



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

SUSTAINABILITY INSTITUTE

EXPLORATORY RESEARCH GROUP GUIDE

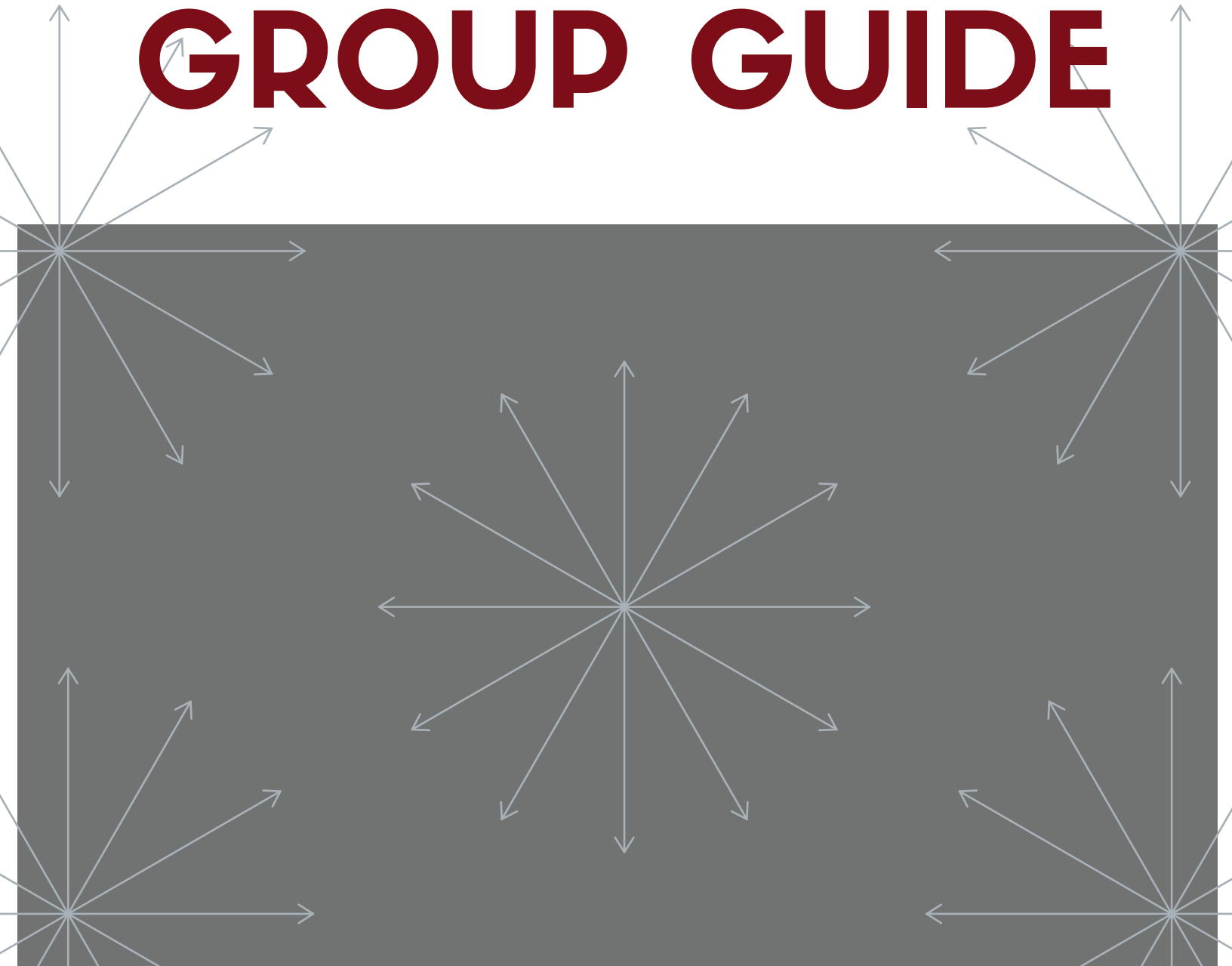
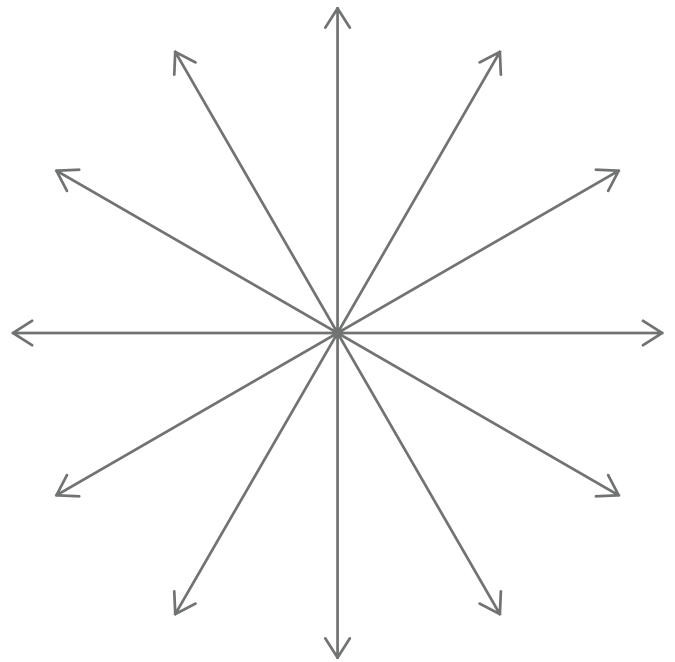


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INTRODUCTION

Exploratory Research Groups (ERGs) are designed to support early-stage, exploratory research, scholarship and creative expression across a range of faculty/scholar-determined topics.

