

2020 Seed Grant Program

The [Scott Institute for Energy Innovation](#) announces its eighth annual call for seed grant proposals. As in previous years, seed funding for energy research projects will be available from the Institute. We expect to make small awards in the range \$10,000 – 75,000 to individuals or small groups. These awards are expected to seed research which will lead to externally-funded projects.

Prior to submitting a proposal for a seed grant, interested faculty need to become a Scott Institute Faculty Affiliate, if they are not so already. Faculty need to complete [this online form](#) to apply. Then, faculty should prepare a brief proposal (< 2 pages, 12 point type) following the format below. Submissions as PI will be limited to one per person (not precluding participation on other proposals).

- **Project Summary** - Brief summary of the proposed activity that outlines the problem to be addressed, explains why it is important and who will be involved in the work.
- **Leverage** - Discussion of how a modest seed grant can lay the foundation for an expanded activity, preferably including specific suggestions for sources of future support and some indication of the long-term potential for growth of this activity. Please give some indication of the closest related work currently underway at Carnegie Mellon and any prospects for matching or in-kind support that can amplify the impact of the grant.
- **Impact** - The Scott Institute's Board of Advisors has urged us to focus on projects that hold the potential to have significant impact in the next few years. While we will consider all activities; they have suggested that we focus on activities that combine technical, behavioral and policy dimensions and that are most likely to play to CMU's strengths.
- **Budget** - Budget will be provided preferentially for support of PhD students, equipment, and salary of non-tenure track faculty or staff. Overhead will not be charged. Budgets must be spent out by June 30, 2021 (end of FY 2021).

Applications must be submitted via [this online form](#) by 01/31/2020.

The Scott Institute promotes new collaborations and therefore, preference will be given to proposals that involve multiple faculty and new interdisciplinary interactions (inter-departmental or inter-center). Priority will be given to those proposals with the capacity to create new activities that can ultimately engage multiple faculty members. Proposals that look like they are simply requesting funding to continue an existing line of work will receive low priority.

While we will treat all proposals as moderately confidential so as to protect faculty ideas, we reserve the right to be proactive. For example, depending on the ideas we receive, we may explore possible collaborations among separate investigators when it might be beneficial or add valuable new perspectives to a project.

Proposals will be reviewed by a faculty committee comprised of Scott Institute Faculty Affiliates. Reviewers who are party to a proposal will not be asked to rank their own submission. Final selection of grant winners will be made by Scott Institute Directors Jay Whitacre and Andy Gellman and Executive Director Anna J. Siefken.