intermittent nature of the solar power. Students in electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, and computer science worked collaboratively to bring the solar panels to the Votey building roof.

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AND FEASIBILITY STUDIES

COMPREHENSIVE CAMPUS RENEWABLE ENERGY FEASIBILITY STUDY

How significant a role can campus-based renewable energy play in UVM's progress towards carbon neutrality? The CEF funded a study conducted over the summer of 2012 by CHA (Clough Harbour & Associates) that examined opportunities for solar photovoltaic, solar thermal, geothermal, fuel cells, biomass, and wind generation across UVM's campus. The study concluded that the most significant opportunity for renewable energy production on campus was solar PV: if all available and appropriately oriented surfaces were covered with solar panels, 12% of the main campus's electricity needs could be met. CHA also identified incentives, appropriate locations, and opportunities for solar thermal and geothermal systems. CHA also stressed the importance of UVM's continuing to invest in energy conservation and efficiency. Student interns worked with CHA to prepare analyses and feasibility reports and to document the progress of the study.

IMPROVE BICYCLE ACCESS AT UVM

This project began with the idea of focusing on bicycle access and facilities and expanded into an Active Transportation Management Plan designed to better integrate all non-motorized transportation into UVM transportation systems. Non-motorized modes of mobility on campus include biking, skateboarding, wheelchairs, skating, and riding scooters. The plan aims to decrease congestion and accident frequency in addition to addressing critical gaps in the wayfaring system such as signage and road crossings. Students in the Bicycle Users' Group and in several classes worked with Doug Connelly in Transportation & Parking to develop this project.



Student intern team for the Comprehensive Campus Renewable Energy Feasibility Study.

Project	Expended as of 6/2016	Year Awarded	Departments Involved	Project Champions
Building Energy Tracking and Savings Software	\$120,000	2014	Physical Plant Department	Luce Hillman, Michael Pelletier
Improve Bicycle Access at UVM	\$32,111	2014	Transportation & Parking Services	Jim Barr, Doug Connelly
UVM Electric Vehicle Charging Station Feasibility Study	\$5,100	2014	Transportation Research Center	Michelle McCutcheon-Schour
Johnson House Renewable Energy Feasibility Review	\$5,500	2014	Gund Institute	Michelle Smith
UVM Central Heat Plant – Solar Array Upgrade & Optimization	\$131,344	2013	Physical Plant Department, Capital Planning & Management	Richard Wolbach
UVM/Community Biomass Feasibility Study	\$26,819	2013	Capital Planning & Management, UVM Medical Center, Burlington District Energy Service, Burlington Electric Department	Gioia Thompson
Virtualized Desktop Computer Lab in Kalkin	\$24,865	2012	School of Business, Enterprise Technology Services	Thomas Chittenden, Nicholas Gingrow
Comprehensive Campus Renewable Energy Feasibility Study	\$63,030	2011	Capital Planning	Michelle Smith
Green Labs Program	\$60,663	2011	Technical Services Partnership	Francis Churchill
Equine Center Solar Photovoltaic System	\$86,340	2010	College of Agriculture & Life Sciences	Dr. Josie Davis
Aiken Solar Trackers	\$200,000	2010	Rubenstein School of Environment & Natural Resources	Gary Hawley
Solar Power & Smart Grid Lab at Votey	\$27,000	2010	College of Engineering & Mathematical Sciences	Dr. Paul Hines, Dr. Jeff Frolik
Biomass Feasibility Study for Trinity Campus	\$1,824	2010	Physical Plant	Gioia Thompson
13 Projects	\$784,596			



The CEF-supported Energy Action Seminar Series received additional funding from the Burlington-based company Seventh Generation to bring Al Gore to Ira Allen Chapel, where he delivered a lecture titled “The Climate Crisis and the Case for Hope” to a packed house.

“My experiences in the energy action seminar fueled my interest in sustainable transportation. I enjoyed eating dinner with speakers, seeing firsthand plans to reduce energy use. When it comes to energy use, cars have a huge impact. Drive less, walk and bike more!”

