

# Duke

## University-Wide Collaboration Grants on Climate Change

*Designed to spark new research teams across Duke to scale up impact on climate challenges.*

### OVERVIEW OF DUKE'S CLIMATE VISION

Duke University is focusing its attention on accelerating sustainable and equitable solutions to the climate crisis and looking to faculty and research staff to drive the development of the university's research agenda for confronting climate change. This university-wide effort will build on Duke experts' track record of substantial contributions to understanding and addressing climate change and its impacts. The initiative will span education, research, external engagement, and operations, while further aiming to enhance Duke's local connections and impact.

### COLLABORATION GRANT RFP

This request for proposals (RFP) is the first in a series of opportunities for faculty to participate in the research pillar of the climate initiative. It is intended to support Duke faculty and research staff who are interested in convening new collaborative groups around a shared intellectual interest that targets a climate change-related challenge. In addition to funding for convening the working group, each group will have the opportunity to propose an idea and to suggest speakers to include in a university-wide climate symposium that will be fully funded and supported by the university. The symposium series will start in spring 2023, with approximately one symposium per semester for four to five semesters.

### CLIMATE SYMPOSIA

A series of symposia and related events that span the full campus will be organized over the next three years. These events will focus on the following priority areas—Energy Transformation, Climate & Social Justice, Climate Resilience, Natural Climate Solutions, and Climate & Data. Each symposium will include a number of facilitated expert dialogs (workshops) inspired by the ideas generated by faculty and research staff at Duke. Their purpose is to engage faculty, staff, and their external partners in designing research priorities with linked external engagement impact and funding strategies. Visits from invited guest speakers and external partners will be leveraged for related activities co-developed with partners across campus to align with educational needs, research interests, climate literacy programming, and opportunities for community connection. The symposia are intended to support the development of strong interdisciplinary and multipurpose climate programs.

The Duke-wide climate initiative will prioritize research ideas that help to create sustainable and equitable solutions to the climate crisis. Priority areas of interest for the initiative are Energy Transformation, Climate & Social Justice, Climate Resilience, Natural Climate Solutions, and Climate & Data. See the linked report on these topics prepared by Duke faculty working groups in 2021: [A Climate Initiative](#) (Duke NetID login required). The proposal can focus on any of these priority topics, and connections across topics are welcome.

These collaboration grants are currently expected to be offered up to five times in the next three years—spring and fall 2022; spring and fall 2023; and spring 2024.

Working group funds of up to \$5,000 will be awarded for as many as six working groups for each theme or until funds are expended.

Larger seed grant funding opportunities may become available in 2023. Faculty and staff who have already developed research ideas, established cross-campus collaborations, and/or begun developing external engagement impact and funding strategies will be well positioned to access additional seed funding as it becomes available. Proposers should consider partnering with external engagement experts across campus from units including but not limited to:

- CASE and EDGE at the Fuqua School of Business
- Duke Center for International Development (incl. DevLab)
- Duke Center for International & Global Studies
- Duke Global Health Innovation Center
- Duke Global Health Institute
- Duke in DC
- Duke Innovation & Entrepreneurship
- Duke Legal Clinics
- Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy
- Duke Office of Sustainability
- Duke Sanford World Food Policy Center
- Duke Science & Society
- Duke State Relations
- James E. Rogers Energy Access Project
- John Hope Franklin Humanities Institute
- Kenan Institute for Ethics
- Nicholas Institute/Energy Initiative
- Oceans@Duke
- Office of Durham and Community Affairs
- Rhodes Information Initiative at Duke
- Samuel DuBois Cook Center on Social Equity
- Social Science Research Institute

(These are listed as examples. The list is not comprehensive.)

## IDEAS WITH IMPACT

Because anthropogenic greenhouse gases have accumulated in the atmosphere for more than two centuries, near-term climate change is unavoidable and thus will require a global shift toward a climate-resilient world to reduce and reverse the impacts, inequalities, and injustices that climate change engenders. Further atmospheric accumulation will intensify climate change in the long run, so we must mitigate these threats by moving to a net-zero carbon society, justly and equitably. To achieve these ambitious goals requires innovative science; a rethinking of social norms and market structures; development and deployment of transformative technologies; policies to advance new approaches to financial markets and behavioral change; an educated workforce literate in climate resilience, energy transformation, and justice; and scalable models of success. Given the urgency of the problem, Duke will focus on efforts that bring solutions to the fore in the near term while developing generations of leaders and transformative innovation over the longer run.

Recipients can use funds to cover the cost of meeting venues, food, external speakers, event materials, books, or other meeting costs, and/or exploratory research (e.g., student research assistants). Expenses for meetings, travel, and in-person events are contingent upon university guidelines. Each working group will also be given the opportunity to propose a session for the related climate symposium. Event planning for the symposium and the cost for guest speakers will be covered by the university (separate from the planning grant).

