2013 Call for Proposals

**SUSTAINABILITY INNOVATION IN RESEARCH AND EDUCATION (SIRE)**

Awards Program

Office of Sustainability

University of Wisconsin-Madison

www.sustainability.wisc.edu

The Office of Sustainability (OS) is charged with promoting sustainability research and education on the UW-Madison campus and creating intersections between UW-Madison campus operations and the research and education enterprises that promote sustainability. The Sustainability Innovation in Research and Education (SIRE) awards program was created to support the OS mission and to stimulate innovation in research and education related to sustainability on the UW-Madison campus. SIRE is a seed awards program --- that is, SIRE awards are intended to nurture the research and educational enterprise with the intent that larger extramurally funded initiatives will develop in sustainability research and education. SIRE awards can have a research or educational focus (or both). However, in 2013, research awards will have greater emphasis than education awards. Education awards must illustrate how outcomes of the award enhance sustainability curricula on campus.

The 2013 SIRE award program will support the OS initiative to develop sustainability metrics for campus that can be used to quantify accomplishments in sustainability. This initiative is coupled directly with the broader campus objective of responsible stewardship of resources, as articulated in the [Campus Strategic Framework](http://www.sustainability.wisc.edu/campus-strategic-framework).

OS is soliciting proposals that develop cutting edge and practical methods to capture campus-wide sustainability metrics on the following issues:

- Food systems
- Energy usage and behavior
- Health and human development
- Water use, management, protection, and conservation
- Linkages to regional systems (e.g., transportation linkages, watersheds, social systems)
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation

Proposals are welcome from all disciplines and interdisciplinary proposals are of particular interest. All research awards are required to include a component that ties the proposed research to activities associated with the operation of UW-Madison (e.g., housing) and the Campus Strategic Framework. Partnerships with personnel in UW-Madison operations are strongly encouraged. Proposers are encouraged to review the Campus Strategic Framework when responding to this solicitation.

Leveraging other resources (another source of funding or in-kind support) is desirable, but not required. All research proposals must indicate how the award will promote future opportunities for extramural funding. Demonstrating the potential for future extramural funding is beneficial, but not required, for education proposals.
Awardees will be required to attend a mid-year workshop to share findings from their projects and explore opportunities to collaborate. OS will be providing internships in Summer 2014 to collect data on the metrics developed through the 2013 SIRE award program. Outcomes from the mid-year workshop will be critical to developing the internship program.

A workshop for potential SIRE Award proposers will be held at NOON on Thursday, 16 May 2013 in Union South. Attendance is not required to submit a proposal. Proposers wishing to attend the workshop should RSVP to Angela Pakes Ahlman at apakes@sustainability.wisc.edu.

Awards

Approximately 10 awards of up to $50,000 will be awarded in 2013 for a duration of no more than 12 months. Budgets must include fringe benefits at standard UW-Madison rates. Indirect costs should not be included. Awards will begin on 1 July 2013 and run through 30 June 2013 unless negotiated otherwise with the Office of Sustainability. Funding for follow-on years will be allocated through successful competition in subsequent SIRE awards competitions.

Eligibility

UW-Madison faculty or staff with principal investigator (PI) status may apply. A PI may submit multiple proposals, but at most one proposal per PI will be funded in any given year. However, a PI on one funded proposal may be a co-PI on other funded proposals.

Conditions

The Office of Sustainability must be acknowledged in all publications and other works derived from SIRE awards. Award recipients are required to submit copies of all publications and other works based on SIRE awards to the Office of Sustainability and to attend and present at the annual Office of Sustainability campus sustainability symposium. A final report for the award must be submitted by 30 September 2014.

Application Instructions

SIRE award proposals must be organized as follows:

- **Cover Page** – include project title; name, title, campus address, UW email address, and UW phone number for PI and each co-PI; department or administrative unit that will administer the award; name, email, and phone number for awards administrator.

- **Abstract** - maximum 300 words and on a separate page following the cover page.

- **Proposal narrative** – maximum 4 pages (12 point Times New Roman or 11 point Arial font, single spaced, 25 mm margins, US letter size paper). Must explain how the project objectives relate to the objectives/requirements of the SIRE program. Include a description of anticipated outcomes and a concise plan for disseminating results of research and/or education awards. The page limit for the narrative does not include the cover page, abstract page, budget, or the reference list.

- **Curriculum Vitae** – for PI and co-PIs (maximum 2 pages each).
• **Budget** – Budgets must be prepared using a [SIRE Award budget template](#). Budgets must be printed and included in the proposal and a completed budget template in EXCEL format must be incorporated into the PDF as an attachment. Effort level should be described in numbers of months, numbers of hours, or a percentage over the fiscal year (e.g., 1 summer month, 500 hours, or 20%-time). **Fringe benefits are applied across all staff types at 39% of salary (do not modify the template in this area).** Tuition remission should be included only for RAs and PAs; tuition is covered centrally for teaching assistants and should not be included in this budget. Capital equipment may not be included. All proposals must include a **budget justification** (maximum 1 page).

**Submission Instructions and Deadlines**

Proposals are due by 4 PM CDT on 14 June 2013. Proposals should be submitted as a PDF and sent by email to Ms. Sabrina Bradshaw at sbradshaw@sustainability.wisc.edu. Notification of the outcome will be made on or around 27 June 2013.

**Questions?**

Questions regarding the SIRE award program should be directed to Craig Benson at chbenson@sustainabilty.wisc.edu.