Sustainability Research Development Grant

Guidelines

Deadline: Monday, May 5, 2014
All application materials, including recommendation letter, must be received by the deadline to be considered.

The Purpose:
This award program is intended to support efforts of Indiana University graduate students to develop new research programs related to sustainability. This represents an outgrowth of a broad-based sustainability initiative supported by the Indiana University Office of Sustainability (see http://www.indiana.edu/~sustain for additional details). We are interested in supporting high-quality, innovative approaches to basic and applied graduate student research. Sustainability research brings together environmental science, public policy, social science research, and humanities studies directed toward resource stewardship, assessment and mitigation of environmental impacts of human activity, and institutional and societal response to environmental challenges.

The Award:
Awards for a Sustainability Research Development Grant range from $2,000 to $10,000. Applicants or teams of applicants must include graduate student participants. Award funds can include graduate student fellowships (up to $5,000) as well as funds for field, laboratory, computational, or library research. If multiple-investigator awards are made, recipients will share the award. Recipients are also expected to engage with other fellows and members of the university sustainability community, and to submit a summary report to the IU Office of Sustainability and the Dean of the University Graduate School at the end of the spring semester following the award. Priority will be given to high-quality interdisciplinary projects that include participants from multiple disciplines.

The Application Procedures:
A complete application consists of:
1. The proposal prepared by the applicant(s): Proposal descriptions must be written in clear, effective prose, and are limited to 1,500 words. A detailed plan of work should be outlined, including a budget for estimated expenses. Be aware that the Review Committee is composed of faculty and student members who are unlikely to be specialists in the applicant’s field.

2. Current curriculum vitae of project participants.
3. **Recommendation form:** The faculty sponsor support statement should be completed on forms found in the application packet. These recommendation forms address:

- project originality and innovation
- relevance to goals of Indiana University’s sustainability program
- potential impact on future research at Indiana University
- timeliness (for the applicant and for the university)
- feasibility (competence of investigator, likelihood of accomplishment, use of appropriate technology, if any)
- commitment of the department(s) to the project
- overall quality of project (concept, planning, long-term influence)

**Evaluation of the Proposal:**

Members of the Review Committee are instructed to rate each proposal on the basis of the following criteria. The applicant is therefore urged to discuss the proposed work in relation to each of the criteria, providing information about the project in the context of his/her department, the discipline, and the University.

- originality
- relevance to goals of IU’s sustainability programs
- research need
- timeliness (for the applicant and for the project)
- feasibility (competence of investigator, likelihood of accomplishment, use of appropriate technology, if any)
- potential impact of research
- clarity, detail, and coherence of projected description

**The Review Process:**

A review committee will review applications within a month of the deadline. Awards will be announced by the end of the spring semester.

**Please mail proposals (electronic form preferred) or direct questions to:**

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(812) 855-1822