## ELIGIBILITY

- **Any Duke faculty member or Duke research staff member, from any discipline,** is eligible to propose and form a new collaborative group.
- Each group should have at least three participating faculty or staff members, and should identify a lead organizer (PI).
- Prospective collaborations may be framed around **disciplinary, interdisciplinary, or multidisciplinary themes.** The search function at [scholars.duke.edu](https://scholars.duke.edu) is a useful tool to find other faculty who share a particular intellectual interest. Other resources to help identify and engage collaborators and stakeholders are available via Duke's [myRESEARCHpath](#). Also, the *Climate Initiative* report referenced and linked to above identifies many faculty and research activities on going at Duke, although this is not comprehensive.
- Groups are encouraged to identify potential collaborators outside of Duke in their proposals (e.g., partner universities and research institutions, government agencies, international organizations).

## SELECTION CRITERIA AND REVIEW PROCESS

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- (1) Potential to build collaborations in exciting intellectual areas for relevant department(s), school(s), and/or cross-cutting institute(s), that help to create sustainable and equitable climate solutions that align with the priority themes: Energy Transformation, Climate & Social Justice, Climate Resilience, Natural Climate Solutions, and Climate & Data.
- (2) Longer term sustainability of the proposed activity. Initial ideas articulated on how the group could do any of the following: sustain interactions; expand the collaboration inside or outside Duke; prepare joint grant applications and/or create a shared research project; lead external engagement activities (e.g., op-ed, blog, podcast, website, dataset, workshop with external partners); or develop extra- or co-curricular offering for students or the public.
- (3) Evidence that the project can relatively quickly lead to impact.
- (4) Likelihood that the idea could secure future funding.

The review and selection process for proposals will be handled by the newly merged Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions and Duke University Energy Initiative, with the advice and counsel of senior university leadership. All proposals, and discussions thereof, will be kept strictly confidential. The intent is for the award recipients to reflect the richness of intellectual approaches and modes of inquiry that make Duke a vibrant university.

## PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Submit to Colette Watt at [colette.watt@duke.edu](mailto:colette.watt@duke.edu).

Please provide the following information:

- (1) A **brief (maximum 500 words) narrative** that articulates (1) the impactful idea or area of study the group proposes to explore, (2) the contribution this work might make to sustainable and equitable climate solutions, (3) example activities the group plans to conduct during the exploratory period, and (4) if identified, anticipated outcome (e.g., sustained interactions, joint grant application, new external engagement, research project, extra- or co-curricular offering).
- (2) A list of the **organizing core faculty and staff group** with information about each individual's relevant qualifications, experience, or interests (1 page).
- (3) A proposed **budget** (1 page).
- (4) **Information on other funding** already obtained or requested (if applicants receive news about other funding proposals after the deadline, they should provide updated information to [colette.watt@duke.edu](mailto:colette.watt@duke.edu)).

## TIMELINE FOR FIRST RFP

RFP released	1/18/2022
RFP deadline for submission	2/18/2022
Anticipated grant notification	3/15/2022
Funds made available (or sooner upon request)	4/1/2022
Funds to be expended by	6/30/2023

## CONTACT

For any questions regarding your proposal, please contact Colette Watt: [colette.watt@duke.edu](mailto:colette.watt@duke.edu).

## FAQ

### *Who can apply?*

Any group of Duke faculty and research staff members can apply.

### *Our project idea is not very interdisciplinary. Is this okay?*

Yes, we are interested in collaborations of all types, including those framed around disciplinary themes.

### *Our project is focused on basic science. Is this okay?*

Yes, we are interested in collaborations of all types, including those focused on a basic science mission.

### *Is this our only chance at submitting a project proposal?*

No. The collaboration grants are expected to be released four or five times over the next three years, and they will likely be followed by seed funding opportunities for all climate initiative themes.

### *How large does the group organizing the proposal need to be?*

We are expecting to see a minimum of three faculty or research staff interested in developing a collaborative group around the shared intellectual interest.

### *What kinds of items and expenses would program funds be able to cover?*

Funds can be used to cover the cost of meeting venues, external speakers, honoraria for community members, event materials, books, or other meeting costs, and/or exploratory research (as by an RA). Expenses for meetings, travel, and in-person events are contingent upon university guidelines.

### *What kinds of deliverables do you expect the groups to produce?*

Examples of successful outcomes for a group include sustained and/or expanding interactions in the group, a joint grant application, new external engagement, a research project, a major collaborative research grant, etc.

### *How are the Duke climate initiative working group projects different from other proposals offered by the Provost's office, such as Interdisciplinary Community Planning Grants (ICPG), Bass Connections, and Collaboratories?*

The climate working groups are aimed at faculty and staff groups in the initial stages of exploration of a topic to begin or test a new collaboration around a shared intellectual interest. Thus, these grants provide a smaller level of initial funding. They are similar to the Provost's ICPG grants. Bass Connections project teams require participation of students at multiple learner levels and a focus on applied problems; the application process also encourages engagement with partners from outside the university (NGOs, government agencies, corporations, etc.). Collaboratories provide support to groups of faculty working on more established projects that seek to provide tangible solutions to targeted problems in specified thematic areas.