



Finger Lakes Project **Mini-grant Program Guidelines**

Thanks to the generous support from the *Jephson Educational Trust*, we are able to offer mini-grants to reward educators who successfully develop sustainability curricula using the curriculum design content presented during the *Finger Lakes Project* workshop. Eligibility for this year's mini-grant funding will only be open to those who successfully completed the 2017 Finger Lakes Project workshop.

Curriculum that explores sustainability themes and issues within disciplinary frames – or across disciplinary lines - should incorporate the following general content and design principles:

- Meets a number of the *Education for Sustainability* goals as outlined by the U.S. Partnership for the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development
- Incorporates place-based learning
- Supports higher level student learning (at or above “Understanding”) according to *Bloom’s Taxonomy*
- Employs one or more pedagogical strategies (see *Typology of Pedagogical Strategies*)
- Includes content from all three sustainability knowledge domains: environmental, economic, and social
- Demonstrates “backward course design”: explicit sustainability learning outcomes, employment of effective teaching strategies to achieve student learning, and development of meaningful assessment methodologies to measure student success in achieving learning outcomes.

The mini-grant funding application should include:

1. a *cover document* explaining how the curriculum incorporates the content and design principles listed above, with one of the following:
 2. *syllabus* for a new sustainability course, including readings, resources, descriptions of individual lessons, student learning assessment methods
 - or-
 - syllabus* for an existing disciplinary course showing how the new ***sustainability curriculum module*** or other pedagogical strategy has been introduced; complete description of the curricular module, including student learning outcomes, readings, resources, teaching strategies and activities, learning assessment methods
 - or-
 - complete description of a ***free-standing sustainability curriculum module*** that could be incorporated into multiple courses; including student learning outcomes, readings, resources, teaching strategies and activities, learning assessment methods
3. The curriculum should be accompanied by an *evaluative statement* from your department chair, dean, or provost or superintendent attesting to the degree of relevance of the curriculum to departmental (or school or institutional needs), and an indication as to whether the proposed course or course revision would be acceptable to the department for inclusion as a program course offering.
4. Attach a copy of your *curriculum vitae*, which includes a listing of courses you have taught which have relevance to your developed curriculum.

Applications for mini-grant funding will be evaluated based upon:

- Innovation in the curricular concept
- Design for higher level student learning
- The typology of pedagogical strategy(ies) employed
- Broad-based applicability of the curriculum
- Integration of interdisciplinary or multi-disciplinary teamwork
- Willingness to make the curriculum freely available to other educators
- Amount of mini-grant funding available

Generally, sustainability curriculum development mini-grant funding awards will be made as follows:

\$1000

Designing new sustainability-themed courses
(Re)casting central questions of the course in terms of sustainability

\$750

Introducing curricular module(s) or units
Threading questions/issues throughout

\$500

Adding or refocusing service or experiential learning projects
Introducing sustainability in parts of lectures
Adding directed lectures or lessons
Add new writing, research or project options

\$250

Bringing in a classroom guest
Adding a field trip or site visit
Focus on professional standards and sustainability
Changing classroom or laboratory practice
Develop co-curricular projects in conjunction with courses
Hidden curriculum (making such curriculum overt)

Mini-grant application deadline: **September 15, 2017**

Mini-grant funding applications will be reviewed by a committee of sustainability educators; the decision of the committee is final. Decisions for funding will be communicated within 30 days after the deadline for submitting proposals.

Mini-grant funding applications should be forwarded to:

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