

Climate Justice Challenge Campaign

In 1995 President Nancy Dye and the Board of Trustees had the wisdom to allow efforts to be made to build an environmental studies center. In the late 1990s the Adam Joseph Lewis Center thrust Oberlin to the forefront of the campus sustainability movement. In subsequent years, the Green Movement blossomed on campuses across the country and aspects of the Lewis Center have been mimicked by numerous schools, industry, and government. Other schools have taken leadership roles in reducing heat-trapping gas emissions, promoting alternative energy and the stewardship of our land and water resources. Today Oberlin no longer holds the same leadership position it once did in the campus environmental education/sustainability movement that it helped to create.

It is time for Oberlin's core mission and values of human rights, social justice, and worldly awareness to be fully viewed through the lens of the greatest challenge of the 21st century: climate stabilization and environmental sustainability. Katrina is a prelude to the planetary and societal destabilization that rapid climate change will likely bring unless we quickly reduce heat-trapping gas emissions. Oberlin has deep roots in social justice and has a moral obligation to create a more just world through visionary educational leadership. If Oberlin is to embrace its core mission and values, the next President and the upcoming major capital campaign will have to champion visionary educational leadership in addressing climate stabilization and environmental sustainability.

In short, we have to design and implement ways to build environmental sustainability into every part of Oberlin's social fabric and actions. To that end, EnviroAlums* is proposing a Climate Justice Challenge Campaign to the Board of Trustees and the Oberlin community. If Oberlin makes environmental sustainability 1) a major item in the capital campaign (\$30 million or more) and 2) a major criterion in identifying and in hiring the new President (i.e., s/he has track record of stated commitment and major accomplishments in environmental education/sustainability), I pledge to increase my contribution to Oberlin for this campaign by the amount indicated below. In addition, I will actively recruit other alumni to pledge to the campaign, especially those who have not been recent givers.

Yes, I will join the Climate Justice Challenge Campaign by pledging \$__10,000
__\$5000__\$2500__\$1000__\$500__\$250__\$_____(other) for _____ years (1 to
10 years) in addition to my recent annual level of giving to Oberlin.

Signature:_____ Class:_____

Name:_____ Date:_____

(please print clearly)

* 100% of the 20 member EnviroAlums Steering Committee has pledged a total of \$35,905 to this challenge (one unreachable member not included). Since EnviroAlums cannot officially conduct fund raising, CJCC is being used to establish what EnviroAlums believes to be the high level of alumni support for greening Oberlin. **Your pledge will not be made public; rather, only the total amount pledged will be released.**

Mail to: EnviroAlums, Alumni Association, 50 West Lorain Street, Oberlin, OH 44074