

# Environmental Solutions Initiative

---

## Call for Proposals:

### Creating an Integrated Environment & Sustainability Curriculum

#### Summary of Funding Opportunity

\$500,000 is available for undergraduate curriculum activities in environment and sustainability. MIT faculty are encouraged to apply for funds to create new classes, adapt existing classes, and generate innovative teaching and learning opportunities in environment and sustainability. **Full proposals are due March 28, 2016.**

---

#### Background

The Environmental Solutions Initiative (ESI) at MIT welcomes proposals from MIT faculty to develop innovative curriculum offerings in environment and sustainability for undergraduates. A total of \$500,000 is available for grants in FY17 and FY18 to support development of education activities that will (a) help populate the multidisciplinary undergraduate minor in environment and sustainability that is currently under development and (b) be incorporated into permanent MIT curriculum offerings.

#### Proposal/Project Guidelines

Proposals may address any area of environment and sustainability. Proposals should articulate why the chosen topic is important for inclusion in the new undergraduate minor.

**We welcome proposals for educational projects that help support an integrated environment and sustainability curriculum.** This may be achieved by team teaching or other collaborative teaching methods; by class assignments or projects that engage multiple disciplines, topics, and/or societal sectors; by explicit links with classes or educational activities in different departments or topics; or through other approaches.

We envision grant awards ranging from \$50,000 - \$75,000. Projects may commence June 1, 2016 and may have 12-, 18-, or 24-month award periods. Students are welcome to participate in proposals and grant activities as members of a faculty-led team.

Successful grantees will submit brief progress reports at 6-month intervals.

#### Proposal Submission Details

Proposals should include the two components described below (additional materials such as syllabi or sample assignments may be included). Funds may be spent within MIT only, except for purchases of materials, supplies or specific support subcontracting (e.g, web designer). **All components should be submitted in a single pdf to [agraham@mit.edu](mailto:agraham@mit.edu) by 5:00 pm on Monday, March 28.**

1. **Project cover sheet and proposal narrative.** Please complete the attached template, referring to the included guidance on learning objectives and measurable outcomes.
2. **Budget and budget narrative.** Include line items for all expenses that you anticipate. Describe each item and why it is necessary for the project. Allowable expenses are those in the following categories:
  - a. RA/TA support
  - b. UROP support
  - c. Faculty summer salary
  - d. Materials & supplies
  - e. Development of web-based educational resources

Regular progress reports should explicitly describe how much was spent, and what was accomplished, under each of these categories.

### Proposal/Award Schedule

- Call for Proposals Issue Date: February 8, 2016
- Proposals Due: March 28, 2016
- Notification of Awards: April 18, 2016
- Earliest Project Start Date: June 1, 2016
- Latest Project End Date: August 31, 2018

Proposals will be reviewed by a multi-school faculty committee.

### Source of Funding

This call for curriculum projects is supported by a grant from the Dirk and Charlene Kabcenell Foundation which seeks to create a multidisciplinary undergraduate program of study in environment at MIT.

The Environmental Solutions Initiative mobilizes students, faculty, and staff from all MIT schools and departments to forge a people-centric, planet-positive future through educational experiences, research, and convening.