

Sustainable CU: Environmental Improvement Initiative Request for Proposals 2009-2010

Sustainable CU is a grant fund approved by CU students in 2004 to fund and promote innovative, student led sustainability projects on the CU campus. Examples of projects fundable under this grant program are available at ecenter.colorado.edu/greening_cu#sust_cu

For the 2009-2010 planning year, Sustainable CU is offering two types of grant support; small programs (<\$2500) and large scale capital projects (>\$2500). Approximately \$110,000 is available for disbursement.

Eligibility

Expenses eligible for funding under the SCU grant program include:

1. Small grants program. Small capital expenses would include, consumables, infrastructure, contractor fees, equipment rentals, etc. Hourly labor costs are not allowable.
2. Large scale capital program: capital investment, the purchase of infrastructure necessary for the initiatives, installation of capital projects, educational displays related to the capital projects, and any other non-staff operating costs associated with the initiatives.

Funding cycles and timeline

There are two funding cycles depending on the size of the project; monthly applications are accepted for small scale projects, and an annual cycle for large scale capital projects.

- Monthly applications for funding small projects will be accepted until the close of business of the first Monday of the month from October 2009 through March 2010.
 - Funded small scale projects must be fully executed within 3 months of the date of the award. An interim progress report must be submitted no later than 6 weeks after the date of the award. Projects not meeting these requirements will have funding withdrawn.
- Applications for large scale projects will be accepted no later than the close of business on January 19, 2010.
 - Funded large scale capital projects must be fully executed or submit an interim progress report no later than 6 months after the date of the award. Projects not meeting these requirements will have funding withdrawn.

General requirements for all applications

Applications for either category of grants must include the following elements:

1. Description of project. Must contain complete description of all project elements and deliverables.
2. Student involvement. Must be demonstrated in either proposal. In general, the greater the amount of student involvement, the higher the likelihood of funding.
3. Detailed budget. Applications must show exactly how the funding will be spent in as much detail as possible. In general, the greater the detail, the higher the likelihood of funding. Likewise, the lower the budget, the higher the likelihood of funding.
4. Matching Funds. If the proposal includes funding or in-kind support from another entity, the higher the likelihood of funding.
5. Feasibility. The project must demonstrate a high degree of feasibility as detailed in a specific timeline and projected completion date.

Criteria for small scale applications

In addition to the “General requirements for all applications” (above), there are three required elements that must be included in small scale funding applications:

1. Student Impact. State the scope of impact in terms of percentage of the student body that may benefit from the project—or some other means by which breadth of impact can be expressed. State the degree to which the project is student led and implemented.
2. Sustainability. State the degree to which the project integrates the three facets of sustainability: environmental protection, economic benefit, and social equity.
3. Innovation. State how your project is a new idea or new way of addressing a sustainability related issue. The more innovative projects are given preference but balanced with feasibility.

Large scale capital projects

In addition to the “General requirements for all applications” (above), there are seven required elements that must be addressed in large scale applications:

1. Project Timeline, Scope and Feasibility (20%)

- a. Provide a detailed timeline with specific deadlines and deliverables. Please include project completion dates by phase (e.g. initial setup completed by [date], etc)
- b. Scope includes requested funds from this grant, number of people needed, and a list of the campus groups that need to be involved to implement your project (for example: Facilities Management, Housing).
- c. To establish your project’s feasibility, please explain how and why you will be able to meet your project deadlines and complete the project in a timely manner.

2. Environmental Impact (20 %)

- a. How does your project enhance and protect the environment? Please refer to the Blueprint for a Green Campus, the CU Carbon Neutrality Plan, and UCSU (Goals listed in Appendix A) for specific environmental goals, and show how your project will address one or more of these goals.
- b. Grants that mitigate environmental impact not included in said document will still be considered.

3. *Student Involvement (15%)*

- a. This category is designed to ensure student involvement in projects. Therefore, clearly indicate the student(s) or student group(s) involved in your project.
- b. Explain how your project will impact individual students and the larger student body – How will your project involve individual students in the actual completion of the project? How does your project enhance the educational experience of students on campus?

4. *Social Equity (15%)*

- a. How does your project contribute to improved social and environmental justice and equity issues on or off campus? Does your project increase awareness of social or environmental justice issues?

5. *Innovation (15%)*

- a. Sustainable CU rewards innovation and creative solutions to our pressing environmental problems. Explain how your project is a new idea or new way of addressing an environmental issue.

6. *Detailed Project Budget and Savings (5%)*

- a. Please provide a detailed budget on a separate spreadsheet. Please show other sources of funding necessary for your project, and whether those sources have been committed.
- b. Do you think your project will save the University and/or student's money? (Your answer can be an estimate, and does not necessarily need to include hard figures; however, the more precision the better)

7. *Project Longevity (10%)*

- a. Please explain how your project will continue to provide benefits in the long term, and if your project will be maintained and continue to work after the students working on the project leave campus, if applicable.

Evaluation

The Environmental Board will review and determine small scale application awards during the first two Thursdays of each month. Applicants may be asked for additional information and/or a presentation as appropriate. Awardees will be notified of decisions by mid month.

Funding decisions will be made on the basis of an application's completeness and responsiveness to the above required elements as determined by the Environmental Board at time of review. Projects not funded during one cycle may be resubmitted in the next cycle.

Please submit proposals in PDF format via email to ecenter@colorado.edu