

Call for Your Ideas:

FY 2021 Sustainability Education Grant Program

Support for New Curriculum Development

Program Description

The **Sustainability Education and Learning Committee (SELC)**, administered by the Sustainability Institute (SI), is pleased to announce the FY2021 Sustainability Education Grant Program for The Ohio State University academic community. The purpose of this grant program is to support the development of new curriculum, including undergraduate majors, minors, certificates, and other degree enhancements, in the areas of sustainability and resilience. This grant opportunity is intended to support undergraduate academic curriculum development at all Ohio State campuses. We anticipate that most awards will not exceed \$10,000 and a total of \$50,000 to be awarded in FY2021.

SELC helps to facilitate and support sustainability-related proposals for program curricular development and is advisory to CAA in the proposal review process. All curriculum proposals must still adhere to formal curricular review processes.

Background

SELC includes faculty representatives from seven colleges who seek to improve cross-unit collaboration for communication and coordination of existing sustainability and resilience education programs, as well as support development of new learning opportunities for students.

In May 2019, SELC issued a report that provided a summary of the existing undergraduate academic program landscape in the areas of sustainability and resilience. “High demand” areas were identified through a gap analysis and review of an undergraduate sustainability education survey administered to undergraduate students in spring semester of 2018. See the [May 2019 SELC report](#) for additional information.

During fall 2019 through winter 2020, SELC conducted a survey of all academic units to further categorize current undergraduate courses and programs in sustainability. The program and course level survey data that was self-reported by the academic units is [posted on the SI website for reference](#).

General Eligibility

- A. The proposed major, minor, certificate, or other degree enhancement must connect to the areas of sustainability and resilience as defined by SELC’s six dimensions of sustainability (see [SELC report](#), pp. 7, 43 - Appendix D).
- B. The work plan is well developed and will result in program launch within approximately three (3) full semesters of the funding date.
- C. The faculty members submitting the proposed program must hold appointments as OSU tenure-track faculty and must be SI faculty affiliates before any funds are received. Additional staff or instructors may be listed as key collaborating team members. Faculty members may only lead one proposal per year, but may

participate as collaborators in more than one proposal per year.

D. Funding from this program can cover:

- a. Release time for instructors, additional compensation for faculty, and off-duty/summer pay to develop proposed programs
- b. Instructor compensation for teaching courses within the proposed program
- c. Instructional design support (e.g. ODEE, UITL)
- d. Proposed program marketing

E. Funding from this program will not cover:

- a. Development of individual courses
- b. Office equipment, renovation, supplies, facility needs, or services and software available on campus
- c. Travel costs for conferences or workshops

F. Matching Funds: Cost sharing through matching funds, either cash or in-kind, is highly encouraged. Funds may be obtained from internal sources such as colleges, centers, or departments, and other Ohio State grant programs, as well as from external partners.

Letter of Intent Application

Interested faculty teams are invited to submit their ideas via a pre-proposal Letter of Intent (**LOI**). A review panel will select ideas on the basis of the review criteria (see below) and will provide guidance to teams invited to develop a full proposal. LOIs should be in 12-point font with 1-inch margins and may be **up to two pages** in length. The LOI should describe how the project fits with the goals of the Sustainability Education Grant Program, including:

- A. Describe the proposed program (major, minor, certificate, or other degree enhancement) and how it connects to the areas of sustainability and resilience as defined by SELC's six dimensions of sustainability (see [SELC report](#), pp. 7, 43-Appendix D).
- B. List of lead faculty member(s), team members, and academic unit affiliations.
- C. Referencing the SELC sustainability education program and course level survey report, address whether a similar program currently exists, and if so, **how this proposed program will address critical gaps, improve existing strengths, and limit duplication of existing programs.**
- D. If your proposed program curriculum will contain a course(s) **in alignment with potential new course development for the new General Education requirements**, please note this in your LOI letter for the committee's awareness.
- E. **Priority Consideration:**
 - a. LOIs that focus on the "high demand" sustainability areas will be given priority consideration (see the [SELC Report](#))
 - i. As described in this report, "**high demand**" sustainability and resilience areas include, but are not limited to:
 1. **Energy, Food, Water, Climate, Mobility, Air, Land, Communities, Justice, and Health and Well-Being**

Review Criteria and Process

An interdisciplinary group of faculty from SELC will review submitted LOIs and may connect submissions that address similar goals and curriculum. Faculty teams will receive a status update on their proposed idea by no later than mid-July 2020. Full proposals will be invited on the basis of their overall fit with the review criteria.

Priority consideration will be given to teams that include the following elements in their submitted LOI:

- **“High demand” sustainability areas:** Does the proposal address high-priority areas or fill a critical gap in current sustainability curricular offerings, as identified by the SELC May 2019 Report or as clearly articulated in the proposal?
- **Program impact:** Does the proposed program complement existing undergraduate sustainability curricula? Does the proposal leverage matching funds or other resources at the university to enhance impact? Does the proposal engage external partners?
- **Interdisciplinary education:** Does the program integrate knowledge from multiple disciplines? Does the proposal articulate how disciplinary knowledge of the faculty team will be combined to deliver a cohesive undergraduate academic program?
- **Cross-unit collaboration:** Does the proposed idea bring together two or more academic units or other campus partners?

Key Dates and Information

Grant Program Release Date: Friday, May 8, 2020

LOI Application Due Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 before 5:00pm

Invited Proposal Due Date: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 before 5:00pm

Award Notification by: Friday, October 15, 2020

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