Sponsored by a cross-campus collaboration to support IU student research in sustainability.

**Sustainability Research Development Grant**

**Deadline:** March 9, 2018 at 5:00 PM

All application materials, including recommendation form and optional reference letter, must be received by the deadline. Any late materials disqualify the application.

**Purpose:**

These awards are designed to encourage and support interdisciplinary sustainability research by currently enrolled Indiana University undergraduate and graduate students. Successful proposals have clearly stated goals and objectives, employ appropriate methods and tools, and address sustainability challenges, such as resource stewardship, assessment and mitigation of environmental impacts caused by human activity, and institutional and societal responses to ecological change.

This grant program is designed to support sustainability projects, not environmental science studies. As such, applicants must demonstrate that their research proposal directly engages at least two of the three dimensions of sustainability: economic, ecological and social. Both basic and applied research is supported from the arts and humanities, social and natural sciences, and technical and policy studies. Special consideration is given to projects directed at campus, community, and/or regional research targets, although proposals that address global sustainability problems also are accepted. Priority will be given to high-quality interdisciplinary projects that include participants from multiple disciplines, as well as proposals that involve collaborative graduate-undergraduate student research teams.

This program is part of a growing array of initiatives supported by the Indiana University Office of Sustainability (IUOS) and the Integrated Program in the Environment (IPE).

**Eligibility:**

Grant applicants and recipients must be enrolled undergraduate or graduate students in good standing and cannot be scheduled to graduate prior to project completion. The grants require the support of a full-time IUB faculty member who will write a letter of support for the applicant and be responsible for administering grant funding, should the proposal be accepted. If the student proposal is submitted by a research team, then additional faculty mentors associated with the project also should complete the recommendation form. Applicants who have had proposals declined in the past may reapply. However, previous Sustainability Research Development Grant awardees are ineligible.

**Award Details:**

For undergraduate research, awards may be up to $3,000. For graduate research, awards range from $2,000 to $10,000. Award funds can include graduate student fellowships (up to $3,000) or undergraduate student scholarships (up to $2,000), as well as funds for field, laboratory,
computational, or library research. If multiple-investigator awards are made, recipients will share the award. Awardees are expected to engage with other fellows and members of the university sustainability community by preparing a poster for either the Sustainability Symposium in April and/or participating in the IPE Spring research conference. Awardees are also required to submit a summary report to the IUOS by the conclusion of the following spring semester.

Application Procedures:

Note: The Review Committee is composed of faculty who may not be specialists in the applicant’s field.

Applications must include:

1. Project title, full name(s), major(s), and department(s) must be listed at the top of the application’s first page.
2. An abstract of 200-250 words.
3. A research proposal written in clear and concise prose that includes the following (1,500 words or less):
   - Include a detailed rationale and plan of work, including key project objectives, method(s), and a timeline. Be sure to explain how the project directly engages sustainability (elaborate on at least two of the three dimensions: economic, ecological and social). The proposal should also address project originality and innovation, potential impact on IUB research and/or campus sustainability, and how the work fits with the applicant’s academic and research plans.
   - A detailed budget of estimated expenses, including equipment, travel, and scholarship/fellowship costs. The proposed budget should focus on items/expenses directly related to the completion of the research (e.g. travel to study site, data collection, field work, analysis). This section is not included in the proposal’s word count maximum of 1,500 words. Please note, a budget that exceeds maximum award amounts disqualifies the application, and the program does not fund student conference attendance.
   - Your faculty sponsor’s departmental research account number should be included immediately following the budget section.
4. Current curriculum vitae/resume of all project participants. (Note: Please compile, save, and submit the research proposal and CV/resume in ONE document.)
5. Recommendation form (to be completed and submitted by faculty sponsor(s)): The faculty sponsor support statement should be completed using the form found within this document. These recommendations address:
   - project originality and innovation
   - relevance to sustainability (i.e. social, economic, and ecological dimensions)
   - potential impact on future IUB research and/or campus sustainability initiatives
   - educational relevance for the applicant and for the university
• feasibility (competence of investigator, likelihood of accomplishment, use of appropriate technology, if any)
• school or departmental commitment to the project
• overall quality of project (concept, planning, long-term influence)
• a statement from the faculty sponsor, indicating that she/he is willing to manage payment of the graduate fellowship and/or undergraduate scholarship with support from her/his academic home department.

*Please note, the faculty form is required, while letters of recommendation are optional. A missing mentor form means an incomplete application, which disqualifies the applicant.*

**Proposal Evaluation:**

Members of the Review Committee are instructed to rate each proposal on the basis of the criteria described above. The applicant is therefore urged to discuss the proposed work in relation to each of the criteria, providing information about the project in the context of her/his department, the discipline, and the University. Undergraduate proposals will be evaluated separately, on the basis of both the quality of the research and the potential contributions of the project to the student’s undergraduate academic experience. Proposals that include graduate and undergraduate students will be evaluated in the graduate student proposal pool.

**The Review Process:**

An interdisciplinary review committee convened by the IU Office of Sustainability will review applications within a month of the submission deadline. Funds will be provided to the faculty mentor’s research account and will be administered in accordance with university administrative and financial policies.

**Proposals and letters of evaluation should be submitted electronically (in PDF format) to:**
sustain@indiana.edu

**For questions related to the grant or application process,** email or call Andrew Predmore: sapredmo@indiana.edu, 812-855-2818
Faculty Mentor Support Statement
Sustainability Research Development Grant
Deadline: March 9, 2018 at 5:00 PM

Applicant: _______________________________ School/Department: ____________________

Project title: ________________________________________________________________

This form is to be completed by the student’s adviser or research mentor. If the student
proposal was submitted by a research team, then additional faculty mentors associated with
the project also should complete this form.

I acknowledge submission of this sustainability research proposal and that the student
investigator has the support of this academic unit for developing this project. If payment for
graduate fellowship or undergraduate scholarship is included as part of the proposal, I will work
with my department to ensure those payments are made in accordance with university policies.

Please note, this form is required, while letters of recommendation are optional. A missing
mentor form means an incomplete application, which disqualifies the applicant.

In a separate document, please assess the student and her/his proposal in the following areas:

- project originality and innovation
- relevance to sustainability (how the project directly engages at least two of three
dimensions: economic, ecological, social)
- potential impact on future IUB research and/or campus sustainability initiatives
- timeliness (for the applicant and for the university)
- feasibility (competence of investigator, likelihood of accomplishment, use of
appropriate technology, if any)
- school/departmental commitment to the project
- overall quality of project (concept, planning, long-term influence)

Signature: ________________________________________________________________

Printed name: ____________________________________________________________

Title: _________________________________________________________________

Department: _____________________________________________________________

Research account number: ________________________________________________