Campus as a Laboratory for Sustainability
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

DEADLINE APRIL 2, 2018
APPLY ONLINE AT http://sustainability.syr.edu/cals/apply-for-cals-grants/

A. OVERVIEW

The Campus as a Laboratory for Sustainability (CALS) program seeks proposals from faculty and students for projects that can advance Syracuse University's Climate Action Plan (CAP), either by promoting reductions in greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs), directly or indirectly, or by increasing awareness within the campus community about climate disruption and environmental sustainability. The CAP looks at social, environmental and economic sustainability with emphasis on measurable outcomes and/or cultural change. (http://sustainability.syr.edu/campus/climate-action-plan/)

B. TYPES OF PROPOSALS REQUESTED

Under the CAP funding, which was established to help accelerate sustainability related research and educational opportunities, CALS will accept proposals in two categories, as described below:

1) Research grants/seed grants ($500 to $25,000);
2) Education/pedagogy grants ($500 to $10,000).

The grant period is from May 15, 2018 to June 30, 2019. The total budgeted programs will not exceed $75,000.

1. Research grants: These are intended for projects that use campus data, facilities, and practices as raw material for evaluating and proposing improvements in energy or materials management, transportation, food services, buildings and grounds, or public awareness of climate and environmental policy issues. Projects that focus on the local community will also be considered, and projects with an environmental justice component are encouraged.

2. Education grants: These are intended to enhance educational opportunities related to climate disruption and sustainability. They could support such initiatives as student capstone projects, interdisciplinary seminars or symposia, faculty development, course development, redesign of a course to include a Campus as Lab component, partial funding for attending a workshop, or participation of student teams in a sustainability-related competition.

Grants awarded in previous rounds of funding may be found here:
http://sustainability.syr.edu/cals/calsgrants/

C. PROGRAM PRIORITIES

1. All proposals should address the connection between the project and climate disruption. This does not mean that they must focus narrowly on GHG emissions, or that climate will be a primary focus. Proposals addressing environmental justice, urbanization, resource exploitation, or waste reduction are appropriate, as long as they are placed in the context of climate disruption. Similarly, projects can focus on the response to climate change (adaptation and resilience) as well as on reduction or prevention of GHG emissions. We also invite proposals that enhance communication about climate disruption and related issues on campus. Some examples of appropriate projects include:
   a. a proposal about food that has an impact on agricultural or transportation emissions or the water-energy-transportation nexus;
   b. a proposal about waste disposal that might reduce methane emissions from landfills or carbon dioxide emissions from incinerators;
   c. a proposal about urban design that addresses the differential impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations or indirectly reduces GHG emissions by improving transportation efficiency.

2. All proposals must consider how the project itself will contribute to campus-wide understanding of the relevant issues. Grant recipients will be expected to participate in a university-wide symposium where they will present the results of their research or pedagogical efforts. In addition, proposals should include a communications component aimed at the broad campus audience (poster, social media campaign, a plan to share results in classes or at campus events, etc.)

3. All proposals must describe what outcomes are expected from the project and how they will be measured and assessed. In describing desired outcomes, we recommend that applicants refer to the five "ABCDE" priorities -- Analysis-Behavior-Communication-Demonstration-Engagement -- laid out in the CAP (pp, 10-13). The proposal evaluators will take a broad view of "return on investment" to include returns on human capital (skills, knowledge, satisfaction), social capital (trust, relationships), material capital (constructed things, altered landscapes), financial capital (saving money, finding grants), and natural capital (ecosystem services).

4. If the proposal is for starting a project that is likely to require ongoing support (such as a food garden or a vehicle charging station), the applicant should describe plans for securing such funding in the future, such as a business model.

5. In addition to the required criteria (1-4 above), any of the following features will be looked upon favorably in the selection process:
   a. Proposals that involve cross-disciplinary collaboration or communication;
   b. Proposals that could lead to additional, external funding;

c. Projects that build on results from previous initiatives, such as those that use existing data or installations, broaden collaborations, or bring new audiences to prior work;

d. Proposals that address major components of the CAP, particularly energy conservation through existing technology or energy efficiency through emerging technologies;

e. Proposals that provide further cost reductions to the university through energy efficiency, water savings, etc., which may further increase the pool of funds available for Campus as Laboratory in the future.

f. Proposals that address environmental justice or other human dimensions of climate and environmental issues.

D. APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS

▪ Applicants should apply online at http://sustainability.syr.edu/cals/apply-for-cals-grants.

▪ The application form requires an abstract of 250 words or less and allows for a project description of 3 pages or less. You may include an additional page for bibliography/references.

▪ Applications should include a 2-page CV for each PI or co-PI.

▪ The primary applicant must be a student or faculty member at Syracuse University. Collaborations with counterparts at other institutions are acceptable, as long as the SU applicant is clearly the leader of the project and the SU campus is a focus of the project.

▪ Proposals from students must be sponsored by a faculty advisor, whose departmental administrator will handle disbursement of funds;

▪ Proposals should be explicit about the relationship between proposed projects and climate disruption;

▪ Successful applicants will be expected to participate in the university-wide symposium and submit a final report describing and assessing the project outcomes.

▪ Proposals for small dollar amounts ($500 - $2000) are encouraged.

▪ The submission deadline is APRIL 2, 2018.

E. FUNDING RESTRICTIONS

▪ Summer salary or stipends for students must be justified as critical to the project and are subject to approval. Funds may not be used for faculty salary or living expenses.

▪ Funding for students should be at the rate of $15/hour for undergraduates, $18/hour for master's level graduate students, and $20/hour for Ph.D. candidates.

▪ Funding for travel off-campus, such as attending professional conferences, is discouraged unless directly relevant to achieving the goals of the project. Applicants requesting such funding should indicate how the off-campus activities

will be used to benefit the campus, such as bringing back specific information to be shared on campus.

▪ Any equipment purchased with CAP funds that is not part of a permanent installation, or to be used for ongoing research, will be returned to the Sustainability Division after completion of the project, to be made available for use by other initiatives. The Sustainability Division may label such equipment with instructions.

F. SELECTION:

An advisory group comprised of faculty from across the schools and colleges at SU will review the proposals and submit recommendations to the Chief Campus Facilities Officer and the Provost. **We expect to announce the awards by April 20, 2018.** Winners will be asked to make a brief presentation about their projects to the Campus Sustainability Committee during the 2018-19 academic year.

G. QUESTIONS AND ASSISTANCE:

Questions related to the CALS program and application procedures should be directed to Rachel May, sumay@syr.edu, 3-9726, or Melissa Cadwell, macadwel@syr.edu, 3-9669.