

## Mini Grant Evaluation Rubric

### *Interdisciplinary Collaboration (up to 5 points)*

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One of the primary goals of this fund is to foster collaboration across disciplines and ways of knowing.

Proposals will be rejected without review if they do not meet minimum standards.

- Includes both individuals from the university and external (non-university) collaborators that represent an exemplary variety of disciplines, expertise, and ways of knowing. Examples would include a combination of participants or perspectives including (but not limited to) STEM and/or social scientists, humanities scholars, artists, community experts, industry experts, and/or policy experts. (5 pts)
- This proposal includes individuals from within the university as well as external (non-university) stakeholders or experts, each of whom add well-articulated value to the project. Partners represent different units/departments or fields of expertise, but those units, departments, or forms of expertise are closely related. (3 pts)
- Includes individuals from the university from different departments, units, organizations, and/or affiliations (faculty, staff, students), each of whom add value to the project. The project is interdisciplinary, but does not appear to have non-university partners. (2 pts)
- Proposal appears to be interdisciplinary based on team members' affiliation, but one or more of the partners' roles is poorly defined or does not appear to add value. (1 pt)
- Proposal does not appear to be interdisciplinary; only one unit or discipline is represented, and no external partners are present. (0 pts; application is rejected without further review)

### *Goals (up to 5 points)*

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Clearly state your problem and communicate your objectives. Proposals that do not directly relate to environmental or sustainability issues will be rejected without further review.

- Illustrates a powerful approach or solution to a compelling problem or opportunity; goals are clear and attainable. Connection to the environment or sustainability is explicit and clear. Proposal is able to articulate the impact of successful outcomes. (5 pts)
- Provides an interesting or novel approach to a compelling problem or opportunity; goals are clear and attainable. Connection to the environment or sustainability is clear. (3 pts)
- Goals and/or outcomes are clear, but their relationship to the problem is vague. Proposal appears to have a relationship to environment or sustainability issues. (2 pts)
- Proposal appears to have a relationship to environment or sustainability issues, but the goals and/or outcomes are not clearly articulated. (1 pt)
- Communicated goals and/or outcomes do not relate to environmental or sustainability issues. (0 pts; application is rejected without further review)

## *Method / Design (up to 5 points)*

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Communicate how this project will achieve your objectives.

- All aspects of this cohesive project or proposal are thoroughly articulated and logically connected. Purpose and impact are clear. (5 pts)
- Most aspects of the project or proposal are thoroughly articulated and logically connected; purpose and/or impact is mostly clear. (3 pts)
- Some aspects of this project or proposal are well articulated and connected, but the proposal struggles to connect all the dots. Purpose and/or impact is not clearly defined. (2 pts)
- Almost all aspects of the project design are incoherent; purpose and/or impact is unclear. (0 pts)

## *Budget (up to 5 points)*

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The budget should support the scope of work and total no more than \$3,000.

- Budget is accurate, detailed, cost-effective, and crafted to fully support the scope of work. (5 pts)
- Budget is accurate and detailed, but it may inadequately support the scope of work. The project may need to scale up or down. (3 pts)
- Budget lacks sufficient detail. (1 pt)
- Budget is incomplete, over \$3,000, or contains unallowable expenses including faculty or staff salary, alcohol, or other banned expenses per UMN Regents policy. (0 pts; application is rejected without further review)

## *Impact (optional, may be awarded up to 6 points)*

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These points are option and are intended to incentivize UMN and IonE strategic priorities.

- Meaningfully addresses diversity, equity, or inclusion (2 pts)
- Clearly aligns with one or more IonE Impact Goals (2 pts)
  - Building a [Carbon-Neutral Minnesota](#)
  - Envisioning [Future Sustainable Land Use in Minnesota](#)
  - Ensuring [Safe Drinking Water in Minnesota](#)
- Clearly aligns with UMN Systemwide Strategic Plan, specifically the MNtersections initiative (2 pts)
  - Drives innovation for next-generation health
  - Build a fully sustainable future
  - Advance natural resources and agro-food systems to elevate human security and potential