



Agreement: Principles and Action Plan

Whereas *Greening the Bottom Line* documents the proven track record of green revolving funds at more than 80 institutions in the United States and Canada,

Whereas this research and other case studies show the environmental, educational and financial benefits of investing in these efficiency improvements,

Whereas our positions as nonprofit institutions support our contributing to educational and community leadership,

Whereas green revolving funds have proven to be safe investments with relatively high rates of return,

Whereas over the course of 10 years, a cumulative one billion dollars initially invested in green revolving funds may be repaid and invested 2-3 more times, thereby generating total investments of between two and three billion dollars,

Now therefore, be it resolved that our institution will commit to finance and implement a Green Revolving Fund and join The Billion Dollar Green Challenge.

To advance this initiative, we will pursue one of the two following action plans:

1) Enlarge or maintain a green revolving fund already in existence, so that the fund size will either continue to surpass, or will surpass within six years, the smaller of:

- One percent of the institution's endowment value, OR
- One million dollars

As part of this plan, at least 50 percent of money saved through a project investment by the revolving fund will return to the fund to be re-invested in future projects— at least until the full cost of the project has been repaid. To qualify, our existing fund must also be operational and have mechanisms in place to identify projects and make investments.

2) Initiate the process of creating a green revolving fund that will meet the requirements listed above. Our progress will be tracked according to four quarterly benchmarks within the indicated time periods—starting from the first three months after our institution joins The Challenge:



- **Within Three Months:** Form a multi-stakeholder working group, or assign an existing group (which may include faculty, staff, students, administrators, or trustees), to lead the process of establishing the fund guidelines and operating procedures.
- **Within Six Months:** Complete an energy audit for approximately 10 percent or more of the building square footage on campus. Audits may be conducted by consultants, university staff, or students with faculty or staff support. The six month benchmark encourages schools to fill out a GRF Plan of Action— a few short questions that will help SEI assess your progress in the GRF creation process and offer targeted support.
- **Within Nine Months:** Formalize a guiding document to outline the operational procedures for the fund including the process for reviewing project proposals, making investments, and tracking savings.
- **Within Twelve Months:** Approve fund investment in at least one project and begin to add data to the Green Revolving Investment Tracking System (GRITS).

As participants in The Billion Dollar Green Challenge, we commit to invest in energy efficiency, water conservation or renewable energy improvements at our institutions, with the goal of saving energy, reducing carbon emissions, lowering energy expenses, and creating regenerating funds for future sustainability upgrades.

Signature

6/12/15

Date

Allan M. Stratman
Name, Title Executive Director
Facilities + Services

\$ 3,200,000.

Size of Fund

University of Illinois at
Institution Urbana - Champaign

Revolving Loan Fund
Name of Fund

No

New Fund? (Y/N)



Agreement: Policy and Financial Guidelines

The following policy and financial guidelines pertain to institutions participating in The Billion Dollar Green Challenge:

Policies

For institutions in the planning or development phase of a green revolving fund:

During the process of meeting the four quarterly benchmarks during the first year, an institution may request a single three month extension. If approved, all future benchmark deadlines will be adjusted by three months.

For institutions with previously established green revolving funds:

- Engage with other institutions that make reasonable requests for advice or assistance (staff time permitting)
- Use the Green Revolving Investment Tracking System (GRITS) or compile an annual update on fund activities (including its current size, project loans approved, and other relevant information)

Financial Commitment

In order to fully participate in The Challenge and gain access to technical assistance, best practices and the Green Revolving Investment Tracking System (GRITS), an institution will pay an annual administrative fee of 1/20th of one percent (not to exceed \$2,500), based on the total committed size of its green revolving fund.

Extensions and Withdrawal

An institution may opt to withdraw from The Challenge at any time. If an institution does not meet a benchmark deadline without asking for an extension, it has three months to become current or potentially be withdrawn from The Challenge.
