THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
SUSTAINABILITY INSTITUTE

FY2024 Sustainability Proposal Development Grant Program: Request for Proposals

The **Sustainability Institute (SI)** is pleased to announce the FY2024 Sustainability Proposal Development Grant Program for The Ohio State University research community. This funding opportunity aims to provide support to interdisciplinary research teams in the development of proposals for significant external funding opportunities related to one or more of SI's research program areas: [1]

- circular economy

- healthy air, land, and water systems

- smart and resilient communities

- sustainable energy

- sustainable resources

To be eligible for this funding opportunity, teams must 1) include at least one SI faculty affiliate as PI or CoPI, 2) be pursuing interdisciplinary research with team members from two or more distinct disciplines and units at Ohio State, and 3) have a specific funding opportunity and timeline identified. Research supported through this proposal development grant should focus on a sustainability and/or resilience topic that clearly considers components and interactions of both human (social, behavioral, economic, or engineered) and natural (geophysical, environmental, or ecological) systems. Preference will be given to teams that are pursuing funding in one or more of SI's research program areas that also address the cross-cutting themes of climate change mitigation, adaptation, health, and/or justice.

Funding is available to support the development of proposals with an anticipated submission date on or before December 31, 2025. SI anticipates granting awards ranging from $5-35k depending on the size and complexity of the proposal. Proposers are encouraged to use SI funds to leverage other support, either cash or in-kind, from internal or external sources.

SI will accept and evaluate requests for proposal development grants on a rolling basis with awards conditional on the availability of funds. The deadline to submit requests for this first round of funding is **June 1st, 2024**, although available funds may expire before this deadline.

See below for proposal instructions and award details.

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[1] See http://si.osu.edu for information about SI and its research areas.

Proposal Instructions and Award Details

A. **Scope of Projects:** Grants can be used for the sole purpose of developing interdisciplinary research proposals for mid-to large-scale external funding solicitations (including from federal or state agencies or foundations). Award amounts will be determined relative to the scope and scale of target proposals and must be sufficiently large or strategic[2] to justify the award.

B. **Fund Administration**: Grant funds will be transferred to an account designated by the department of the named Principal Investigator (PI).

C. **Grant Duration:** Grant funds will be distributed to support the development of proposals with an anticipated submission date on or before December 31, 2024. Failure to submit a proposal by this deadline will disqualify the PI and Co-PIs from submitting SI proposal development requests for two years.

D. **Final Report**: Grantees will receive 100% of the funds upon notice of the award. Upon submission of the target proposal, PIs will submit the proposal summary (including the total amount requested) to SI. It is expected that the PI will notify SI of the outcome of their proposal once it has been reviewed.

E. **Eligibility**: The PI or at least one CoPI must hold an Ohio State appointment as a faculty or research scientist and must be an SI faculty affiliate before any funds are received. External collaboration is permissible, provided it clearly supports Ohio State capacity building.

F. **Funding:** Funds may be used for any reasonable expense incurred as part of the proposal development process, including but not limited to a course buyout, GRA, travel, workshop, or contracting for grant writing or project management services. Any unused funds at the time of the final report shall be returned to SI.

G. **How to Submit**: Complete the provided proposal template, which includes a quad chart and a list of prospective team members. Proposals should be saved as a single PDF named using the following format: PI Last Name-First Name-SI-PDProposal. An indication of support from the PI's department chair is also required. This could take the form of an email or letter, saved as a PDF using the following format: PI Last Name-First Name-SI-PDProposal-LOS. Upload both documents to https://orapps.osu.edu/fundops/admin/opportunity/5724.

H. **Questions:** Contact Courtney Price, SI Research Program Manager (price.1217@osu.edu, 614-292-8208).

I. **Review Criteria**: All proposals will be reviewed according to the following criteria:

   a. **Potential for Impact**: Makes a compelling case for the nature and scope of anticipated scientific, technological, or societal impacts that will result from the proposed research; clearly articulates plausible and measurable outcomes that include increasing research impact, enhancing Ohio State's reputation and leadership in this research area, and supporting research training.

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[2] In general "sufficiently large" is $1 million or more and "strategic" means strong potential to advance SI or University research priorities. Most proposals should meet both qualifications, but we will also consider smaller proposals that are highly strategic.

b. **Team Qualifications**: Appropriate representation from multiple disciplines and units, with a clear description of how disciplinary knowledge of team members will be integrated to achieve an interdisciplinary approach. Together the team has a strong track record of success in the foundational research areas. Team members have successfully collaborated on previous projects or proposals.

c. **Proposal Development Plan and Timeline**: Plan for proposal development will support the development of a strong proposal, including a red team review or equivalent; major tasks are clearly laid out and feasible; likelihood of meeting target solicitation deadlines; likelihood of successfully securing external funding.

d. **Fit with SI:** Relates to one or more of the Sustainability Institute (SI) research program areas (see above). Takes a systems approach that is inclusive of both human and natural components (see above) and key interactions. Preference given to proposals that also address the cross-cutting themes of climate change mitigation, adaptation, health, and/or justice.

e. **Leveraging Funds**: SI funds will be leveraged with other support for the proposal, either cash or in-kind, from other internal or external sources; these are identified in the proposal.

J. **Notification of Awards:** Applicants will be notified via e-mail about the outcomes of their proposals no later than four weeks after submission. A summary of the successful proposals will be published on the SI website.

K. **Acknowledgment of Support:** Any presentation or publications resulting from this research should appropriately acknowledge SI. The acknowledgment should read as follows: This work was supported in part by the Sustainability Institute at The Ohio State University.

L. **Important Dates**

RFP Released	November 7, 2023
Last Date to Submit for FY22	June 1, 2024
Notice of Awards	Four weeks after submission
Funds Released	Upon successful review
Final Report Due	Upon submission of target proposal
Notification of Results	Upon notification from the funding agency