2023 SEED GRANT PROGRAM

PennState
Institutes of Energy
and the Environment

Institutes of Energy and the Environment Seed Grant Program

2023

https://iee.psu.edu/funding/seed-grant-program/2023

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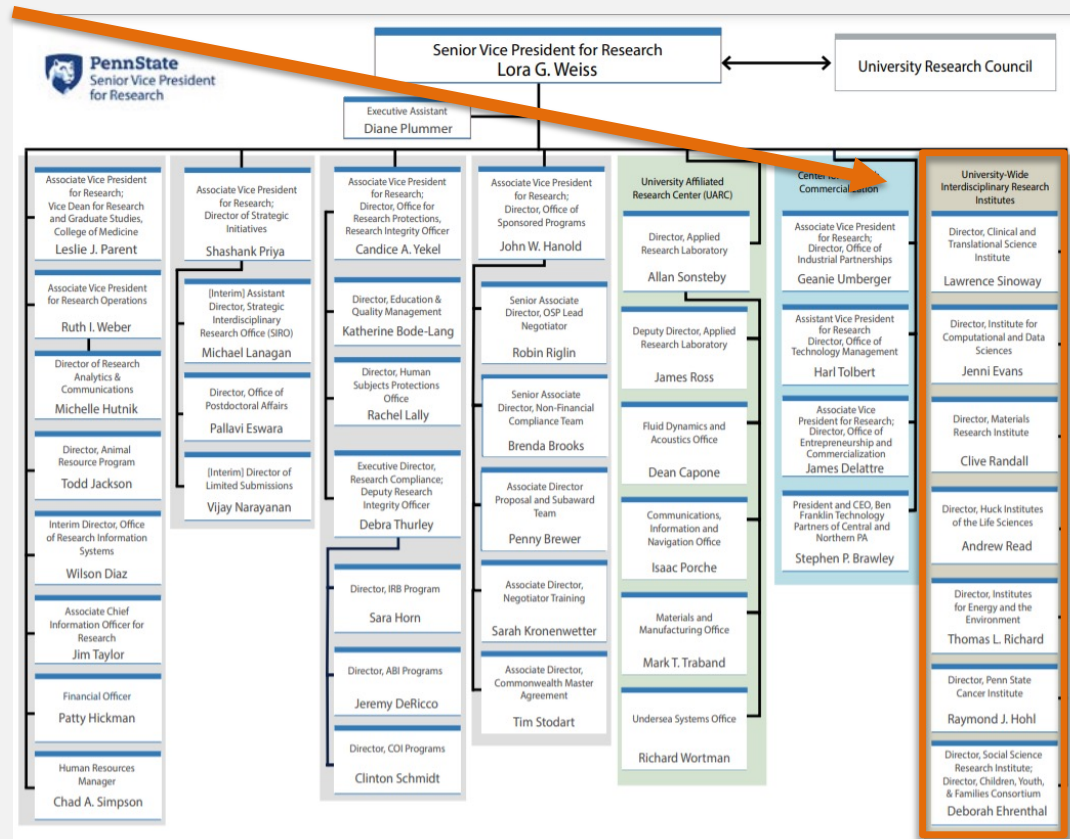   Chiara Lo Prete
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Office of the Senior Vice President for Research

Seven University-Wide Interdisciplinary Research Institutes

- Clinical and Translational Science Institute
- Institute for Computational and Data Science
- Materials Research Institute
- Huck Institutes for the Life Sciences
- **Institutes of Energy and the Environment**
- Cancer Institute
- Social Science Research Institute

