

INSTITUTE ON THE  
**ENVIRONMENT**

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

**Driven to Discover<sup>SM</sup>**

## MINI GRANT PROJECT SUMMARY

Please complete the project summary and return the completed form to April Snyder, Associate Administrator for the Institute on the Environment at [aprilsnyder@umn.edu](mailto:aprilsnyder@umn.edu). Paper copies will not be accepted. Please also attach any photos, publications, brochures, event agendas or other materials that were a result of the mini grant summary.

<b>Date of Report Submission:</b>	4/22/14
<b>Project PI &amp; Dept/School</b>	Peter Snyder, Soil, Water and Climate / CFANS
<b>Project Title:</b>	Urban Heat Island Network
<b>Grant Amount \$:</b>	\$3000

### Project Context & Purpose

*Please include the original project purpose statement and revise for any changes that occurred in the project after the start date with a short explanation of the changes.*

The NSF RCN-SEES budget allows us to invite approximately 20 national and international researchers on urban heat islands to the University of Minnesota this summer. This budget also provides for catering and printing support for documents that will be distributed at the workshop. The budget does not, however, allow us to invite researchers from the University of Minnesota, or urban heat island stakeholders from the greater Twin Cities Metropolitan area. Therefore, **we are seeking participant expense funds for those who are "local" to the Twin Cities who would greatly benefit from interaction and participation with a world-class group of urban climate researchers and practitioners during the workshop this summer.** The Heat Island Network team envisions inviting people (faculty and graduate/undergraduate students) from such disparate disciplines on campus including landscape architecture, architecture, environmental engineering, sociology, geography, horticulture, forest resources, and ecology, to name a few. We would also like to invite practitioners from the Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota State Department of Natural Resources, the Science Museum of Minnesota, Minneapolis and Saint Paul local government sustainability coordinators, local sustainability and built-environment non-profit leaders, relevant industry leaders, and others who would benefit from the workshop. Bringing these people together will strengthen the workshop and its success by enhancing the sharing of information from both applied and research perspectives. In this way, **the proposed funds would contribute towards the Institute on the Environment's Mini Grant mission of facilitating the development of new interdisciplinary teams and partnerships around environmental work at the University and the community.**

## **Work Completed**

*Please provide a summary of the work that was completed for the mini grant project.*

The primary accomplishment on this project was that we hosted the first annual summer urban climate institute meeting at the Science Museum of Minnesota from July 31 to August 1, 2013. Over 70 researchers, practitioners, students, and educators who shared knowledge and discussed pressing problems, impacts, and solutions to urban warming attended this meeting. While this meeting was part of our activities on the NSF RCN grant – Urban Heat Island Network, the funds provided by the Mini Grant allowed us to invite approximately 50 local attendees. The second day of the meeting was dedicated to discussions surrounding the science and research aspects of urban warming with scientists and urban practitioners. This group included scientists, architects, landscape architects, engineers, urban planners, public health professionals, and policymakers. The second day format centered on the science of the Twin Cities urban heat island, human health aspects of urban warming, urban heat islands and hydrometeorology, and urban forestry.

A list of all attendees at this workshop (local and out-of-town) is included as a separate PDF document.

## **Partnerships & Collaborations**

*Please provide a summary of the project personnel, partnerships and collaborations that worked directly on the project or were started as a direct result of the mini grant project.*

### **Collaborators:**

Tracy Twine, University of Minnesota  
Pat Hamilton, Science Museum of Minnesota  
Marshall Shepherd, University of Georgia  
Brian Stone, Georgia Institute of Technology

### **New Collaborations:**

MN DNR  
MN Dept. of Health  
MN PCA  
National Weather Service - Chanhassen  
Environmental Quality Board  
City of Saint Paul  
City of Minneapolis

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## **Project Outcomes & Impacts**

*Please provide a summary of the outcomes and /or impacts of the mini grant project including future plans for the project.*

This project allowed us to invite approximately 50 local attendees that we would otherwise not have been able to invite due to NSF funding constraints. As such we were able to bring together local attendees with scientists studying urban warming. This allowed for both a knowledge transfer as well as forging new collaborative relationships between PI Snyder, Tracy Twine, and Pat Hamilton with those individuals in local and state agencies.

As a result of these new collaborations, PI Snyder along with Tracy Twine and Pat Hamilton will be hosting a half-day urban climate summit at the Science Museum of Minnesota in June 2014 to re-engage with local practitioners and to learn more from each other about the science of urban warming and mitigation strategies.