



Sustainable Michigan Endowed Project

**The Sustainable Michigan Endowed Project Grants Initiative
(Request for Proposals)
2008-2009**

Call for Grant Proposals Supporting a Sustainable Michigan

The Sustainable Michigan Endowed Project (SMEP) is pleased to announce its 2006-2007 Grants Initiative and Request for Proposals. Grants will be available at various funding levels for highly competitive projects in the following three (3) grant categories:

1. Networking Travel Grants (NTG).
Maximum of \$5,000.
2. Participatory Research Grants (PRG).
Maximum of \$10,000.
3. Integrative Project Grants (IPG).
\$10,000-25,000 per year for up to three years.

Sponsored by:

Sustainable Michigan Endowed Project

Executive Committee:

Soji Adelaja, Hannah Professor in Land Policy
Sandra S. Batie, Elton R. Smith Professor in Food and Agricultural Policy
David Beede, C.E. Meadows Professor in Dairy and Nutrient Management
Jim Detjen, Knight Professor for Environmental Journalism
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Jianguo (Jack) Liu, Rachel Carson Professor in Ecological Sustainability
Patricia Norris, Guyer-SeEVERS Chair in Natural Resource Conservation
H. Christopher Peterson, Nowlin Chair of Consumer-Responsive Agriculture
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Mark Skidmore, Morris Chair in State and Local Government Finance and Policy
Paul B. Thompson, W. K. Kellogg Professor in Agricultural, Food and Community Ethics
James Tiedje, Director of the Center for Microbial Ecology

Contact Person:

Mary Schulz, Project Coordinator

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The MSU Sustainable Michigan Endowed Project Grants Initiative

Eligibility: Who may apply

This Request for Proposals is open to Michigan State University faculty and staff with research interests in the broad context of “Sustainable Michigan.” Partners from outside MSU are eligible to apply, however those coming from outside MSU must have a MSU co-PI partner. At least one principal investigator must be a tenure-system MSU faculty member.

Eligibility: Criteria

1. The grant activity must focus on an issue or problem relevant to the sustainability of Michigan.
2. The proposed grant activity must have multi-disciplinary, inter-disciplinary or cross-disciplinary elements that are clearly delineated in the proposal.
3. Funded individuals should be willing to participate in forthcoming SMEP events such as seminars and to share progress on their grant activity if requested.
4. Investigator(s) must agree to provide written progress reports if requested.

Guiding Principles

The intent of these grants is to decrease barriers to do integrative research addressing sustainability themes. Sustainability has numerous definitions—over 500 by one author’s count—with most definitions involving current and/or future enhancement of the quality of citizen’s lives and of the “health” and integrity of ecosystems. Some definitions emphasize achievement of development goals, in terms of both the process of development and its outcomes, while others emphasize process, discourse, and changed perceptions or paradigms. One taxonomy (Thompson, unpublished manuscript) divides definitions into those which use sustainability in a “non-substantive” manner with general definitions meant to encourage collaboration, but which are difficult to make operational. Thompson’s taxonomy of substantive definitions of sustainability includes resources sufficiency definitions and functional integrity definitions. (See Thompson’s manuscript at SMEP website www.smep.msu.edu.)

The grant reviewers do not have a predetermined definition of sustainability nor of sustainable development for the purpose of these grants, but do expect the author(s) of the proposal to make clear how the use of the grant funds will reflect the respective author(s)’ conceptualizations of these terms.

The SMEP is focused broadly on visions of future sustainable landscapes and ecosystems in Michigan, as well as sustainable communities, and economies. It is suggested that investigators examine the following themes:

1. Sustainable levels of resource use and/or sustainable interaction with ecological processes.
2. Ways and means of monitoring, tracking and/or valuing sustainability directions, losses or gains.

3. Processes by which the social, cultural, and economic behaviors of citizens can be influenced to embrace and implement sustainability principles.
4. Design of institutions that receive and act upon value-based information pertaining to sustainability.

Priority will be given to proposals that:

1. Focus on the future sustainability of Michigan's ecosystems, communities, and economies. Ideally, the funded grant activity should be used in support of research that addresses areas that are difficult to overcome with a single technology or policy approach, eventually lead to changed behaviors that enhance the quality of life in Michigan, and include partnerships with other groups.
2. Show commitment to securing additional non-SMEP support for long-term research efforts that compliment the proposed grant activity.
3. Demonstrate how the proposed effort is in support of research that integrates contributions from more than one discipline.
4. Include evaluation of the grant activity outcomes and impacts.