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Director, Penn State Cancer Institute
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Director, Social Science Research Institute; Director, Children, Youth, & Families Consortium
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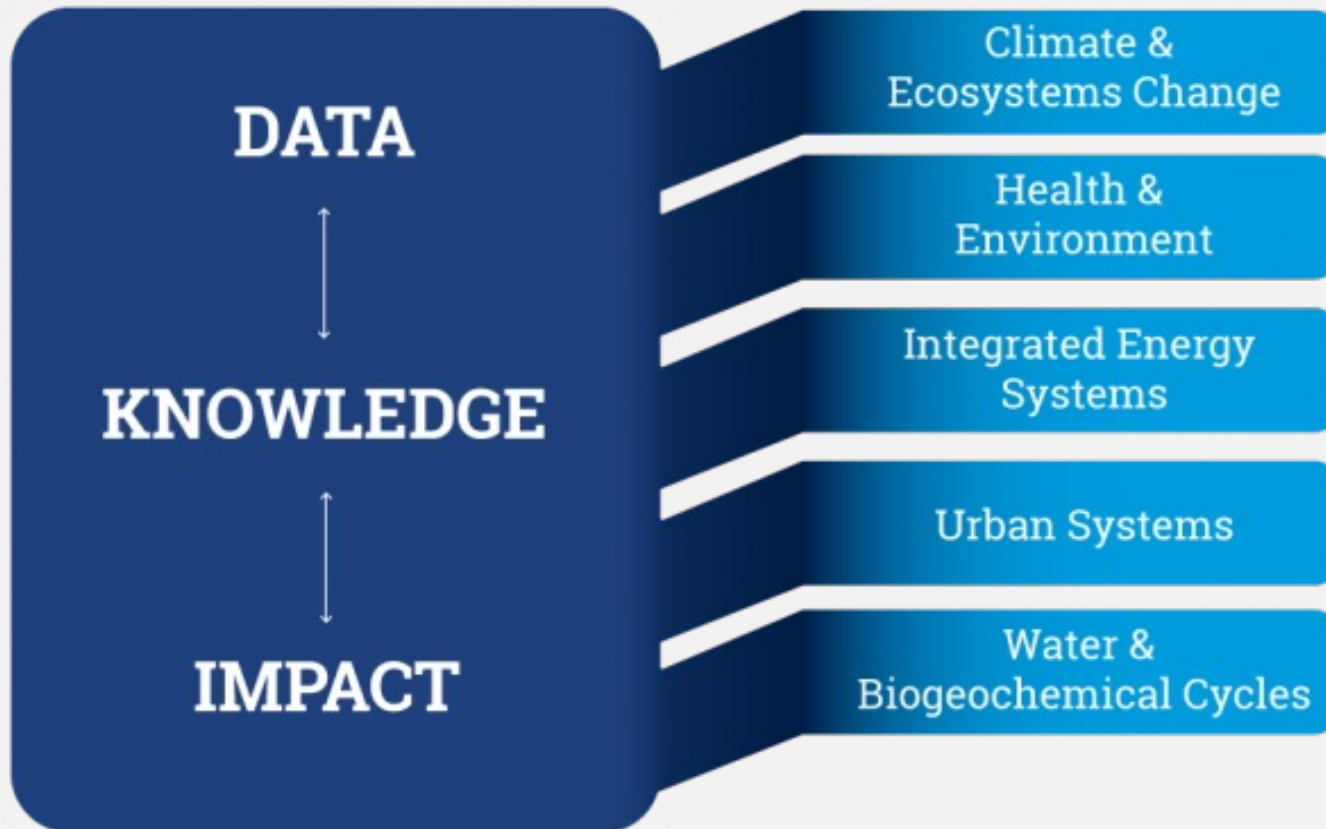# Institutes of Energy and the Environment Mission and Research Themes

The mission of the Institutes of Energy and the Environment is to **foster and facilitate interdisciplinary scholarship and collaboration** to positively impact important energy and environmental challenges.

Our research themes are **Climate and Ecosystem Change, Health and the Environment, Integrated Energy Systems, Urban Systems, and Water and Biogeochemical Cycles.** Full descriptions available online at https://iee.psu.edu/research.

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IEE Seed Grant Distribution

- Prior year awards are documented online at https://iee.psu.edu/funding/iee-seed-grant-program
- Collaborations have connected researchers from 40+ departments throughout the Commonwealth
- Principal Investigators (PI) represent 18 colleges and campuses throughout the Commonwealth

University Park
- College of Agricultural Sciences
- College of Arts and Architecture
- College of Earth and Mineral Sciences
- College of Engineering
- College of Health and Human Development
- College of Liberal Arts
- Eberly College of Science
- Information Sciences and Technology
- Penn State Law

Commonwealth Campuses
- Penn State Abington
- Penn State Altoona
- Penn State Berks
- Penn State Dickinson School of Law
- Penn State Dubois
- Penn State Erie, The Behrend College
- Penn State Harrisburg
- Penn State Hazleton
- Penn State College of Medicine