— Emily Gluckin, 2015 ENVS, coordinator, Bike Walk Montana

As students expressed interest in a more robust curricular offering in renewable energy, the Clean Energy Fund Committee members responded by allotting CEF funds to this purpose. As a result, thousands of UVM students have now participated in energy-related curricular and co-curricular activities, including lectures, classes, and seminars that would otherwise not have been available.

About 26% of CEF funds have been invested in 14 campus-based academic lectures and seminar series. Examples include the Energy Action Seminar; the seminar series on climate change, food systems, and electric energy; onetime speakers; and sponsorship of the regional *Power from the North 2015* conference.

Academic projects have been very well received on campus and fill a clearly vocalized need for additional classes and lectures on the subject of clean energy and the energy system transition. Attendance and student engagement has been high at all seminars and lecture series. Connecting speakers with students via classes has linked the academic side of the university with the CEF in a meaningful way.

ENERGY ACTION SEMINAR

The Student Energy Action Seminar series has provided opportunities for thousands of undergraduates to attend seminars, meals, events, and area field trips. Having a course that could provide a guaranteed audience made it easy to book speakers, and having extra room in the classroom allowed for other students and local community members to join events. Social critic James Howard Kunstler talked about “the Geography of Nowhere” to a packed audience of more than 700. Tim DeChristopher, “Bidder 70,” riveted students with his personal story of choosing to go to prison rather than see pristine land in the Southwest drilled for oil. Videos of most events are online.

LECTURES AND SEMINAR SERIES

Project	Funding	Year	Departments/Other	Project Champions
Student Energy Action Seminar Series	\$15,171	2014	CDAE	Richard Watts, Dr. Jane Kolodinsky
CEF Lecture Series: Campus Food & Energy Seminar Series	\$7,682	2014	Food Systems Program	Dr. Doug Lantagne, Richard Watts, Dr. Amy Trubek, Alison Nihart
Energy Action Seminar (2014)	\$14,631	2014	ENVS	Richard Watts, Dr. Stephanie Kaza
Smart Grid Seminar Series	\$4,172	2014	IGERT	Curtis Saunders
Anaerobic Digestion Guest Lecturer	\$1,500	2014	Plant & Soil Science	Victor Izzo
Power from the North Conference	\$5,500	2015	Center for Research on Vermont	Dr. Jennie Stephens, Richard Watts, Dr. David Massell
Climate Action Seminar	\$11,297	2012	ENVS	Dr. Amy Seidl, Rachael Beddoe
"Vermont's Energy Future" Keynote Speaker, James Howard Kunstler	\$4,000	2012	Center for Research on Vermont	Richard Watts
Energy Action Seminar (2013)	\$10,685	2013	CDAE	Richard Watts, Joan White
Energy Auditing & Retrofitting Course	\$2,965	2010	RSENR	Gary Flomenhoft
Virtual Solar Carport Course	\$6,000	2010	Transportation Research Center	Richard Watts
11 projects	\$83,603			





Students prepare seedling trays for the Slade greenhouse, heated by a Jean Pain woody biomass compost mound system during the winter.

“This project is about how we can keep greenhouses productive without fossil fuels. What is also really beautiful is that this project is part of the Slade dorm, and there is a community around it that is really excited and involved in putting it together.”

— Gaelen Brown, Compost Power

Research efforts include student- and faculty-led research on clean energy projects. Five original research projects have been funded to date through the CEF. Faculty in the College of Engineering & Mathematical Sciences received funding to develop a hybrid street lamp system using helix bamboo wind turbines and solar panels. Two student-led projects looked at the possibility of using compost to heat greenhouses.

