EnviroAlums Update: Endowment Established, E Reunion
October 2009

Years of diligent effort to embrace the challenge of creating a
durable future on the part of many in the Oberlin community
have led to a major sea change at Oberlin. President Nancy Dye
signed the “American College & University Presidents Climate
Commitment” in December 2006, in spring 2007 the Trustees
committed Oberlin to making all new construction at least
LEED Silver--the Jazz Center will be LEED Gold--and on his
first day in office, President Krislov met with David Orr
indicating his commitment to the challenge of making Oberlin
climate neutral.

In response to this sea change, EnviroAlums sought to create an
endowment and in February 2008 received permission from
the Development Office to raise funds for the EnviroAlums
Endowment Support Fund. The E Steering Committee
unanimously supported the idea and in February all given 5
year pledges. In March, the E membership was invited to make
pledges. By May 2008 the Development Office had received in
excess of the $50,000, the amount required to make the
Support Fund an official endowment! This means that
beginning in fiscal year 2008-09, E will have the E Endowment
interest to fund sustainability initiatives.

This spring E has funded about a half dozen student projects
with its Student Fund. In anticipation of Endowment funds, E is
seeking proposals in the $4,000 range it initiate an innovative
sustainability project.

During Columbus Day weekend fall 2009, E will have an
Alumni Affiliate Group Reunion. It will be a time for E members
and all graduates with environmental interests to return to
campus to celebrate the past and consider the future. Please put
the date on your calendar!