

2009 Grants Program

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Institute for Energy and the Environment (IEE) Grant Program provides competitively-awarded resources to strengthen Ohio State research and educational and outreach endeavors related to energy, campus sustainability, and/or the environment. The primary goal of the financial support provided by the IEE is threefold:

- To achieve and sustain major externally-supported interdisciplinary research groups and centers conducting cutting-edge energy and environmental research
- To assist in the development of innovative educational and outreach programs related to energy and the environment
- To provide assistive support from colleges and other units to increase campus sustainability

1.2. The resources provided by the IEE through the Grant Program are a key component of the university's strategic plan to support and enhance its energy and environmental enterprise. A maximum of \$350,000 will be available for the 2009 IEE Grant Program. The program provides for two types of grants according to the following parameters:

Interdisciplinary Research Grants (IGs): IGs will provide seed funding to support pioneering, interdisciplinary faculty research in energy and environment with the goal of generating highly-competitive external grant proposals that target large, multi-investigator, and center-level opportunities. IGs may also provide leveraged support for interdisciplinary teams to pursue funding opportunities exceeding \$750,000 – opportunities that have a high probability of being funded. Multidisciplinary efforts are strongly encouraged. These awards may be used to hire proposal coordinators, proposal writers, etc. The individual award limit is \$50,000/per year for a maximum of two years

Campus Sustainability Grants (SGs): SGs will provide support for projects that foster a sustainable campus environment. The goal of these grants is to assist faculty, staff, and students in making cost-effective energy and environmental improvements to Ohio State facilities. Projects can be either energy or environmentally focused – but all projects must make a direct connection to sustainability. The individual award limit is \$50,000.

The exact number and funding amount of individual grant awards for the IGs and SGs will be determined after receipt and consideration of all proposals. Applicants are encouraged to carefully consider the amount of funding being requested. Projects that show straightforward budgets as well as additional sources of financial support will be given preference.

2. ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1. **Interdisciplinary Research Grants** – The lead applicant for an IG must be a faculty member or staff researcher at Ohio State. IG proposals may also include staff and faculty/researchers from outside the university as co-applicants (non-lead).
- 2.2. **Campus Sustainability Grants** - Ohio State faculty members, staff, and students are eligible to apply for SGs. Students applying for SGs must do so in conjunction with an Ohio State faculty member who will serve as the lead applicant for purposes of funds distribution. Preference will be given to *multidisciplinary* collaborations that involve multiple departments, colleges, units, students, or student groups within the university.
- 2.3. **Current IEE Grant Awardees** – To be considered for a new IEE grant, current IEE awardees must include a one-page progress summary of their existing grant with their application. The summary must describe how the project is meeting the intended goals of the IEE Grant Program as identified in the 2008 IEE Grant Program RFP.

3. DEADLINES

Applications for this round of funding are due by **5:00 p.m. on April 3, 2009**. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

4. APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Applications must contain the information outlined below and adhere to the formatting specified.

4.1. Cover Page (*1 page maximum*)

4.1.1. Project title

4.1.2. Lead Applicant: *One (and only one) lead applicant must be clearly identified*

- Name
- Title
- College/Business unit
- Department
- Email address
- Telephone number
- Mailing address

4.1.3. Co-applicants: *Co-applicants are not necessary, but interdisciplinary collaborations will merit preference*

- Name(s)
- Title(s)
- College(s)/Business unit(s)
- Department(s)

4.1.4. Project brief: 1-2 paragraphs that provide a brief overview of the proposed project

4.2. Project Description (*5 pages maximum*)

- 4.2.1. Objectives of the proposed effort
- 4.2.2. Description and scope of the proposed effort
- 4.2.3. Work plan and methodology
- 4.2.4. Expected outcomes
- 4.2.5. Ohio State facilities that will be used to conduct the research
- 4.2.6. Brief statement of the broader impacts of the proposed project
- 4.2.7. Relation to planned external proposal(s): Include a brief statement listing external agency(ies) and program(s) targeted with deadlines (if known) and describe how meeting the objectives of the proposed research would translate into external proposal development for the research team (this section can be omitted for SG submissions).

4.3. References (*1 page maximum*)

4.4. Budget (*2 pages maximum*): Refer also to the “Budget Restrictions” section below

- 4.4.1. Detailed budget
- 4.4.2. Budget justification: Refer to the “Budget Restrictions” section below

4.5. Curriculum Vitae or résumé of Lead Applicant and Co-Applicant (*2-page maximum per applicant*)

4.6. Formatting

- 4.6.1. Font size for all applications must be 11 point or larger
- 4.6.2. Margins must not be less than ¾ inch on all sides
- 4.6.3. Applications longer than the stated page limits will be truncated at the page limit before consideration
- 4.6.4. Applications omitting any of the information outlined above will not be considered

5. APPLICATION SUBMISSION

- 5.1.** Completed applications must be submitted by **5:00 p.m. on April 3, 2009**
- 5.2.** Submit applications electronically as a single document, in Microsoft Word or Adobe (PDF) formats.
- 5.3.** Submit applications as an email attachment to ieegrants@rf.ohio-state.edu,



6. BUDGET RESTRICTIONS

6.1. The following expenses are not eligible for IEE grant funding:

- 6.1.1. Regular faculty salary or benefits - Requests for release time or faculty summer salary will be considered.
- 6.1.2. General purpose computers
- 6.1.3. Office equipment
- 6.1.4. Other equipment/supplies not exclusively used for the proposed project

7. REVIEW CRITERIA

7.1. The IEE will allocate resources based on the quality of the proposed project and relevance to major funding opportunities and college and university strategic plans.

7.2. The following review criteria will be used in considering the IEE Grant applications:

- 7.2.1. Intellectual merit of the proposed research activity – originality and potential contribution to science, technology, and education
- 7.2.2. Extent to which proposed research fosters interdisciplinary collaborations
- 7.2.3. Plan for external proposal development and relation to strategic opportunities
- 7.2.4. Strength of leadership (technical and administrative track record of applicants)
- 7.2.5. Availability of resources
- 7.2.6. Potential for positive impact on the Ohio State campus
- 7.2.7. Broader impact: How well does the activity advance discovery and understanding while promoting teaching, training, and learning?

8. TERMS and CONDITIONS

IEE grants must be fully expended within the project period specified in the application. Under no circumstances may the grant expenditure period exceed 24 months from the date of the award of an Interdisciplinary Grant or 12 months from the date of award for a Sustainability Grant. All remaining unused funds must be returned to the IEE.

A brief technical report and financial report are due at the end of each award cycle. In addition, award recipients will be expected to share their research findings at future IEE events, including IEE-sponsored seminars and workshops.

9. CONTACT INFORMATION

Please contact Scott Potter at potter.138@osu.edu or (614) 292-9446 with questions.