Energy Research Seed Fund
Request for Proposals

The Energy Research Seed Fund will provide up to $40,000 for new interdisciplinary, collaborative research teams (or working groups) with the larger goal of enabling Duke University investigators to obtain critical preliminary results that have a high likelihood of obtaining external funding.

Proposals are due Friday, January 15, 2016 (see submission details below). Download a copy of this application information at energy.duke.edu/seed-fund

Energy-related areas of particular interest include energy data analytics, energy materials, energy decision making and behavior (by individuals, firms, and government), energy consumption and efficiency, grid security, advanced alternative fuels and renewables, and the nexus of energy with other strategic resources (water, food) and with international development (energy access, poverty). Research oriented toward solutions, rather than solely problem identification, is especially encouraged.

Co-funding is available for this RFP from the Trinity College of Arts & Sciences and the Pratt School of Engineering for energy research involving their respective faculty, and from the Information Initiative at Duke (iiD) for research at the intersection of energy and computation. The maximum award per project is $40,000, although most awards may be smaller than this amount, based upon review of selected proposals. Project duration is 12 months. We expect to fund several proposals.

Projects must engage at least two Duke faculty members representing different disciplines, schools, or departments, and preference will be given to new collaborations of investigators across Duke. Proposed projects that include investigators from multiple schools within the University are encouraged.

Proposals will be reviewed based on the quality of the proposed research and potential to leverage seed grant efforts to secure extramural funding. New, interdisciplinary collaborations are strongly encouraged as are research working groups that will connect faculty in new ways over an extended period.
Requirements

**Eligible Applicants**
The principal investigator must be a regular rank faculty member at Duke University.

**Budgets**
The budget for an Energy Research Seed Fund research team (working group) can include supplies, salary support for research assistants, graduate students, and technicians, and other justifiable research expenses. Faculty salary, tuition remission, and indirect costs are not allowable expenses. Travel expenses are allowable only if essential to conducting the proposed research activities and cannot include travel to scientific conferences. Applicants may apply for up to $40,000 for up to one year. All proposal budgets must be submitted using the template provided at [energy.duke.edu/seed-fund](http://energy.duke.edu/seed-fund) or they will not be considered.

**Application Content**

**Cover Page.** Must include the following information:

- Proposal title
- Name, title, departmental affiliation, address, e-mail address, and telephone number of all proposed investigators
- Designation of a Principal Investigator or Co-Principal Investigators

**Abstract** (250 words maximum)

**Research plan** (3 page maximum – single spaced, 12 point font, 1” margins all the way around)

Must include the following information:

- Statement of research objectives and their significance
- Work already completed related to the proposal, and any relevant preliminary results
- Description of the research team (working group) and research setting
- Proposed methods and plans for data analysis
- Potential for future grant support and specific plans to achieve external funding goals

**Appendix materials** (1 page maximum each—single spaced, 12 point font, 1” margins all the way around) Must include the following information:

- Research schedule and milestones
- Collaborative nature of the project
- Relevance to mission of the Duke University Energy Initiative ([energy.duke.edu/about](http://energy.duke.edu/about))
- An indication of whether Information Initiative (iiD) or Pratt co-funding is sought

**Budget and justification** (1 page maximum)

**Curriculum vitae** OR NSF/NIH biosketch including current grant support limited to 4 pages for each investigator.

**Submission Format and Deadline**

Please combine all required elements into a single pdf document and submit via email not later than the end of the day, Friday, January 15, 2016 to: Ben Gibson, Duke University Energy Initiative via email at: ben.gibson@duke.edu.
Selection Process
Proposals will be reviewed by an ad hoc review committee consisting of faculty with a broad range of expertise in energy-related fields. The reviewing committee’s goal is to identify the proposals that best meet the objectives of the Energy Initiative’s Energy Research Seed Fund: interdisciplinary collaborative research projects that will make long-term, significant and original contributions to addressing the major energy challenges identified above. The review process will consider: (1) the significance and potential impact of the research program; (2) the degree of innovation; (3) the scope of the interdisciplinary collaboration and relevance for the goals of the proposed research; (4) feasibility of the research project and (5) likelihood of development into a project that would attract external support. Final selections will be made by the Energy Initiative Director in consultation with the faculty review committee and other stakeholders.

Awards will be announced in February 2016.

Inquiries
Please direct questions to: Ben Gibson, Assistant Director for Research Development, Duke University Energy Initiative via email at: ben.gibson@duke.edu.