OFF-CAMPUS STUDENT ENERGY CONSERVATION CHALLENGE

This research project involved partnerships with Burlington Electric Department and CEIVA Homeview and impacted over 1,000 students through energy use surveys. Graduate student Dan Fredman proposed a study to test the impact of behavioral interventions for energy conservation in off-campus residential housing. Approximately 700 student renters were recruited to participate in the experiment. Approximately 200 students received small “frames” displaying real-time feedback on energy conservation behavior and testing the utility of the SmartGrid in Vermont.

HYBRID STREET LAMP SYSTEM

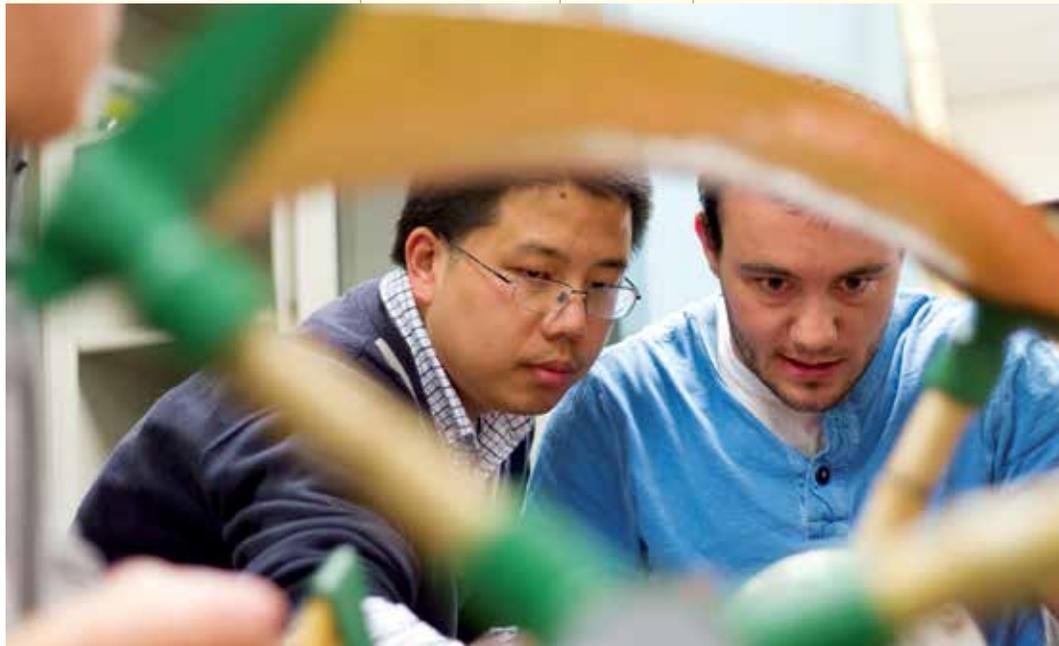
A graduate and senior student design team and two faculty members, Dr. Ting Tan and Dr. Tian Xia, built a hybrid street lamp system using dynamic LED lights powered by a combination of helix bamboo wind turbines and solar panels. Energy harvested from wind and solar during the daytime is stored in a battery to ensure that there is lighting in the night. The research team then analyzed the energy efficiencies of both the natural and artificial bamboo systems.

CLEAN ENERGY GREENHOUSE PROJECT

In this project, students aimed to develop an integrated food, energy, and organic waste processing system. Students Tad Cooke and Erick Crockenberg constructed a 16' x 12' x 8' compost bunker at the Horticulture Research & Education Center in South Burlington. The bunker held up to 45 cubic yards of manure-based compost. A negative air system moved ambient air through the stationary compost pile from the top to bottom, capturing the biologically produced heat and associated greenhouse gases that would otherwise be released into the atmosphere. The biofilter scrubbed naturally occurring gases and allowed the heated, cleaned air to enter the greenhouse. Students Tad Cooke and Erick Crockenberg led the project with assistance from faculty advisors and staff in several UVM departments.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Project	Expended as of May 2015	Year	Departments/Other	Project Champions
Off-Campus Student Energy Conservation Challenge	\$20,876	2014	Gund Institute	Dan Fredman
Hybrid Street Lamp System with Helix Bamboo Wind Turbines and Solar Panels	\$33,510	2013	Mechanical Engineering	Dr. Ting Tan, Dr. Tian Xia
Clean Energy Greenhouse	\$67,425	2012	Community Development and Applied Economics	Tad Cooke, Erick Crockenberg
Compost Power: Using Compost Power to Heat a Greenhouse	\$27,496	2012	Residential Life Services	Chloe Wieland, Laurel Valchuis
Organic Solar Cells Fabricated by UVM Students	\$18,700	2011	Physics Department	Dr. Randy Headrick
5 projects	\$168,007			



