



# Tufts University GREEN FUND

## Tufts University Green Fund Initial Idea Submission

### Applicant Information:

**Name:**

Philipp G. Rombach, Nani Detti, & Kendall Wiss

**Role at Tufts (e.g. Undergraduate Student, Graduate Student, Faculty, Staff):**

Graduate Student at The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy

**Email and Phone # of Lead Submitter:**

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**Campus:**

Medford/Somerville

**Project Title:**

Tisch Solar Roof Pilot Project

**One Sentence Description** (*This is how your project will be described on the Green Fund website*):

The Solar Roof Pilot Project will demonstrate the feasibility and urgency of equipping Tisch Library with combined a) solar panels for clean energy production and b) a wildflowers plot to safeguard biodiversity.

## General Application Questions:

### 1. What project would you like to fund with a grant from the Green Fund?

Tufts University dramatically falls behind when it comes to sustainability measures. Considering the financially beneficial business case to be made for equipping Tisch Library with solar panels, Tufts' inaction matches a high level of neglect. Philipp's public middle school was equipped with solar panels in 2001 – what stops Tufts University in 2021?

Thus, we propose to equip Tisch Library with solar panels. This will reduce Tufts' carbon footprint and reduce its electricity bill as it will be in a position to harvest its own solar energy. As the construction of photovoltaic allows for multi-purpose rooftop usage, we additionally propose to supplement the solar panels by planting wildflowers below and in between. The benefits of such a measure are twofold: it contributes to the reduction of the urban heat island effect and fosters biodiversity.

The Tufts campus continues to be a place with poor sustainability standards. This can change by acknowledging the excellent climate work being done by Dean Kyte, Dean Gallagher, and the entire body of dedicated students and faculty who would like to see the campus become more sustainable. By continuing to pursue a business-as-usual approach we risk undermining the credibility of our academic work.

2. **Who would you work with on this project? Who would need to be involved?** *(For example: are there departments you would need to reach out to for help implementing or facilitating your project? If you are hosting an event, you might need someone to help you set up and help clean up afterwards. Do you need permission from anyone to complete your project? Include their role (collaborator, advisor, vendor, resource) and whether they have been confirmed their involvement in the specified role.* **Undergraduate students must have a faculty/staff advisor submit a letter of support for their project which indicates their willingness to mentor the proposed project.**

<b>Name and Title</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Status</b>
Dean Kelly Sims Gallagher	Advisor	Not Confirmed
FLEEC Alumni	Advisor	Not Confirmed
Tufts Engineering Department	Collaborator	Not Confirmed

3. **What costs would be involved in your proposal? Please provide a rough budget.**

The installation of solar panels comes with comparatively high investment costs, yet these can be recovered over the expected lifetime of the project. Thus, we propose to run a pilot project for demonstration purposes, initially. Our initial cost estimate is at \$20,000 for both the photovoltaic pilot project and the biodiversity-enhancing wildflowers plot beneath and between the panels.

#### **4. What steps would you take to accomplish this project?**

The use and business case of this project remains more than obvious. The implementation requires careful planning.

- We will closely coordinate with the Tufts Engineering department and Tufts facility management to get a better understanding of the hurdles and challenges involved.
- We then will assess whether to hire through the Tufts Green Fund an external contractor to propose a project cost-benefit analysis, or whether the Tufts Engineering department will be capable of keeping such a task in-house.
- For the wildflowers we will reach out to the Tufts Biology department and aim to recruit a volunteer lending their expertise to this subproject.
- Ultimately, we will decide between two options:
  - Use the remaining Tufts Green Fund money to construct a pilot project
  - Or use parts of the funds to create an investment plan and reach out to alumni willing to become project patrons.

#### **5. How would your project help or benefit the Tufts community?**

Tufts University lags behind when it comes to clean energy measures. Using solar power would enable all students studying at Tisch to do so in a more climate-friendly manner. What is more, the excellent view from the Tisch terrace on the panels will empower all students to think beyond the present, to remain positive that youth-led change is in fact possible.

### **What can I expect next?**

The Green Fund committee will meet in early October and decide which projects will advance to the next round. These projects will be asked clarifying questions about details specified in this application. The committee will meet again and review the responses to its questions and vote to advance proposals based on those answers. Projects that advance past the clarifying questions stage will then be asked to fill out a more complete application (which can be found at [go.tufts.edu/GreenFund](http://go.tufts.edu/GreenFund)) including a budget and a Gantt chart with accompanying letters of support from necessary collaborating entities at Tufts.

*When finished with this initial idea submission, please save as a PDF and email to [GreenFund@tufts.edu](mailto:GreenFund@tufts.edu). Thank you!*