

2016 Sustainability Challenge Grant Program

Application Instructions

What are Sustainability Challenge Grants?

The Sustainability Challenge Grant program is designed to engage multidisciplinary teams from the University community in the creation and implementation of ideas that will promote sustainability by simultaneously advancing economic vitality, ecological integrity and social equity. A total of \$200,000 is available with awards for individual projects ranging from \$10,000 - \$50,000. A limited number of proposals will be awarded more than \$25,000. The Selection Committee will award funds based on a rubric that prioritizes:

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- number of departments on project team
- use of campus as a living laboratory
- Leveraging of additional resources and
- the potential for institutionalization.

Previously funded projects and proposal rubric are available at www.uky.edu/sustainability/sustainability-challenge-grants.

• transformational potential	
• creativity	
• measurable impacts	
• student-engagement,	
• number of departments on project team	

In general, proposals should directly address one or more of the following categories:

Operations: Using the principles of sustainability to improve material, physical, or infrastructural elements at the University of Kentucky.

Engagement: Fostering a campus and community culture of sustainability.

Research: Discoveries with the potential to catalyze operational, academic, or cultural change at the University of Kentucky and beyond.

Academics: Improving the university's capacity for integrating sustainability with the educational experiences of our students in both curricular and co-curricular activities.

Who Can Apply?

All members of the University community are encouraged to develop project ideas! Project teams must be led by a faculty or staff member whose home unit/department agrees to manage the dispersal of funds. Student involvement is strongly encouraged. Teams must include representatives from at least two distinct organizational units (e.g, PPD Grounds and Department of Landscape Architecture, UK

Athletics and Division of Student Affairs, Center for Applied Energy Research and College of Engineering etc.).

Ready to Apply?

Download and complete the application (PDF) by 11:59pm, October 16, 2015. Contact Shane Tedder (shane.tedder@uky.edu, 257-0014) if you have any questions about the program.

The Sustainability Challenge Grant Program was developed as a collaborative effort of the President's Sustainability Advisory Committee, The Tracy Farmer Institute for Sustainability and the Environment and the Office of Sustainability. Funding for the Challenge Grant Program provided by the Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration, the Vice President for Research, the Office of the Provost and the Student Sustainability Council.

2015 Sustainability Challenge Grant Program

Eligibility

Proposals must:

- Be submitted by a current UK faculty and/or staff member who will serve as project leader and whose home unit/department agrees to manage the dispersal of funds. Students may serve as co-leaders with a faculty/staff member who is actively participating in the project.
- Identify multi-disciplinary teams that include representatives from at least two distinct organizational units. Diverse teams of faculty, staff, and students are encouraged.
- Demonstrate engagement with campus or community stakeholders (e.g., neighborhoods, alumni, area businesses or non-profits) that are critical to implementation of the project.

Proposal Criteria

Proposals should:

- Clearly define and address a sustainability problem that manifests within the local community (either UK campus or linked to the Lexington area). Example projects are listed at the end of this document.
- Develop an evidence-based solution to this problem that can be implemented in Kentucky communities.
- Be carried out in collaboration with stakeholders critical to implementation of the project.
- Include a multi-disciplinary team consisting of at least 2 major disciplines or organizational units.
- Communicate the results in a format accessible to the public.
- Describe projects that can be completed within one year.

Award Levels

- A limited number of projects will receive \$25,000-\$50,000.
- Remaining funds will be distributed in amounts from \$10,000-\$25,000 per project

Application Format

1. Completed application form including:

- Project title
- Summary
- Goals and Objectives
- Relevance and Concept
- Triple Bottom Line Impact
- Approach and Methodology
- List of team members including roles & responsibilities and area of expertise/major
- Stakeholders Impacted by the Project
- Timeline

2. Budget: Provide a budget and justification for how the team intends to spend the funds. Budget section shall also include documentation from home unit of Project Leader confirming willingness to manage the dispersal of funds if awarded.

3. Documentation from relevant stakeholders and community members, as needed. For example, a project with a goal of engagement through public art by painting campus storm sewers inlets would need a letter of support from the director of the Campus Physical Plant. If you need assistance determining appropriate stakeholders for your project please contact Shane Tedder, UK Sustainability Coordinator, at shane.tedder@uky.edu or 859-257-0014.

Selection Process

Proposals submitted by the due date will be reviewed by a technical committee composed of faculty and staff with expertise in the specific project areas. Proposals will be assessed based on adherence to the proposal criteria, realistic project timeline and budget, clarity and thoroughness of project plan, and applicability of the proposal to existing efforts and challenges in the community.

Results from the technical committee reviews will be submitted to an Executive Review Committee that will further evaluate proposals based on campus priorities, available funding, and balance of subject matter. The executive review committee will select projects for funding. Please plan for December 1, 2015 as the award date with funds available January 2016.

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