Professor Ting Tan (left) reviews the design of a hybrid street lamp system with a student.



Co-Curricular Activities



“As the fund took form, we recognized the value of student leadership — as well as the learning opportunities through experiences outside the classroom — that the Clean Energy Fund could provide. My involvement with the Clean Energy Fund and campus sustainability efforts is still what I value the most about my education at UVM: learning by doing.”

— Dan Belhumeur, Environmental Studies, 2009

The CEF has supported student involvement since its inception by funding internships and club-related activities that complement the academic curriculum and allow for more learning experiences. Many of the students closely involved with the Clean Energy Fund have gone on to pursue energy-related careers. Here are a few of the student-oriented projects.

AMERICAN SOLAR ENERGY STUDENT CHAPTER AT UVM

Student leaders formed a new chapter of the American Solar Energy Society at UVM in the spring of 2015. The chapter has hosted a number of guest lectures and several field trips, networking with Vermont’s energy community and bringing leading Vermont energy experts to campus for direct one-on-one discussions.

CleanSpeed: A STUDENT-DEVELOPED ZERO-EMISSIONS VEHICLE

UVM’s Alternative Energy Racing Organization (AERO) built an all-electric, zero-emissions race car over the course of the 2012–2013 academic year. A race-ready vehicle was ready in time for the 2013 International Formula Hybrid Competition in May 2013, where CleanSpeed placed 2nd in the electric division. The team worked on a second iteration of the vehicle, using the existing structure in 2013–2014 for the 2014 International Formula Hybrid Competition.

Leveraging the knowledge accumulated since AERO’s inception and over the course of the development and construction of three generations of hybrid GreenSpeed vehicles, AERO’s goal was to design, test, and race a zero-emissions vehicle (ZEV) in FHC’s recently added all-electric class. The ZEV project is called CleanSpeed.

AERO is a student-run group that works for the advocacy, research, and development of alternative energy drive systems. This organization is modeled after a progressive engineering firm. Dr. Jeff Frolik, associate professor at the School of Engineering, serves as AERO’s club advisor.



CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

Project	Expended as of 5/ 2015	Year	Departments/Other	Project Champions
Renewable Energy Network	\$6,300	2014	SGA	Frederick Hall '15
Clean Energy Internship Program	\$12,335	2014	RSENR	Dr. Amy Seidl
Cow Power Research	\$8,260	2014	Office of Sustainability, Extension Service, Green Mountain Power	Gioia Thompson
GreenSpeed4	\$21,792	2014	Electrical Engineering	Dr. Jeff Frolik
CleanSpeed: A Student- Developed Zero- Emissions Vehicle	\$23,469	2012	Electrical Engineering	Dr. Jeff Frolik
5 Projects:	\$72,156			

CLEAN ENERGY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

This pilot project in summer 2016 has created opportunities for energy-related internships by developing, administering, and piloting an internship program. The intent of the project is to connect students with energy-related businesses. Internship stipends are \$2,500 per student for summer work occurring in summer 2016. Additionally, this award provides funds for a one-day training for interns and their respective organizations. Environmental Studies faculty member Dr. Amy Seidl is coordinating this program.



Students work to install compost mound heating system adjacent to the existing Slade greenhouse. ►





Energy Action Seminar fall 2014 field trip to Jeff and Patty Forward's community solar farm. Seminar teaching assistant Dan Smith to the right.

