

Mini Grant Evaluation Rubric

Interdisciplinary Collaboration (up to 5 points)

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

- 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)

Clearly state your problem and communicate your objectives.

- 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)

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 2 points)

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. (2 pts)
- Budget is accurate and detailed, but it may inadequately support the scope of work. The project may need to scale up or down. (1 pt)
- Budget lacks sufficient detail. (0.5 pts)
- 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)

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

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