SEED GRANT PROGRAM – RESEARCH
Seed Grant Program for Interdisciplinary Research in the Environment and Sustainability 2014-15

The School of the Environment and Sustainability (SES) is pleased to announce a seed grant competition for interdisciplinary research in the environment and sustainability. This competition is designed to stimulate new scholarly collaborations for innovative research centered on environmental and sustainability themes. These seed grants are intended to support proposals that are not likely to be funded by traditional granting organizations because they are early in development and interdisciplinary in nature. It is anticipated that projects will clearly link to the future research, scholarly, or creative and artistic growth of the School of the Environment and Sustainability.

These interdisciplinary proposals should engage scholars from a wide variety of backgrounds and expertise, including, for example, the humanities, social sciences, natural and physical sciences, engineering, design, law, business, and education. Proposals must provide a three-year plan for how the research project will be continued, further funded (including explicit referencing to external funding), and be integrated into the new school.

Priority will be given to proposals that address at least one of the following nine topical areas related to the environment and sustainability: the built environment, food and water, human health, land use, climate change and adaptation, minerals and energy, conservation and biodiversity, environmental communication, and culture and history.

The program consists of five, one-year grants of $20,000 each.

The Principal Investigator (PI) of each proposal must be a tenured or tenure-track faculty member at CU-Boulder. Project participants (collaborators) may include instructors, graduate students, research associates, research faculty, and professional staff at non-profit organizations, government agencies, educational institutions, or private industries.

Proposed projects will be evaluated for their scholarly quality; likely contribution to understanding and solving environment and sustainability problems; likelihood of establishing new, significant, and lasting partnerships within and outside CU-Boulder and serving as a foundation for the School of the Environment and Sustainability; and a life beyond the period of the seed funding. This seed grant program aims to facilitate the development of sustainable research programs that will be foundational for the growth of the School of the Environment and Sustainability.

Timeline:
- December 3, 2014: Request for proposals released
- January 27, 2015: Seed grant informational forum, UMC 247, 2:00-3:30 pm
- March 15, 2015: Proposal submission deadline
- May 1, 2015: Awards announced
- July 1, 2015: Grants disbursed
Proposals (due March 15, 2015)
Research proposals will be submitted to the Chair of the interdisciplinary research seed grant review committee, Bert Covert (Herbert.Covert@colorado.edu). The complete proposal will consist of three parts: a cover sheet, a narrative with supporting information, and a budget. All parts of the proposal must be combined into one pdf file for submission:

A. The cover sheet will include the title of the proposed project and the names, affiliations, and contact information for all project participants. A project contact must be identified and will be one of the principal investigators. The project contact provides the communication link between the seed grant program and the entire project team on all matters. On the cover page, provide a 200-word abstract in non-technical language (strict 200 words maximum) of the proposed activity. This abstract will be used in the School of the Environment and Sustainability announcements and publicity material.

B. The proposal narrative with supporting information must be written with text in 12-point font, single-spaced, with at least one-inch margins. Begin each section listed below on a new page. The narrative with supporting information must include the following sections:

1. A proposal summary that explains the motivation for and risks associated with the project, what is novel about the proposed research, what research methods will be used, and how this project is directly relevant to the environment and sustainability. This section must articulate a clear set of objectives, a compelling vision of what the project might achieve, and what differentiates it from standard disciplinary research (3 pages maximum for narrative, plus up to 2 pages of references).

2. A follow-on funding plan that explains how the research launched by the seed grant award will be continued. Include information on potential source(s) of funding and the level and timing of follow-on funding necessary to continue the research initiated by the seed grant (1 page maximum).

3. A brief curriculum vitae for the project contact and each co-PI (two pages for each person’s CV). NOTE: Excess CV pages will be dropped from the final review package.

4. A budget justification that provides sufficient information for reviewers to understand the funding request. Seed funding may be used for any legitimate research expense, but will not support tenure-track faculty salaries (summer or academic year). Graduate student and post-doc salaries can be included but should not account for a substantial portion of the budget.

5. Information on related current and pending support from other sources. Only provide this information if the support is relevant to the activity proposed for funding by the seed grant. Provide this information for the project contact and all co-PIs. Use any format that includes the following information: project/proposal title, funding source, award amount, award period, and relationship to seed project (e.g., co-financing of materials or personnel, overlapping objectives, use of data or equipment, similar partnerships, etc.).

C. The project budget must include each major category of expense and the amount required, with explanation and justification included in the “budget justification” section above. Note that seed funds carry no indirect cost.