Application Deadline, Submission and Award Notification

Proposals for all three types of SMEP grants are available on a continuous basis, contingent upon available SMEP funds for granting purposes.

Only electronic submission, as attached Microsoft Word documents are acceptable. Grants should be submitted to the following address, E-mail: grants@smep.msu.edu.

The required format for the content of all narrative proposals and accompanying printed materials is Times New Roman, 12 point font size. All material should have 1 inch margins with single spaced text and double spaces between headings and paragraphs.

An effort will be made to notify award recipients within 90 days of receipt of the grant proposal. Awarded funds will be made available as soon as possible after notification. Accounts will be provided to grantees in their respective MSU departments. Grantees are responsible for the exercise of fiduciary obligations in accordance with MSU requirements associated with their SMEP grant accounts.

Project Reporting

A project report is required. See report requirements pertinent to each type of grant. Failure to comply with reporting requirements will disqualify grantees from applying for future SMEP grants.

Responsibilities of Principal Investigators

There is an expectation that all grantees participate in those SMEP activities to which they are invited. Participation in SMEP activities such as Academy events is both a privilege and a responsibility. Academy events are anticipated to be annual activities.

Where appropriate, grantees are required to publish any resulting research in peer reviewed literature; lay-level executive summary formats; Extension bulletins; fact sheets; or other appropriate formats.

Future SMEP grant awards will in part be determined by the quality of current and past performance of work supported by SMEP grants.

Fiduciary obligations associated with grant accounts set up in the PI's department are the responsibility of the PI.

Prior grantees that have not met the accountability and reporting requirements will not be considered for any additional or new funding.

Review Process

A panel of sustainability scholars will review the proposals. The review committee will make the final recommendations to the Executive Committee of the Sustainable Michigan Endowed Project.

Networking Travel Grants

Networking Travel Grants (NTGs) are 1) meant to facilitate individual travel to establish relationships and improve individual's knowledge that can lead to multidisciplinary research related to sustainability or 2) to bring multi-disciplinary teams together to develop a collaborative partnership to apply at a later date for a SMEP integrative project grant (IPG), or to seek outside funding. (Note: These funds are not intended to fund travel to professional meetings for only meeting participation.) For this reason, it is important to document the unique qualifications of the researcher(s) in the proposal. Proposals that would lead directly to other non-SMEP funding sources, especially competitive grants, will be strongly considered for funding. Proposals for NTGs are accepted on a continuous basis, but funding is contingent upon available SMEP funds for granting purposes. Recipients of prior SMEP funding must indicate the deliverables from previously funded projects and the accomplishments and outcomes to date. Recipients of prior grants that are not up to date on their accountability responsibilities need not apply. Funding can be used to support travel directly related to the research activities.

In an effort to improve communication between the grantee and SMEP, a SMEP Executive Committee liaison will be assigned to the proposal. This Executive Committee liaison will follow the progress of the project and provide guidance and information to the project if requested. If one has a preference for a particular Executive Committee member, please state it in the application. (Refer to the SMEP Executive Committee members listed on page 1 of this RFP.)

Proposal Format and Contents

Proposals for Networking Travel Grants should not exceed 4 pages (not including accompanying documentation) and include the following sections:

1. A separate cover page that must include the following:

- Title and type of grant applied for (NTG).
- Faculty name and department.
- Contact information including: address, phone number, fax number, email address.
- Proposed researcher(s)'s name and affiliation.
- Summary of the proposed researcher(s)'s qualifications.
- Total budget request. (There are no required overhead costs for these grants).
- Preferred SMEP Executive Committee contact (if no preferred contact, one will be assigned).
- Abstract of 250 words or less.

2. Body of the proposal (not to exceed 3 pages) that must include:

- Background on issue: State the nature and significance of the issues associated with this travel project.
- Goal: Briefly describe the goal of the travel project, its relationship to the collaborative partnership, and how the proposed project is relevant to the SMEP Guiding Principles.
- Anticipated collaborative process: The collaborative process must detail how the collaborative partnership will result in a framework for collaboration, the expected products of the collaborative effort, and how the collaborative effort will lead to a funded project.

- Future Funding: Explain how project collaborative participants intend to pursue funding for the program implementation phase and the likely source of such funding.
- Anticipated impacts and outcomes: Describe the likely impacts of the proposed collaborative team building.
- Other sources and levels of support related to the purposes of the NTG.
- Specific qualities and experiences of the proposed researcher(s).
- Total budget requested¹ (not to exceed \$5,000).

3. Please fill out the Faculty Expertise Information Form (Appendix C).

4. Project Report:

A project report is required after completion of project travel.

