Sun Grant Program
Western Region

2013

Competitive Grants Program
(U.S. Department of Transportation)

Deadlines:

Letter of Intent (required):
Friday, April 19, 2013 (5 pm Pacific)

Full Application:
Friday, May 24, 2013 (5 pm Pacific)
The Sun Grant Program – Western Region (SGW) announces the availability of competitive funds and seeks proposals from qualified institutions and investigators that address the following SGW regional strategic program areas:

1) Biofuels Feedstocks Development and Production (starchy, cellulosic and fatty acid biomass),
2) Biofuels Conversion Processes and Technologies,
3) Bioproducts Development (biologically-based products) that reduce or replace petroleum use, and
4) Life Cycle Analysis and Sustainability of the Biofuel Supply Chain

These SGW regional priorities are set within DOT strategic areas of interest, i.e., Safety Livability, Environmental Sustainability, and Economic Competitiveness.

In addition to requesting Sun Grant funds, all proposals must include an additional 25% (auditable) in project cost-share (20% of total project cost is required). Indirect is limited by DOT to 25% of total direct costs (or 20% total project cost). Integration, economics, marketing, policy, education or a combination of these overarching activities may be incorporated in any proposal. Two types of applications are being sought:

**Collaborative Proposals:** Multi-institutional and multi-functional (research, education and outreach) proposals are sought that address Sun Grant goals and regional priorities. Collaborative proposals may request up to $150,000 in federal funds per year for up to two years.

**Single Institution Proposals:** Individual investigators, or small teams from a single institution, that address the Sun Grant mission and regional priorities may submit proposals requesting up to $100,000 per year for one to two years.

The mission of the Sun Grant Program is to focus the abilities of the nation’s land grant institutions in partnership with the private sector and federal laboratories to enhance national energy security and independence through the development, distribution and implementation of bio-based energy technologies, to promote bio-based diversification and environmental sustainability of the region’s agriculture, and to promote opportunities for bio-based economic diversification in rural communities.

A Letter of Intent (LOI) is required but will not be peer reviewed. Submission of a LOI by the deadline automatically allows the Principal Investigator to submit a full proposal. LOIs must be submitted by April 19, 2013. Full applications are due by May 24, 2013. All application materials must be submitted through an online proposal system, which can be found at [https://webnibus.org/sungrant/western](https://webnibus.org/sungrant/western)

The remainder of this document contains details on submission guidelines, timetables, and other application information. For more information or to view previously selected projects, please go to: [http://sungrant.oregonstate.edu](http://sungrant.oregonstate.edu).
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1. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

THE SUN GRANT PROGRAM

As readily accessible domestic sources of petroleum have waned, the United States has steadily increased its reliance on oil imported from other nations. The proportion of imported oil increased from about 30% of domestic consumption in 1970 to about 56% in 2000 (Report of the National Energy Policy Development Group, 2001). This trend has raised concerns about the nation’s energy security. Much of our imported oil originates from nations unfriendly to the U.S. with unstable or repressive governments.

Authorized by Congress in 2004, the Sun Grant Program is a national network of land-grant universities partnering to build a biobased economy. Sun Grant institutions are charged with making significant advances in biobased industries for the benefit of America’s independent farmers, rural communities, and public at large.

The Sun Grant Program was conceived to partner the national network of land-grant universities and federal laboratories to aid in building a biobased economy that would reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels and enhance economic diversification in rural areas of the United States. Potential products include: biofuels such as ethanol and biodiesel, electrical power, lubricants, plastics, solvents, adhesives, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and building materials. The Program will broaden the role that land grant universities play by also focusing the efforts of these universities on renewable energy and biobased industries. Developing biobased businesses, based on availability of feedstocks, will also enhance development of rural communities.

The mission of the Sun Grant Program is to (1) enhance national energy security through development, distribution and implementation of biobased energy technologies; (2) promote diversification and the environmental sustainability of agricultural production in the United States through biobased energy and products technologies; (3) promote economic diversification in rural areas of the United States through biobased energy and product technologies; and (4) enhance the efficiency of bioenergy and biomass research and development programs through improved coordination and collaboration between the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Energy, other US Departments, and the land-grant colleges and universities.

The Sun Grant Program is organized as a network of five land-grant universities serving as regional Sun Grant Centers: South Dakota State University (North-Central), Oregon State University (Western), Oklahoma State University (South-Central), the University of Tennessee – Knoxville (Southeastern), and Cornell University (Northeastern).

These centers will facilitate federally funded research, extension, and education programs in their respective regions. These programs embrace the multi-institution, multi-state, multi-disciplinary integrated approach that is at the heart of the land-grant method of addressing problems.
In summary, the Sun Grant mission is reflected in the following four goals:

a. To enhance national energy security through the development, distribution, and implementation of biobased energy technologies;

b. To promote diversification in, and the environmental sustainability of, agricultural production in the United States through biobased energy and product technologies;

c. To promote economic diversification in rural areas of the United States through biobased energy and product technologies; and

d. To enhance the efficiency of bioenergy and biomass research and development programs through improved coordination and collaboration among
   i. federal and state agencies and laboratories
   ii. land-grant colleges and universities, and
   iii. the private sector

SUN GRANT PROGRAM - WESTERN REGION

The Sun Grant Program Western Region Center (SGW), located at Oregon State University in Corvallis, Oregon, carries out administrative functions for the region composed of the States of Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington; and the territories of Guam and American Samoa; as well as the U.S. affiliated Pacific islands of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. The Pacific Sub-center is housed at the University of Hawai’i-Manoa. The SGW and the Sub-center are cooperatively conducting the 2013 solicitation and review process.

SCOPE OF THE SOLICITATION

The SGW has received funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) for competitively-selected projects that will further the Sun Grant and DOT missions. Projects will be expected to develop viable, biobased fuel and energy sources and products, while enhancing sustainable economic opportunities in rural areas. Western regional research priorities related to biomass and bioenergy production and technologies for the 2013 grant cycle also expect to address four strategic areas of interest for DOT: Safety, Livability, Environmental Sustainability, and Economic Competitiveness. University Transportation Centers located in each state can provide additional insight into DOT issues and strategies.

To make biobased economic diversification a reality, the region also needs education and outreach about the benefits and impacts of biobased industries and renewable energy as well as better economic and marketing data analysis. The SGW thus encourages proposals to provide