2023 Program Funding

- Funding levels
  - Up to **$30,000** for multi-colleges and/or multi-campus collaborations
  - Up to **$15,000** for two or more faculty with different disciplinary expertise from a single college (University Park) or single Commonwealth Campus
  - Up to **$5,000** for single investigator proposals

- Award period: April 2023 - June 30, 2024

Preferred Activities for Funding

- Develop new interdisciplinary research teams and position them for substantial **external funding success**

- Pursue **novel research** in IEE's research themes, especially high-risk proof of concept projects and in a way that addresses questions of **equity and environmental justice**

- Promote research development and **mentorship** between junior and senior faculty

Seed Grant Eligibility

- All Penn State faculty members (tenured, tenure track, and fixed term) holding an appointment of half-time or more at any Penn State campus

- Penn State researchers, students, and staff may be funded collaborators

- External partners may be included as collaborators, but **may not receive funding**

- Multiple investigators are expected but a single PI is responsible

- Investigators may serve as PI on only one proposal, but may collaborate on more than one

- New investigators will be given preference over previous grantees

- PIs awarded in 2022 are ineligible to act as PI, but may serve as member of a project team

Allowable and Disallowable Expenses

Allowable Expenses

- Graduate and undergraduate student support

- Instrumentation fees and sample analysis to collect preliminary data

- Equipment, supplies, and participant payments

- Travel associated with the conduct of or reporting/presenting on seed grant research (PSU participants only)

- Hosting a research planning meeting for an interdisciplinary team

- Planning and hosting conferences and symposia

- Funding for data conversion technology and wages to support data conversion

Disallowable Expenses

- Single college/campus funding, even with faculty from several departments, is capped at $15,000; single investigator capped at $5,000.

- Regular appointment, summer, or supplemental salary support for faculty

- Postdoc salary

- Travel support to attend conferences

- Subcontracts to entities outside of Penn State

Important Seed Grant Dates

Date	Event
November 28, 2022	5:00 PM	Electronic submission of proposals due via Infoready: https://psu.infoready4.com/#competitionDetail/1885348
February 2023	Funding decisions announced
April 2023	Grant funds made available and must be expended by June 30, 2024
September 30, 2024	Final report due

Submission Instructions

- Proposals due by **5:00 PM on November 28, 2022**
- Electronic proposal submission required to Infoready site
- Proposal limited to a 2-page project description and additional pages for an appendix
- **NOTE: There is <u>no preproposal stage</u>. The two-page project description shall clearly address all the review criteria.**
- Proposal format:
  - Size 12 font
  - Left aligned with 1-inch margins
  - PDF document
- Project abstract-separate page (understandable by an interdisciplinary audience, see criteria)
- 2-page project description must include:
  - Title of project
  - PI and co-PI's names including college, department and/or campus
  - Short description of how this project will leverage seed funding
  - Nature of collaboration (new/existing; mentorship opportunities)
  - Total funding to be requested, including brief budget justification
- Appendix shall include:
  - A list of all collaborators, their colleges and/or departments
  - The name and email of the department financial contact to facilitate the transfer of funds if awarded
  - 1-page or 2-page resumes for the PI and all co-PIs

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Review Criteria

1. **Intellectual Merit**
   – Creativity and innovation
   – Significance of goals and results
   – Soundness or research plan

2. **Potential for Impact**
   – Positive impact in the intended field
   – Potential for external funding

3. **Collaborative Nature**
   – Interdisciplinary focus
   – Potential to develop new collaborations and mentorships
   – Collaborations across colleges

Scoring

Reviewers will score the review criteria on a scale from 1-5.

Proposals will be reviewed on the following weighted basis: 40% Intellectual Merit, 30% collaborative potential, and 30% potential for impact.

Also, we will provide an overall separate score based on same 1 to 5 criteria.

5 = Excellent for all criteria in this category

4 = Very good response to the criteria in this category

3 = Good response to the criteria in this category

2 = Fair response to the criteria in this category but more info needed

1 = Limited information provided for this category

Questions?

- Visit https://iee.psu.edu/funding/seed-grant-program/2023 for more information, the full RFP.

- Further questions regarding the IEE Seed Grant Program may be emailed to iee@psu.edu