“Being involved with the fund has been a great learning experience. Hands-on research, field trips, and attending events have brought home to me how exciting and how important this is to work on. I plan to continue as a clean energy practitioner deep into the future because of these experiences.”

— Dan Smith, BSAD 2015

Thousands of students have been touched by the Clean Energy Fund, either through direct participation in a project or through hearing a guest lecture or participating in a field trip. A number of students have gone on to energy-related careers. Here are a few of those students directly involved with the CEF and where they are now.

Clean Energy Fund initiators Ken Bagstad, Nikola Janjić, and Dan Belhumeur are as of 2016 all involved in energy-related fields, Ken at the World Bank as a resource economist, Nikola at Vermont Energy Investment Corporation as a program manager, and Dan as a communications expert at Overdrive Interactive in Boston.

Debbie Krug, a graduate student in the CDAE program, chaired the CEF Committee from 2013 to 2015. Krug wrote her master's thesis on bio-digesters and is now employed at the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation as an energy analyst.

Ryan Darlow graduated from the Mechanical Engineering program in 2012. At UVM Ryan worked with two other CEF interns on the Comprehensive Campus Renewable Energy Feasibility Study, collecting information for the project contractors, Clough Harbour & Associates (CHA), on potential renewable energy sites on campus. Ryan is now working as a renewable energy engineer for Vermont Energy Research Associates in Waterbury, staffing a project to bring a 20 MW wind facility to Vermont.

Matt Brill, an ENVS student, who graduated in 2014, served as a member of the Clean Energy Fund Committee between 2013 and 2014. Matt is now in the customer engagement side of EmPower Solar, a large solar installation company based out of New Jersey.

Frans T. van Bodengraven, who graduated as an ENVS and Global Studies major in 2013, served in the Clean Energy Fund Committee and is now a design engineer at Borrego Solar, headquartered in San Diego, California.



Solar trackers on the roof of Votey building.

Managing the Fund



The Clean Energy Fund will be administered through the Socially Responsible Investment Advisory Council, an existing group whose membership is made up of undergraduate and graduate students, staff, and faculty.

“We believe colleges and universities must exercise leadership in their communities and throughout society by modeling ways to minimize global warming emissions, and by providing the knowledge and the educated graduates to achieve climate neutrality. Campuses that address the climate challenge by reducing global warming emissions and by integrating sustainability into their curriculum will better serve their students and meet their social mandate to help create a thriving, ethical and civil society.”

— American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment

The Clean Energy Fund is managed by the Vice President for Finance and the Office of the Controller.

The fund will be administered through the Socially Responsible Investment Advisory Council (SRIAC), an existing group whose membership is made up of at least two representatives each from the campus's major constituencies: undergraduate and graduate students, staff, and faculty.

All Clean Energy Fund projects will fall under one of three categories: infrastructure; academics and co-curricular education; and innovation and research.

SRIAC will solicit Clean Energy Fund proposals in the fall in varying ways depending on the category. The Clean Energy Infrastructure Committee will recommend two or three infrastructure projects that are economically feasible and have the support of planning personnel on campus. The Academics and Co-Curricular Education Committee will solicit ideas and proposals from across campus. Led by the dean of the Honors College and the vice president for research, working with staff from both offices, the Innovation and Research Committee will develop ideas supporting student innovation and research in the area of clean energy.

After narrowing down the proposals to two or three, SRIAC will hold a series of town meetings in the spring semester to get the community's input on the projects being proposed. Based on the feedback they receive, they will make a recommendation for funding to the vice president for finance for approval and implementation. No more than 50% of the total CEF budget will be allocated in any one category.

The goal will be to expend all available CEF funds every year.

The CEF will not fund course work at other institutions, professional development for individuals, or food or drink for meetings. The CEF will also not fund faculty research. Specific, highly relevant research proposals may be considered if the connection to the campus is explicit.



Clean Energy Fund

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University of Vermont

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