Northern New England Campus Compact

Campuses for Environmental Stewardship

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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Northern New England Campus Compact* (NNECC) is seeking proposals from our member institutions for grants of up to $5,000.

NNECC has been awarded a $150,000 grant from the U.S. EPA Environmental Education Sub-Grants program to support *Campuses for Environmental Stewardship*. Through this program, NNECC is soliciting proposals and will award sub-grants to member campuses in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont who recognize the importance of preparing college students for a lifetime of environmental stewardship, and commit to changing systems and processes on college campuses to better support environmental education through embedding climate change or water quality community projects into existing or new courses.

NNECC will train and support campus teams of faculty *from a wide variety of disciplines* to embed environmentally-focused community projects into their courses and sustain them. Campuses are required to deliver at least 4 community-engaged courses, each partnering with community organizations to address climate change or water quality issues.

This initiative will not end with the culmination of the environmental community projects in these courses, but will continue through cross-campus, state-wide, and regional collaboration to further define and move forward the role of higher education in addressing this region's most pressing environmental issues.

Campus proposals due April 5, 2013

***** The **Northern New England Campus Compact** is composed of:

- Maine Campus Compact
- Campus Compact for New Hampshire
- Vermont Campus Compact

PROGRAM GOALS

Over 80% of students enrolled in NNECC member institutions are *from* Northern New England. In the past decade they have seen the effects of climate change through the shrinking of the northern boreal forest, more extreme winter and summer weather, rising sea levels, and restricted habitats for northern animals. Now, more than ever, it is imperative to preserve our natural resources. Equally important is giving students the critical thinking skills necessary for employment in a competitive market. Higher education plays a vital role at this intersection, with the ability to prepare students for environmental stewardship and employment as a critical economic development strategy for our region.

This initiative has several overarching goals:

- to prepare college students for a lifetime of environmental stewardship
- to create and sustain changes in campus delivery of courses for ongoing environmental education of students in all fields of study
- to complete environmental community projects in Northern New England communities on an annual basis to reduce energy use, greenhouse gas emissions, and protect water.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Each selected campus will have at least 4 faculty participants from several disciplines design or redesign and implement courses which include environmental community projects addressing either **climate change** or **water quality** issues. To re-emphasize this point: faculty may create brand new courses for this project **OR** redesign existing courses.

GRANT BASICS

19 grants will be awarded, with a goal of 11 in Maine, 4 in New Hampshire, and 4 in Vermont.

- Maximum grant will be $5,000
- Cost-share requirement: at least 33% of the grant amount must be matched by non-Federal funds, including in-kind contributions (i.e. staff time, etc)
- No campus may receive more than one award
- Funds will be disbursed at the beginning of the grant period (August 2013), upon receipt of project budget and action plan.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Proposals may only be submitted by member campuses of ME, NH, or VT Campus Compacts.
2. Applicants will have at least 4 faculty members who have given their commitment to participate and fulfill the general requirements of the program.
3. Applicants must designate a campus project manager who will be NNECC's main contact, responsible for ensuring fulfillment of all grant requirements.

GENERAL REQUIRE-MENTS

Each campus will collaborate with community partners, NNECC, and other campus grantees within their state to develop final products and/or reports that summarize how the delivered courses have positively impacted environmental education in the state.

All faculty participants and designated campus project managers are required to attend a two day Faculty Development Institute & Regional Training to be held in Portland, Maine in June 2013. NNECC will pay for hotel and food.

Each campus must commit to participating in an action planning process to support participating faculty with the goal of sustaining and increasing the number of courses embedded with environmental community projects after the grant has ended.

Participating faculty will develop or redesign an existing course to be embedded with an environmental community project within two terms of participation in the faculty development institute. NNECC will support faculty participants in their course delivery throughout the two terms following the institute through site monitoring and consulting campus visits and phone calls.

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION

Participating institutions will:

- Receive resources (time, expertise, dollars) to support the development of sustainability action plans.
- Expand the reach of your campus through community-campus partnerships, and gain statewide and national recognition through NNECC publicity of this project.
- Increase retention and engagement in courses, and inspire students to be lifelong stewards of the environment and gain skills relevant to future careers.
- Increase employment connections for students.

Participating faculty will:

- Receive resources to support the design/redesign and delivery of high quality community-engaged courses, including free attendance at a two day institute (valued at $600).
- Learn techniques and strategies for engaging students, identifying and working with community partners, managing student projects, and achieving course and community environmental goals.
- Have the opportunity to collaborate and present curricula and outcomes to peers after delivery of community-engaged course embedded with environmental community project.

