MIT *Campus Sustainability Incubator Fund* Call for proposals

FULL PROPOSALS DUE April 16th, 2018

The MIT Office of Sustainability [MITOS] is pleased to announce a call for proposals [CFP] for the newly launched **Campus Sustainability Incubator Fund,** made possible through a generous gift from Malcom B. Strandberg.

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. Additionally, we seek proposals for projects that uniquely integrate AI and Machine Learning.

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.

Awards:

Awards of all sizes will be considered, a total of $100,000 is available. 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 16th**, with awards to be made by June 2018 in anticipation of project start dates in September 2018.

Selection Process

The selection process will have three stages:

1) Preliminary Evaluation. All proposals will be reviewed by the MITOS Faculty Advisory Committee.
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.

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.

Preference for projects:
- with clearly defined problem
- robust research design and outcomes with demonstrative metrics
- research that seeks to develop collaborations with diverse stakeholders

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?

Please submit your proposal on-line: *https://sustainability.mit.edu/campus-sustainability-incubator-fund-2018*

Guiding questions
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