

# Yale *Office of Sustainability*

## **Energy Solutions Fund: Request for Proposals**

As announced on August 27, 2014 in President Salovey's message to the University on "New Sustainability Initiatives at Yale," Yale has pledged to invest \$7 million in capital projects across campus with a focus on energy conservation in buildings. The **Energy Solutions Fund** is a \$100,000 portion of this investment set aside for student-inspired and proposed projects. The fund seeks innovative ideas that assist Yale in conserving energy, reducing energy costs, lowering greenhouse gas emissions, and promoting renewable technologies in all spaces (such as Yale Residential Colleges and Graduate housing, Academic and Administrative buildings, Office Spaces, Athletic buildings/spaces, and Laboratories). Successful proposals will be collaborative efforts that also serve to educate and inform the Yale community on the energy-saving results of the project.

Both undergraduate and graduate students are invited to submit an application that establishes the nature of their energy-saving idea, the capital investment required, the expected return, and the accompanying outreach and engagement strategy.

Applications will be judged on the following criteria:

- **Environmental Benefit**

Successful projects must clearly produce energy savings. These could come in many forms, including (but not limited to) greenhouse gas reductions and electricity reductions.

- **Social and Educational Benefit**

Proposals should explicitly engage and educate the broader Yale community on the energy reductions and results of the project.

- **Return on Investment**

Projects must specify or estimate the return on investment through quantifiable financial benefit derived from energy cost savings.

- **Feasibility**

Well-developed projects will consider the practical difficulties and feasibility of implementation as well as consider the sustainability of the project after the funding period ends.

### **Funding**

The \$100,000 Energy Solutions Fund will be distributed among chosen projects submitted by only students of Yale University. The number of awards will be determined by the Energy Solutions Funding Committee based on the pool of projects. Students are encouraged to collaborate both among undergraduates (individuals and organizations) and graduate students in professional schools.

### **Application Requirements (No more than 3 single-spaced pages)**

Proposals should include the following information:

- Name(s) of applicants, including email addresses and organizational affiliations if applicable
- Description of the project
  - Identify the problem
  - Identify your proposed solution
  - How is this project an improvement over existing conditions?
  - Environmental benefits
  - Energy savings
- Greenhouse gas emissions reductions (use EPA standard emissions factors to calculate GHG emission reductions)
  - Financial savings
- How does this project support the Yale Sustainability Strategic Plan (2013-2016)?
- Calculation or estimate of Return on Investment
- How will you engage and educate the Yale community with your project?
- Materials and technology required
- Estimated project costs and timeline

Questions to consider:

- Are you looking for additional partners on your application?
- How will you measure success for this project? What sort of monitoring or data collection might be possible?
- Have you engaged with the stakeholders in the area you would like to make change?
  - If you are a student looking to make a change to your Residential College, have you spoken with your Master or Facilities Superintendent?
  - Have you spoken with other users of the space?
- How will this project create benefits above and beyond existing or planned projects?
- Demonstrate the sustainability of the project after the budget period has ended.

### **Submission Process**

All application materials must be submitted as a pdf via email to **keri.enright-kato@yale.edu** no later than 5:00 pm (EST) on **Tuesday, October 28, 2014.**

### **Review and Implementation Process Timeline**

**November 7, 2014:** 1st Feedback from the Energy Solutions Funding Committee

- The committee will select qualified projects with strong potential and provide feedback to address prior to final presentations.

**November 17 - 19, 2014:** Final Presentations of Proposals

- Selected applicants will present final proposals to the Energy Solutions Funding Committee and field questions.

**November 24, 2014:** 2nd Feedback from Energy Solutions Funding Committee

- The committee will offer further feedback and choose projects to be work-shopped.

**December 1 - 3, 2014:** Workshops for Select Projects on Feasibility and Implementation

- Projects will meet with the Energy Solutions Funding Committee to work through feasibility, next steps and implementation.

**January 2014:** Implementation Begins

- Awarded projects will begin implementation.