

Request for Proposals – Food-Energy-Water Nexus Seed Grants and Planning Grants

Food-Energy-Water Nexus

There is a critical need to better understand the couplings of the Food-Energy-Water (FEW) nexus and how they determine system responses within and across resources domains. In recognizing this need, many institutions, including multiple federal agencies (e.g. [NSF](#)) and [WSU](#), have committed to or are considering making FEW issues a top research priority in the coming years.

Seed grant and planning grant program

We seek to support multiple interdisciplinary activities that forge new collaborations across diverse academic units and disciplines, and across WSU campuses. Applicants for seed grants and planning grants are encouraged to consider how the proposed activities may build stronger relationships with partners outside of WSU as well. Ideally the proposed activities will lead to sustained collaborations that form the basis for future interdisciplinary grant proposals focused on complex environmental topics.

Applications to support the development of large, interdisciplinary proposals by groups of WSU investigators will be considered in two categories:

- 1) **Seed grants**: These grants support exploration of new research ideas and/or collection and analysis of preliminary data to refine hypotheses in a high-risk first step to developing large interdisciplinary proposals. Funding available up to \$25,000 (max for each project) with outcomes expected to support development of large interdisciplinary proposals in the FEW topic;
- 2) **Planning grants**: These grants are generally for more mature ideas and teams, to facilitate the development of proposal pieces, such as developing proposal narratives, logic models, and project management plans. Budgets may include but are not limited to supporting workshops for convening multi-institutional expertise. Funding available up to \$10,000 (max for each project) with proposal plan expected to focus on development of large interdisciplinary proposals in the FEW topic.

Applications have two components, a proposal and an appendix of CVs:

1) Proposal:

- 2-page narrative that includes:
 - Whether you are requesting a seed grant or planning grant
 - Summary (abstract)
 - Problem description
 - Proposed activities with a timeline, with specifications of outcomes that promote longer term interdisciplinary collaboration
 - **Seed Grants must provide** a description of proposal rationale, preliminary hypotheses and planned methodology for implementing the proposed work
 - **Planning Grants must provide** an overview of plans for proposal development and team coordination including the following related products: 1) a draft proposal, 2) a logic model, 3) a project management plan, and 4) a preliminary budget.

- Statement on why this project is a strategic investment toward building future interdisciplinary environmental collaborations at WSU (including what RFPs or other opportunities may be targeted for future support)
 - 1-page maximum list of personnel who will be engaged, and their roles on the project
 - 1-page maximum budget and justification
- 2) 2-page CVs of lead personnel (e.g. in NSF or USDA format)

Applications will be reviewed by a committee comprised of members from the CEREO Executive Committee, CSANR Leadership Team, and the SWWRC Scientific Advisory Panel – please keep in mind their diverse disciplinary backgrounds, in order to make your application understandable and compelling to non-specialists.

Applications should be submitted to cerео@wsu.edu by 7 August 2015. Notifications will occur in mid-September.

Sponsors

The proposal process is overseen by CEREO, CSANR, and SWWRC, and the grants will be supported by funds from CEREO, CSANR, Office of Research, the College of Arts and Sciences, Voiland College of Engineering and Architecture, and the College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences.

CEREO is a robust network of more than 350 WSU researchers, instructors, outreach specialists, graduate students, and other environmental professionals. Its mission is to catalyze and facilitate system-wide, interdisciplinary activities to transform environmental research, education and outreach at WSU, in the Pacific Northwest, nationally and globally. CEREO places particular emphasis upon the integrative study of natural and managed ecosystems, and the social and human dimensions of environmental change.

CSANR is a full-service programmatic unit that galvanizes collaborations to engage in research and extension programs that address the complex food and agricultural problems facing the U.S. CSANR collaborates with College, Departmental, Research & Extension Center, and Extension Program Unit Faculty from across the WSU system, as well as USDA, Pacific Northwest National Laboratories, and other regional university partners. The CSANR maintains active partnerships with a variety of regional stakeholders, including farmers, industry, government agency, environmental organizations, and consumer groups to identify emerging research and extension needs and to aid in implementing program outcomes. CSANR manages the BIOAg research program, which has awarded more than 100 seed grants to WSU faculty over the past decade.

SWWRC is a member of the National Institutes for Water Resources (NIWR) under the Water Resources Research Act (WRRRA) of 1964 and is charged with engaging researchers, practitioners, policy-makers and stakeholders across Washington to (1) support competent research that addresses water problems or expands understanding of water and water-related phenomena, (2) aid the entry of new research scientists into the water resources fields, (3) help to train future water scientists and engineers, and (4) disseminate sponsored research results to water managers and the public.