Participating students will:

- Increase their knowledge of the local community and its environmental challenges and take action to address them through their course work.
- Expand their network for a greater chance of post-graduation job placement
- Leave their higher education experience equipped with knowledge and hands on experience addressing environmental challenges that will give them an advantage in the workforce as the number of green jobs continues to grow.

PROGRAM TIMELINE

Spring 2013	
February 7	Interested Campuses Send Representative to State Specific Info Session
March 1	Campus Letters of Intent Due
April 5	Campus Proposals Due
April 16	Campus Sub-grantees Announced
Summer 2013	
June	Regional Training & Faculty Development Institute #1 (Portland, ME)
July - Aug	Campuses prepare action plans and budgets, faculty prepare courses
Fall 2013	
September	Faculty Group #1 Begins Delivery of Courses Campuses implement action plans, including professional development for faculty
September	Student Pre-Surveys Completed
November	Regional Training & Faculty Development Institute #2 (Portland, ME) Campus Progress Reports Due
December	Student Post-Surveys Completed
Spring 2014	
January	Faculty Group #2 Begins Delivery of Courses Student Pre-Surveys Completed
May	Campus Progress Reports Due
June	Faculty Group #1 Completes Delivery of Courses Student Post-Surveys Completed
Summer 2014	
July – Aug	Syllabi collected from all participating faculty
August	Faculty Group #2 Completes Delivery of Courses
Fall 2014	
September 30	Campus Final Reports Due

HOW TO APPLY

1. Submit Letter of Intent to State Compact Office at email and/or address provided at bottom of page by March 1st 2013.

2. Download an application cover sheet from www.mainecompact.org/epa.php

3. Assemble a proposal (not to exceed 4 pages), including:

    a. Proposal cover sheet, which will include:
        i. signature of approval from Chief Academic Officer
        ii. signatures of commitment to participate from at least 4 faculty
        iii. signature of commitment from designated campus project manager

    b. A team narrative (not to exceed three pages), to answer all following questions:
        i. Why does your campus wish to participate, and how does this initiative fit with the overall goals of the campus?
        ii. Who are the faculty committed to participating? What are their experiences with community-based learning (none are required)? Their reasons for participating?
        iii. Which of the environmental priorities will you address? How?
        iv. Who are your anticipated community partner(s) (if known at this time)?
        v. Brief statement of programmatic capability: *Describe the qualifications/experience of the staff member designated to serve as campus project manager.*
        vi. Have you received a Campus Compact environmental grant or EPA grant before? If so, does this build upon that? How?

4. **Email the entire proposal package as one document (PDF, preferably) to your state Campus Compact office at the email address indicated below, no later than 11:59pm on Friday, April 5, 2013**. Please label the proposal file with your state abbreviation and campus name (i.e. *ME-UnityCollegeProposal.pdf*).

Maine:	submit proposals to
New Hampshire:	submit proposals to
Vermont:	submit proposals to

Original proposal, with original signatures, must be submitted via USPS to your state Campus Compact office postmarked no later than Friday, April 5, 2013:

Maine Campus Compact
Attn: Craig DeForest
220 College St. #2
Lewiston, ME 04240

Campus Compact for New Hampshire
Attn: Ann Tierno
3 Barrell Court
Concord, NH 03301

Vermont Campus Compact
Hosted by: St. Michael's College
One Winooski Park, Box 289
Colchester, VT 05439

REVIEW PROCESS

All proposals will be read and scored based on clarity of the proposal, degree to which the campus sub-grant plan clearly identifies participating faculty, environmental priorities, a feasible plan to reach objectives, and commitment to the action planning process.
Notifications will be made on April 16th, 2013.

INELIGIBLE ACTIVITES

Sub grant funds may not be used for the following activities:

- Technical training of environmental management professionals
- Environmental "information" and/or "outreach" projects that have no additional educational component. *EPA further clarifies that environmental information and outreach may be important elements of Environmental Education (EE) projects, but these activities by themselves are not environmental education. EE teaches individuals how to weigh various sides of an issue through critical thinking, problem solving and decision making skills on environmental topics.*
- Advocacy promoting a particular point of view or course of action
- Lobbying or political activities as defined in OMB Circulars
    - A-21 www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars_a021_2004/,
    - A-87 www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars_a087_2004/
    - A-122 www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars_a122_2004
- Non-educational research and development
- Construction projects – EPA will not fund construction activities such as the acquisition of real property (e.g., buildings) or the construction or modification of any building

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Have questions? Please contact your State Campus Compact office:

Maine Campus Compact	**Campus Compact for New Hampshire**	**Vermont Campus Compact**
Craig DeForest	Ann Tierno	Carrie Williams Howe
	x 311	