

BILL 2223-06

A BILL IN SUPPORT OF A REVOLVING SUSTAINABILITY FUND AT OHIO
UNIVERSITY

1. **Whereas:** There is a Student Senate that serves to represent the students of Ohio
2. University; and,
3. **Whereas:** Students at Ohio University enjoy Green Infrastructure such as the green roofs
4. at Patton and Jefferson Hall; and,
5. **Whereas:** Options such as these are a part of Sustainability Initiatives at Ohio University;
6. and
7. **Whereas:** There is currently no specific funding for these initiatives from Ohio
8. University; and
9. **Whereas:** Miami (OH) has a revolving sustainability fund¹; and
10. **Whereas:** Miami (OH) was awarded a second AASHE STARS Gold rating this past
11. summer²; and
12. **Whereas:** Ohio University was only given a silver rating for the same reporting
13. submission³; and
14. **Whereas:** A revolving sustainability fund would give current and future Bobcats the
15. chance to be decision makers for the University's increased sustainability funding; and
16. **Whereas:** 19 of the top 25 Green Colleges per the Princeton Review have employed a

¹<https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fgreenbillion.org%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2013%2F01%2FMiami-University-Ohio-Revolving-Green-Fund-Packet.doc%23%3A~%3Atext%3DThe%2520mission%2520of%2520the%2520Miami%2520University%2520Revolving%2520Green%2Ccommunity%2520by%2520financing%2520innovative%2520initiatives%2520with%2520sustainable%2520returns.&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK>

² <https://miamioh.edu/news/2022/05/miami-university-receives-stars-gold-rating-for-sustainability-achievements.html>

³ <https://reports.aashe.org/institutions/ohio-university-oh/report/>

17. revolving sustainability fund, while two others on the list have received generous
18. endowments from donors⁴⁵; and
19. **Whereas:** An Environmental Affairs survey of 138 students was conducted from
20. February to April⁶; and
21. **Whereas:** Students were first asked questions in the survey such as “How often do you
22. enjoy green infrastructure on campus?”, “Are you aware that these green infrastructure
23. projects are a part of sustainability initiatives?”, and “Are you aware that there is
24. currently no specific funding for these initiatives from the University?”; and
25. **Whereas:** After these questions allowed students to understand what sustainability
26. initiatives were, students were then asked, “On a scale of 1 to 5, how likely would you be
27. to opt-in to a green fee which would help fund these sustainability initiatives?”; and
28. **Whereas:** Approximately 59% of students responded that they would be
29. “extremely likely” or “more likely than not” to opt-in; and
30. **Whereas:** Only approximately 16% of students responded that they would be “not very
31. likely” or “not likely at all” to opt-in; therefore be it
32. **Resolved:** That upon passage of this resolution, the Ohio University Student Senate
33. supports an additional \$5 tuition increase that has an opt-in decision for any incoming
34. freshman who chooses to be a part of the Ohio Guarantee+ Plan; and be it further
35. **Resolved:** That Ohio University adopt a revolving sustainability fund for initiatives on

⁴ <https://www.princetonreview.com/college-rankings?rankings=top-50-green-colleges>

⁵ https://catmailohio-my.sharepoint.com/:x:/r/personal/ch081621_ohio_edu/_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc=%7B99A9C943-DED7-48F5-8254-B5F38F95F137%7D&file=Green%20Revolving%20Funds%20and%20other%20funding%20Oct%202022%20EN3.xlsx&action=default&mobileredirect=true&cid=a2d3aace-50f3-4910-933d-3eddc3d9c3a

⁶ file:///C:/Users/caden/AppData/Local/Temp/MicrosoftEdgeDownloads/982d4c63-8b62-41f3-9aea-b3c43ae8acaa/Default%20Report.pdf

36. campus with the implementation of this fee; and be it further

37. **Resolved:** That a copy of this bill be sent to the Office of the President, the Office of

38. Sustainability, Associate VP of Design and Construction, John Cozad, Provost, Donald J.

39. Leo.

Sponsors:

Primary Sponsor:

Mr. Caden Hibbs

Environmental Affairs Commissioner

Secondary Sponsor(s):

Ms. Morgan Dorais

Environmental Affairs Vice Commissioner

Ms. Cynthia Jimenez

Environmental Affairs Vice Commissioner

Ms. Katelyn Rousch

Athens Environment & Sustainability Commissioner

Ms. Samantha Holdaway

Sustainability Network Co-Chairman

Ms. Ellieana Shanklin

Campus Recycling Assistant

Mr. Luke Beccasio

International Affairs Senator

Date: May 6th, 2024