Carbon Neutrality Acceleration Program
Faculty Research Grant Q&A Webinar

Thank you for joining us. We will begin shortly. Two reminders:
- *Select computer or phone audio through GoToWebinar*
- *Please stay muted during the initial presentation*

July 28, 2020
graham.umich.edu/carbonneutrality

Webinar Outline

Graham Sustainability Institute

Carbon Neutrality Acceleration Program

Faculty Research Grants

Questions

Graham Sustainability Institute

Facilitating Engaged Research
Working to advance a wide range of research efforts that share a common commitment to partnering with communities and decision makers.

Developing Sustainability Leaders
Strengthening and training the next generation of sustainability leaders through real-life, experiential learning opportunities.

Informing Policy & Practice
Moving research and education beyond the university's academic environment and into the everyday world.

Our dedication to academic excellence for the public good is inseparable from our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Our mission includes ensuring that each member of our community thrives. We believe that diversity is key to empowerment, and the advancement of sustainability knowledge, learning, and leadership.

Carbon Neutrality Acceleration Program

Characteristics
- Open to all U-M faculty
- Research & real-world impact
- Complement existing efforts
- Develop new directions and collaborations
- Interdisciplinary and engaged research

Program Elements
- Funding
- Convening
- Communications
- *Share your ideas to inform the program*

Faculty Research Grants

Purpose: Targeted investment to support new carbon neutrality research with high intellectual value and strong potential for real-world impact

Award amount: $60,000 - $300,000 (direct cost) total

Duration: up to 2 years

Total available: up to $1.5 million, 5-8 awards

Eligibility: UM-PI eligible faculty/researchers from Ann Arbor, Dearborn and Flint

Letter of intent deadline: September 14, 2020 (**required**, non-binding)

Proposal deadline: November 2, 2020

Funding notifications: February 2021

Project start/end dates: March 1, 2021 – February 28, 2023

See RFP for complete details

Eligible Objectives

Objective 1: Developing New Ideas

Early-stage projects that explore new ideas and collaborations

Objective 2: Amplifying and Advancing Research

Projects that build on existing research, taking it to the next level or expanding it in a transformative way

Engagement with external, non-academic partners is encouraged.

Research Topics

Open to all disciplines and a wide range of topics, sectors, methods and geographies

Most interested in projects that explore and advance scalable strategies with the potential to radically accelerate low-carbon transitions

Budget & Timeline

- $60,000 and $300,000
  - Range reflects diverse needs across disciplines and objectives
  - Budgets closer to $300,000 are expected to be most appropriate for interdisciplinary and Objective 2 (Amplifying and Advancing Research) projects
  - Budget should be appropriate for the scope of work proposed
- No IDC
- Equipment >$5k discouraged
- Annual amounts may vary according to project needs
- Subawards allowed
  - Collaborators from other academic institutions are permitted, but cannot receive direct funding from the program. Funding can be used to support *non-academic* partners/collaborators on projects that include external engagement.

Duration

Projects must start no earlier than March 1, 2023 and end no later than February 28, 2023.

Some flexibility, but projects should start in FY21 and have timeframes that correspond relatively closely with the duration described in the RFP

Review Criteria & Selection Process

Review criteria

- Project approach
- Project team
- Feasibility
- Research significance
- Potential impact

Selection process

- Written reviews
- Panel ranking
- Final funding decision

Letter of Intent

Mandatory, non-binding

Intended to inform reviewer recruitment

Not used for screening – you do not need to be invited to submit a full proposal

Proposal

Cover sheet

Narrative (7 page max)
- Problem statement & project objective
- Outputs & outcomes
- Project approach
- Team

Appendices
- PAF – signatures required
- Timeline
- Budget & justification
- Brief CVs
- COVID contingencies
- Related research
- Suggested reviewers

Proposal tips

Overall

- Remember the review criteria
- Make a case to those outside your discipline

Problem statement and context

- Focused
- No extensive literature reviews

Proposal tips

Outputs & outcomes

- List separately

- Research impact and real-world impact

- Connect the dots

Proposal tips

Approach

- Be detailed

- Include assessment

- Explain collaborative process, if applicable

Team

- Don't summarize CVs

- Highlight roles and the integration of insights

Save unique URL in confirmation email – use to access application and make updates up until the submission deadlines

Use the same login credentials for LOI and proposal

Contact us with any questions

Award Terms & Project Support

Terms of Award

- Check-ins, brief semiannual and final written reports
- Participate in annual CNAP events
- *See RFP for full details*

Project Support

- Flexibility
- Additional resources and connections
- Communications and outreach

Website, Contact & Questions

Application Website

RFP, templates, webinar, Q&A document and application portal

graham.umich.edu/carbonneutrality/apply

Contact us

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Questions

Thank you

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