¹ See Appendix A for budget format.

Participatory Research Grants

The Participatory Research Grants (PRG) category is designed to support participatory research (PR) that address pressing problems in Michigan. Proposals under this category must have well defined research components. There are many approaches to PR with different degrees of participation and points at which participation occurs. SMEP conceptualization of PR encourages community or organizational involvement in design and implementation. Grants in this category should have identifiable benefits for the community that participates in the research. Recipients of prior SMEP funding must indicate the deliverables from previously funded projects and the accomplishments and outcomes to date. Recipients of prior grants that are not up to date on their accountability responsibilities need not apply. Funding of up to \$10,000 per project is available. PRG's are available on a continuous basis, contingent upon available SMEP funds for granting purposes.

In an effort to improve communication between the grantee and SMEP, a SMEP Executive Committee liaison will be assigned to the proposal. This Executive Committee liaison will follow the progress of the project and provide guidance and information to the project if requested. If one has a preference for a particular Executive Committee member, please state it in the application. (Refer to the SMEP Executive Committee members listed on page 1 of this RFP.)

Proposal Format and Contents

Proposals for Participatory Research Grants should not exceed 5 pages (not including accompanying documentation) and include the following sections:

1. A separate cover page that must include the following:

- Project title and type of grant applied for (PRG).
- Faculty name and department.
- Contact information including: address, phone number, fax number, email address.
- Total budget request. (There are no required overhead costs for these grants).
- Preferred SMEP Executive Committee contact (if no preferred contact, one will be assigned).
- Abstract of 250 words or less, the purpose of the purposed project, why it is important, potential stakeholders or beneficiaries, and likely outcomes.

2. Body of the proposal (not to exceed 4 pages) that must include:

- Problem and justification: Including the need as indicated by stakeholders, importance of the project and consequences if not undertaken.
- Goals and objectives: Clear, concise one sentence statement for each objective arranged in a logical statement. Include only objectives on which significant progress can be made during the proposed project duration with the resources committed.
- Importance of the research area and relevance to the MSU SMEP Guiding Principles.
- Approach (specific research and extension activities).
- Expected outcomes and impacts: (economic, environmental, health and/or social).
- Future Funding: Explain how project participants intend to pursue funding for the program implementation phase and the likely source of such funding.

- Targeted Audiences: Identify stakeholders, beneficiaries, customers, and or consumers for whom the project is intended.
- Summary of specific deliverables anticipated from the research.
- Project team members and their roles (see Appendix B).
- Timeframe: Identify major tasks and timelines. Maximum length of project is 1 year.
- State whether the PI has previously received a SMEP grant and the results and outcomes of that grant project.
- Dissemination of Outputs: Describe the dissemination plan for data, information, publications and fact sheets.
- Other sources and levels of support for the overall project.
- Specific qualities and experiences of the proposed researcher.
- Total budget requested (not to exceed \$10,000)².

3. Please fill out the Faculty Expertise Information Form (Appendix C).

4. Project Report:

A project report is required after completion of the project. Reports should identify progress towards objectives, and outcomes. Failure to comply with reporting requirements will disqualify grantees from applying for future SMEP grants.

² See Appendix A for budget format.

Integrative Project Grant (IPG)

Integrative Project Grants (IPG) are primarily for those multi-disciplinary or inter-disciplinary teams that are already working together, have developed an agenda and a protocol for implementing it. Successful applicants must be able to describe or demonstrate how they will complete their work. In addition, successful applicants must demonstrate the following: how they would leverage SMEP grant funds to sustain the effort long-term; how the process will help build long-term capacity for teamwork; and how the team expects this effort to enhance competitiveness in generating external grants. Grant proposals that already have matching internal or external funding or in-kind support will receive preferential treatment. Recipients of prior SMEP funding must indicate the deliverables from previously funded projects and the accomplishments and outcomes to date. Recipients of prior grants that are not up to date on their accountability responsibilities need not apply. Approximately \$10,000 to \$25,000 per year for up to three years will be available for each funded project.

In an effort to improve communication between the grantee and SMEP, a SMEP Executive Committee liaison will be assigned to the proposal. This Executive Committee liaison will follow the progress of the project and provide guidance and information to the project if requested. If one has a preference for a particular Executive Committee member, please state it in the application. (Refer to the SMEP Executive Committee members listed on page 1 of this RFP.)