The Sustainability Institute (SI), in collaboration with other units and programs on campus, aims to support researchers and scholars from across the university in growing collaborative, interdisciplinary teams focused on sustainability or resilience topics.

The goals of the ERG program are to:

- Help build connections and community among scholars with similar interests.
- Support and grow ongoing interactions of interdisciplinary scholars that may also include staff, students, postdocs or external partners.
- Provide a means for faculty and research staff that are new to the university to meet a community of similarly interested scholars.
- Grow the capacity of interdisciplinary teams to compete for larger grants and awards.
- Provide opportunities for mentorship, leadership and professional development for junior faculty and scholars.

ERG ELIGIBILITY

ERGs topics should relate to sustainability and resilience and align with one of the five research focus areas of the Sustainability Institute. The scope of the topic should be broad enough to allow for interdisciplinary collaboration. ERG membership should be open to any Ohio State scholar interested in joining the group. Faculty and research scientists from any department are eligible to serve as an ERG co-lead. All ERG co-leads are encouraged, but not required, to become a SI affiliate.

CHOOSE YOUR ERG

ADVENTURE



The focus of each ERG should fall within one or more of the following activity types:

- Research & creative expression
- Teaching & learning
- Community outreach & engagement

The possible outputs of the ERGs will vary based on the topic, group composition, scope and activity. Possible outputs include proposals, papers, conference presentations, creative installations, new courses or certificate programs, student learning activities, seminars and more. See the timeline and activity deadline sections of this document for more details about ERG expectations.

ERG BENEFITS



As a member of an ERG you will receive:

- Opportunity to build community among similarly interested people
- Team science and leadership training and experience
- Access to ERG-only funding through the Sustainability Institute
- Formal recognition of commitment to interdisciplinary scholarship through a letter shared annually with department chair(s)
- Mentorship from a Sustainability Institute Faculty Research Lead
- Administrative, project management and scheduling support

SUPPORT FOR ERGS

Services and resources to support to ERGs include:

- Promoting and building ERG membership
- Team science training
 - Meeting facilitation
 - Communication
 - Collaboration plans
 - Conflict resolution
- Research/Project ideation sessions
- Federal funding insights provided by Research Development Office topical specialists
- Scheduling support as needed

ERG RFP TIMELINE



DATE	ACTIVITY
March 1, 2023	Cohort 2 ERG RFP released
March & April, TBD	ERG office hours with current ERG leaders
May 1, 2023	Cohort 2 ERG proposals due
July 1, 2023	Cohort 2 ERGs announced

COHORT 2 ERG EXPECTATIONS

ACTIVITY	DEADLINE	REOCCURRENCE
Finalize ERG name & description	September 29, 2023	n/a
Secure ERG co-lead	September 29, 2023	n/a
Meet with ERG co-lead	October 31, 2023	At least once per semester
Participate in Interdisciplinary Research Fall Forum	TBD, fall semester	Annually
Host ERG member meeting	December 15, 2023	At least once per semester
Participate in 3-4 hours of team science training	TBD	n/a
Review and revise ERG webpage content	n/a	As needed
Participate in all-ERG meetings	TBD	At least one annually
Meet with Faculty Research Lead mentor	December 15, 2023	At least once per semester
Host Year 1 ideation session (facilitated by SI)	April 30, 2024	n/a
Submit Year 1 ERG update (template provided)	July 31, 2024	n/a
Submit Year 2 ERG update (template provided)	April 30, 2025	n/a
ERG Activity Deadline* see below	April 30, 2025	Annually thereafter

ACTIVITY DEADLINE

Each ERG should successfully complete a scholarly activity appropriate to the focus of the ERG. This could be submission of an external funding proposal, a manuscript for publication, a university-wide or public event, an art installation or demonstration, submission of a new course or certificate program, or similar.

Cohort 1 ERGs that plan to continue activity beyond SP23 are expected to meet the activity deadline by July 31, 2023 and April 30, 2024 if applicable.

COHORT 1 CONTINUING ERG

EXPECTATIONS

ACTIVITY	DEADLINE	REOCCURRENCE
Declare intent to continue	June 1, 2023	n/a
Submit Year 2 ERG update (template provided)	July 31, 2023	n/a
Review and revise ERG webpage	July 31, 2023	As needed
Participate in Interdisciplinary Research Fall Forum	TBD, fall semester	Annually
Host ERG member meeting	December 15, 2023	At least once per semester
Participate in all-ERG meetings	TBD	At least one annually
Submit Year 3 ERG update (template provided)	April 30, 2024	n/a
ERG Activity Deadline* see below	April 30, 2024	Annually
Declare intent to continue	April 30, 2024	n/a
Submit Year 4 ERG update (template provided)	April 30, 2025	n/a
Retirement of Cohort 1 ERGs	April 30, 2025	n/a

NOTE

Continuing Cohort 1 ERGs are encouraged, though not required, to participate in the team science training. Similarly, Cohort 1 ERGs are eligible for, but not required to take advantage of, an ideation session facilitated by Sustainability Institute staff.

ACTIVITY DEADLINE

Each ERG should successfully complete a scholarly activity appropriate to the focus of the ERG. This could be submission of an external funding proposal, a manuscript for publication, a university-wide or public event, an art installation or demonstration, submission of a new course or certificate program, or similar. **Cohort 2** ERGs are expected to meet the activity deadline by the end of the spring semester of the second year of ERG activity, and annually thereafter if applicable.

RESOURCES for ERGs



ERG Webpage



Submit a cohort 2 ERG proposal!



ERG Funding Opportunity



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