

Request for Student Applications

2023 Albert, Norma and Howard Geller for Student Projects Relating to Sustainability

The George Perkins Marsh Institute announces a call for applications for The Albert, Norma and Howard Geller Awards. These awards support student-initiated research projects that advance our understanding of natural resource and environmental sustainability and develop practical improvements that can move society towards more sustainable outcomes. Successful applications will balance originality with evidence of support from a faculty mentor, who will help guide the funded work. After completion of their projects, awardees are expected to report findings from their work and present these findings at an appropriate university forum.

Clark University undergraduate and graduate students are eligible, and will be reviewed in separate competitions. Subject to the number and quality of applications received, it is the intention of the committee to award one-half of both regular and small awards to undergraduate projects. We anticipate making approximately 3-4 regular awards in amounts ranging from \$1,001 to \$2,500, and several smaller grants of up to \$1,000. Requests for more than \$2,500 will not be considered.

Given the intent of the Geller Awards, proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- relevance to practical approaches of advancing sustainability
- originality and innovation
- clarity and feasibility of research plan
- ways in which the

Content of Applications

1. Application must contain a cover sheet that includes:

the project title

department (of major or graduate work, as applicable), the degree being sought, advisor (if applicable), and the anticipated date of degree completion

whether the project is an undergraduate or graduate project

proposed duration of the work (including desired start and end date)

x 

Guidance on Budgets

Proposals must include a one-page budget with a clear explanation of the purpose of expenditures. This budget and explanation are NOT included in the 5-page limit for the project description. The content and reasonableness of the budget is one of the factors that will be considered when rating your proposal. The use of all requested funds must be explained. We anticipate making approximately 3-4 awards in amounts ranging from \$1,001 to \$2,500, and several smaller grants of up to \$1,000. Requests for more than \$2,500 will not be considered.

Typical budget items include research supplies, printing/ mailing of surveys, equipment, data, and support for travel and housing at research sites. Requests for conference travel support (e.g., funds to attend academic conferences) will not be considered. Award funds cannot be used to support stipends, wages or salaries for applicants. If your budget includes the purchase of major equipment with an expected lifespan of multiple years (e.g., a wet suit, computer equipment, laboratory equipment, etc.), this equipment must be donated to your department upon completion of the Geller project and must be stated explicitly in the budget description. If funds for travel are requested, please explain how these funds will be used and break down the total into subcategories (e.g., amount for airfare, hotel, meals, mileage, parking, etc.). Note that awardees must follow all C