



# 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](https://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

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

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

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**Duration:** up to 2 years

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

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

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

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**Proposal deadline:** November 2, 2020

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**Funding notifications:** February 2021

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

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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



# CARBON NEUTRALITY ACCELERATION PROGRAM

## Climate + Energy

Carbon Neutrality Acceleration Program

- About
- Get Involved
- Submit a Proposal
- Graham Energy Futures Initiative
- President's Commission on Carbon Neutrality
- Climate + Energy News

## Submit a Proposal

An initial round of \$1.5 million is available to faculty and researchers from the Ann Arbor, Dearborn, and Flint campuses to pursue research projects focused on accelerating the transition to carbon neutrality, with an emphasis on real-world impact. See the Request for Proposals for full details.

Faculty Research Grants of \$60,000 - \$300,000 over two years (March 2021 - February 2023) are available for:

- Innovative proof-of-concept projects and idea exploration
- Transformative projects that take existing research to the next level
- Projects that engage external partners to put ideas into practice

Projects may span the physical, natural, engineering and social sciences, as well as arts and humanities, and are open to a wide range of topics including, but not limited to: technology application and adoption, policy and politics, economics, finance, land use, behavior change, and social justice.

Although not required, preference will be given to interdisciplinary projects with investigators from multiple academic and/or research units. Projects led by faculty who are new to carbon neutrality research and projects that represent a new research direction for investigators are encouraged.

## How to Apply

U-M faculty from the Ann Arbor, Dearborn, and Flint campuses are eligible to serve as Principal Investigator (PI). Submit materials through the online application system accessible via the "Begin Your Application" link on this webpage, and provide all elements described in the RFP.

### Key Dates

- September 14, 2020 - Letter of intent deadline (required)
- November 2, 2020 - Proposal deadline
- February 2021 - Award announcement
- March 1, 2021 - Anticipated project start date

## Application is OPEN

Applicants must submit a letter of intent by September 14, 2020.

[Begin Your Application](#)

Questions? Join our webinar on September 14, 2020.

[Register](#)

**Carbon Neutrality Acceleration Program Faculty Grant Application**

The Graham Sustainability Institute's Carbon Neutrality Acceleration Program is currently accepting Letters of Intent in response to the Request for Faculty Research Proposals (RFP). Applicants should submit materials through this online application system and provide all elements described in the RFP.

**How to apply:**

The application is a two-step process: applicants must first submit a Letter of Intent followed by a proposal. These steps should be completed as follows:

- By 11:59pm EDT on Monday, September 14, 2020, submit your Letter of Intent (LOI). Use the "Apply" button to start a new application and upload your LOI. Submitting your LOI requires completing open fields in the online application form (e.g., team members) and then uploading a PDF of your Letter of Intent. When you have successfully completed and saved your LOI submission, you will receive a confirmation email. This email will also include a unique URL, specific to your application. Save this email; you will need this link to submit your proposal.
- By 11:59pm EDT on Monday, November 2, 2020, submit your proposal. Access your existing application page using the same login credentials and the unique URL, emailed to you when you submitted your LOI. From the application page, update the application form fields and then upload a PDF of the full proposal and click "Save". Note that the proposal upload field will not be available until after the LOI deadline has passed.

At both stages of the application, you may continue to edit your submission until the application deadline. At the deadline, your saved application and attached documents will be automatically submitted.

If you do not receive a confirmation email at either of the steps above, your submission was not successful, and you should redo the submission or contact us at [graham-onap@umich.edu](mailto:graham-onap@umich.edu).

If you have questions regarding the application process, please email [graham-onap@umich.edu](mailto:graham-onap@umich.edu) or contact Maggie Allan ([mallan@umich.edu](mailto:mallan@umich.edu), 734-763-0749).

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

**Submit Application for Carbon Neutrality Acceleration Program Faculty Grant Application**

Applicant: Maggie Allan

Contact Information

Address 1 \*  
020 E. Liberty St.

Address 2  
Suite 300

City \*  
Ann Arbor

State \*  
MI

Zip \*  
48104

Phone \*  
(734) 753-0749

School/College  
None

Team Members and Partners

Project Information

Project Title \*

Total Project Budget \*

Please upload your LOI as a single document (PDF). (deadline: September 14, 2020)

[Save](#)



# 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](http://graham.umich.edu/carbonneutrality/apply)

## **Contact us**

- Maggie Allan – [maallan@umich.edu](mailto:maallan@umich.edu) , C: 775-293-0134
- Ashley Stoltenberg – [astolten@umich.edu](mailto:astolten@umich.edu), C: 810-610-3025
- Program email – [graham-cnap@umich.edu](mailto:graham-cnap@umich.edu)

## **Questions**

# Thank you

graham-cnap@umich.edu

