

Beyond Carbon Neutral Seed Funding

Request for Proposals

April 6, 2017

Background

The U-M Energy Institute invites proposals for the *Beyond Carbon Neutral* initiative. This initiative will support research investigating a wide range of topics related to increasing the rate at which CO₂ or other greenhouse gases are removed from the atmosphere and can safely stored (in biomass, oceanic, or geologic reservoirs), or utilized. This is the second call for proposals related to *Beyond Carbon Neutral*, and will award a total of approximately \$200,000 in research funds.

This round of funding will focus on supporting projects that are (i) studies that amplify and build upon results from the first round of funding, and (ii) new ideas that are either scoping studies or provide foundational results that can be built upon with additional research.

The intent is that seed funding outcomes will identify specific research objectives to drive the next funding phase.

Review Process

Proposals will be reviewed by one of three panels consisting of at least three U-M experts from related fields (i.e., biosphere, technology, human systems) with knowledge of the research area and the *Beyond Carbon Neutral* initiative. Panelists with conflicts of interest will be recused. Panels will review proposals based on the following criteria:

- Relevance to Beyond Carbon Neutral (threshold criterion, see 2-page handout for areas)
- Description of (i) research that builds upon outcomes of the first round of funding, or (ii) new research direction distinct from ongoing research programs (foundational results), or synthesis of work to date in a related area and recommendations for future research (scoping study)
- Potential for follow-on funding based on results

Timeline

5/15/17	2-Page Proposals due
6/13/17	Applicants notified of decisions
7/3/17	Funding awarded
4/15/18	Projects completed and summary report submitted to Energy Institute. Reports can be submitted prior to 4/15/18 if desired. Follow-on funding, where appropriate, can then be sought.
April 2018	Present results at 1-Day Workshop hosted by UMEI

Expected Outputs

- a) Summary Report – Preferably two pages, and no more than four pages
- b) Awardees will be expected to present their key results at a *Beyond Carbon Neutral* workshop hosted by the Energy Institute in April, 2018

Beyond Carbon Neutral Seed Proposal Format

2 PAGES TOTAL INCLUDING BUDGET

Project Title

PI(s) and Departmental Affiliation(s)

Please indicate corresponding faculty member for submissions with more than one PI.

Objectives

Describe research objectives in two to three sentences.

Beyond Carbon Neutral theme addressed (may select multiple):

This selection will determine which review panel evaluates your proposal. If you select more than one, the panel leaders will determine the most appropriate review panel.

- Biosphere (e.g., soils, forestry, climate)
- Technology (e.g., non-biogenic carbon utilization, capture, or storage)
- Human systems (e.g., policy, markets, public awareness)

Project Description

In two pages, please describe your project. Your description need not include an overview of the subject area. As many pages as desired beyond the 2-page limit may be used for references.

Your description should include:

- Proposed research activities
- Description of relevance to Beyond Carbon Neutral
- Expected outputs
- Budget and funding justification

Funds Requested (Maximum: \$20,000)

SEND TO BCNSeedProjects@umich.edu NO LATER THAN 5 PM MONDAY, MAY 15, 2017

If You Have Questions About the RFP:

Susan Fancy sfancy@umich.edu or 3-8803