

2018 Sustainability Challenge Grant Program

Application Instructions

The Sustainability Challenge Grant program engages 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. The Selection Committee will award funds based on a rubric that prioritizes:

- Transformational potential
- Creativity
- Measurable impacts
- Student-engagement
- Number of departments on project team
- Use of campus as a living laboratory
- Leveraging of additional resources and
- The potential for institutionalization

On December 15, 2016, President Capilouto [signed a commitment](#) to reduce campus greenhouse gas emissions by 25% by 2025. Mitigating and adapting to climate change present a myriad of challenges and is an area ripe with opportunity for this program.

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

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 broader community culture of sustainability.

Research: Scholarship and creative endeavors relating to sustainability challenges of the Commonwealth 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, Center for Applied Energy Research and College of Engineering, etc.).

Ready to Apply?

Download and complete the application (www.uky.edu/sustainability/sustainability-challenge-grants) by 11:59pm, October 15, 2017. Contact Shane Tedder (shane.tedder@uky.edu, 257-0014) if you have any questions about the program.

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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.
- Demonstrate engagement with campus or community stakeholders (e.g., neighborhoods, alumni, area businesses or non-profits) that are critical to implementation of the project.
- Include a communication plan that stimulates continuous public engagement and shares results with the public.

Proposals should

- Clearly define and address a sustainability challenge within the local community (either UK campus or linked to the broader community). The [UK Sustainability Strategic Plan](#) identifies the operational priorities relative to sustainability for UK through 2021.
- Develop an evidence-based solution to this challenge that can be implemented locally.
- Strive for a high level of multi-disciplinarity. Teams consisting of more than two major disciplines or organizational units are encouraged.
- 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 Components

1. Completed application form. This is available for download as a PDF or word document at <http://www.uky.edu/sustainability/sustainability-challenge-grants>. Submit the completed application as a pdf titled "shortprojecttitle.application.pdf".
2. Budget table and written justification/explanation for each line item. Budget document must also include confirmation from the business officer for the home unit of the Project Leader confirming willingness to manage the dispersal of funds if awarded. Submit these three components as a single pdf document titled "shortprojecttitle.budget.pdf".
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. Combine and submit all stakeholder support documentation as a single PDF titled "shortprojecttitle.stakeholdersupport.pdf".

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Selection Process

Complete proposals submitted by the due date will be reviewed by a technical committee composed of faculty, staff, and other experts with experience in the specific project areas. Proposals will be assessed based on adherence to the proposal criteria, detailed project budget and timeline, clarity and thoroughness of project plan, and relevance 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: and will select a portfolio of projects for funding. Awards will be publically announced on December 6, 2017 with funds available January 2018.

Contact Shane Tedder (shane.tedder@uky.edu, 257-0014) if you have any questions about the program.

The Sustainability Challenge Grant Program is 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.