



MIT *Campus Sustainability Incubator Fund* *Call for proposals*

The MIT Office of Sustainability [MITOS] aims to transform MIT into a powerful model that generates new and proven ways of responding to the unprecedented challenges of a changing planet via operational excellence, education, research and innovation on campus. MITOS seeks to inspire and enable the continuous generation of breakthrough sustainability solutions to transform our campus, our city and the globe.

FULL PROPOSALS DUE April 12th, 2017

The MIT Office of Sustainability [MITOS] is pleased to announce a call for proposals [CFP] for the newly launched ***Campus Sustainability Incubator Fund***.

Purpose:

The fund seeks to enable MIT community members to use the MIT campus as a test bed for research in sustainable operations, management and design. MITOS seeks to inspire and enable the continuous generation of breakthrough sustainability solutions to transform our campus, our city and the globe. It is in this vein that we invite you to join us in solving for a low carbon future, high performance design, resilient ecosystems, zero waste and other relevant challenges. The seed funds will enable students, faculty, and researchers to explore the physical facility and social context in which they are working, living and learning.

The ***Campus Sustainability Incubator Fund*** will support **small-scale** projects that can demonstrate a link to similar interlocking solutions. Projects that are designed at the individual, building, and/or campus scope that demonstrate modularity and connectivity as a manner by which to scale up, will be favored. The Fund will not support large-scale solution design [e.g., power stations over 500kW, or transportation hubs] that cannot be demonstrated at the campus or neighborhood scale.

Deadline: April 12th, 2017.

Eligibility

All MIT faculty members and research scientists with PI status. Student-driven projects must name a faculty/research advisor with PI status. All teams must also include an MIT services or support staff member (e.g. MIT Office of Sustainability, Facilities, Police, Medical, Environmental Health and Safety, Administrative) to facilitate perspective of on-campus implementation.

Guidelines:

Proposals are encouraged from across the spectrum of research and disciplines. Priority will be given to projects with a clearly defined problem, a robust research design and outcomes that are tied to a measurable impact on the sustainability of the campus, comprising metrics involving its environmental, economic and socio-economic aspects as applicable.

Preference will be given for research that seeks to develop collaborations with diverse stakeholders and junior researchers, and those that capitalize on the rich backdrop of social interactions, organizational structures, and culture unique to the MIT campus.

Proposals can request funds for purchase of materials and services, travel, student research support and/or access to MIT staff support time.

Community Forum Event: March 24th, 2017

A community forum event on March 24th at 12 pm in Building 10-150 will address questions about the Incubator Fund and provide insight into MIT's current sustainability commitments, initiatives, and the process for obtaining permission and access to internal data sets. Additional support mechanisms for campus-based research projects (i.e., Living Lab Learning) that are available through MITOS will also be discussed at this event.

Awards:

Awards of all sizes will be considered, \$200,000 in total is available over two years. Awardees will follow spending protocol as detailed by Office of Sponsored Programs: <http://osp.mit.edu/rates/fund-account-overhead-rates>

Initial proposals are due no later than **April 12th**, with awards to be made by **June 2017** in anticipation of project start dates in **September 2017**.

Selection Process

The selection process will have three stages:

- 1) Preliminary Evaluation. All proposals will be reviewed by the MITOS Faculty Advisory Committee [see list].
- 2) Interviews. Finalists will meet with the Director of Sustainability and three members of the Advisory Committee to discuss the proposal.
- 3) Final Selection. The Advisory Committee will make final recommendations based on the criteria outlined above.

Award letters will be distributed within one week of the Committee's final decisions. MITOS will actively promote and support winning proposals on our website, in special events and within the context of national or international conferences, as appropriate.

Application: Who May Apply

The grants are open to faculty as well as senior and principal research scientists. Student driven projects must have a faculty member or researcher advisory. All teams must have an MIT staff member associated with the team.

Proposals are encouraged from across the spectrum of research and disciplines. Priority will be given to projects with a clearly defined problem, robust research design and outcomes that are tied to "moving the needle" with demonstrative metrics and near-term implementation.

Preference will be given for research that seeks to develop collaborations with diverse stakeholders and junior researchers, and those that capitalize on the rich backdrop of social interactions, and a culture unique to the MIT campus.

Proposals for the same or similar work may look to current Sandbox, ESI or related current request for proposals to consider joint funding.

Several entrepreneurial students are working on sustainability solutions. They are encouraged to explore MIT as a potential test bed or pilot customer for their solutions. To benefit from this incubation fund, those students are encouraged to identify faculty or PIs that they can partner with to access the funds and advance the development of their prototypes or pilots.

How to Apply

Proposals should make a strong, succinct case for funding and specifically address the following questions:

- How will the proposed research advance sustainability at the institutional or neighborhood scale?
- How does the research support **small-scale** projects that can demonstrate a link to other interlocking solutions?
- How will the proposed research utilize the MIT Campus as a test bed?
- How will the proposed research differ from or contribute to other efforts/activities? *Proposed work should be novel and distinct from prior research.*
- How is the proposed work innovative and multidisciplinary?
- How will seed funding for the proposed project help to advance and strengthen MIT's commitment to sustainability leadership?
- How will the research seek to bridge between academic and operational partners?

Award

Selected proposals will be announced in **June 2017**, with project start dates anticipated for **September 1, 2017**.

Please submit your proposal on-line [here](#): [guiding questions below]

1. A project title and team page, with the name(s) and departmental affiliation(s) of the PI, MIT staff member, and key research personnel including, as appropriate, graduate students and post-docs
2. A research proposal of not more than five (5) pages (inclusive of figures)

- and exclusive of references cited)
3. A line-item budget (by year and cumulative up to \$200K), using provided budget template
 4. What campus data will you need for baseline
 5. What campus department[s] will you seek to partner with on your research

Sustainability Incubator Fund Advisory Committee

Convener: Julie Newman, Director of Sustainability

- Jinane Abounadi, Executive Director – MIT Sandbox Innovation Fund
- John Fernandez, Director, MIT Environmental Solutions Initiative; Professor, Department of Architecture
- Tim Gutowski, Professor, Mechanical Engineering
- Valerie Karpulus, Asst Prof, Sloan School of Management
- Noelle Selin, Assoc Prof, Earth, Dept of Atmosphere and Planetary Sciences; Institute for Data, Systems, and Society.
- Krystyn Vanvilet, Director of Manufacturing Innovation; Professor, MIT Department of Materials Science & Engineering, MIT Department of Biological Engineering
- Kripa V. Varanasi, Assoc Prof, Mechanical Engineering

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