Proposal Format and Contents

Proposals for IPG's should be limited to 11 pages (including the cover page, but exclusive of appendixes) and include the following sections:

1. A separate cover page with the following items:

- Project title.
- Primary applicant's name and affiliation/department.
- Co-applicants' names and affiliations/departments.
- Contact information for all applicants (primary and co) including: address, phone number, fax number, email address.
- Time frame for completion. Project start and end dates.
- Total project budget. Estimated budget including funding from all sources, SMEP and other. (There are no required overhead costs for these grants).
- Amount Requested from SMEP.
- Preferred SMEP Executive Committee contact (if no preferred contact, one will be assigned).

2. Body of the proposal (not to exceed 10 pages) that must include the following:

- Abstract: Briefly describe, in 500 words or less, the purpose of the proposed project, why it is important, potential stakeholders or beneficiaries, and likely outcomes.
- Background on issue and justification: This section should explain why the project needs to be established or enhanced and should include statements on the following:
 1. Purpose Statement: what will be accomplished as a result of the IPG.
 2. Rationale: why the project is important at this time.

3. The technical feasibility of the research and educational activity.
- Goals and objectives: Clearly state the impact(s) that project is expected to achieve, that is, the project’s goals. Clear, concise one-sentence statement for each project objective arranged in a logical statement. Include only objectives that significant progress can be made during the proposed project duration with the resources committed.
 - Methods: Briefly summarize the research and educational methods that will be used to address the relevant objectives. Describe how results are to be made available in an accessible manner to the intended users of the information (e.g. refereed publications non-refereed publications, workshops, etc.)
 - Relevance to SMEP Guiding Principles: Explain how the project will contribute to a more sustainable Michigan.
 - Anticipated Outcomes: What will be different as the result of this project?
 - Future Funding: Ways the grantee, community, or other beneficiary will continue to fund the work after SMEP funding ends, if applicable.
 - Targeted Audiences: Identify stakeholders, beneficiaries, customers, consumers or professional audiences for whom the project is intended.
 - Team members and their roles: A statement with respect to research responsibilities of all involved with the research, including any stakeholder involvement.
 - Budget³: Budget request for Year 1 not to exceed \$25,000 and should include the following specifics:
 1. Proposed cost sharing for Year 1.
 2. Total budget for Year 1.
 3. Total requested budget over project duration.
 4. Append to the proposal a completed budget form for each year of the proposed project.
 - Timeframe: Identify major tasks and timelines. Maximum length of project is 3 years.
 - Evaluation Plan: How will the investigators determine the success of their completed research?
 - Dissemination plan for research results.

3. Appendices (not counted in the 11 pages):

- Resume of Proposed Researchers (not counted in the 11 pages).
- Letters of Support from the administrator(s) of any involved MSU Department or “partnering” organization included in the proposal (not counted in the 10 pages).

4. Please fill out the Faculty Expertise Information Form (Appendix C) for each researcher on the project team.

5. Project Report:

A project report is required annually for the duration of the grant period. Reports should identify progress towards objectives, anticipated outcomes, and justification for continued funding, where applicable. Final reports are due within two months of the completion of the grant. Continued funding is contingent upon grantees meeting their reporting deadlines. Failure to comply with reporting requirements will disqualify grantees from applying for future SMEP grants.

³ See Appendix A for Budget format.

Appendix A
Format for SMEP Grants Budget

Total for Entire Project --from xx/xx/08 to zz/zz/0z--please indicate the period of time:

Project Title: _____

Expense Category			Request ¹	Cost Share (if any)	Total
Salaries					
Name (if known)	Title	FTE in months			
(1)					
(2)					
(3)					
(4)					
(5)					
Wages					
Fringe					
Equipment					
Supplies					
Services/Consultants					
Travel					
Publication					
Other					
(1)					
(2)					
(3)					
Total					

No indirect costs are required or accepted.

¹ Attach justification for requests exceeding \$1,000 in any cost category, except for salary and wages.

Appendix B
SMEP Grant Team Members

Team Member	Department, Center or Other Affiliation	Expertise	Participation in FTE's/Yr

* Please List PI's first

**Appendix C
Faculty Expertise Information Form**

**Appendix C
Faculty Expertise Information Form
MSU Sustainable Michigan Endowment Project**

Full Name:		Memberships or Affiliations (Please provide full names):	
Title:		1.	
Dept.:		2.	
Address:		3.	
		Legislative Contacts:	
		1.	
Office Phone No.:		2.	
Fax:		3.	
Cell Phone: (optional)		Level of Desired Engagement in SMEP (Please circle one):	Very Involved
Home Phone: (optional)			Involved
Email:			Informed
Website 1:			
Website 2:			
Specific Sustainability Research Areas of Interest:			
On Going Projects or Other relevant information:			