



Office of Research, Innovation,
and Economic Impact

**INSTITUTE FOR A
SUSTAINABLE EARTH**
George Mason University®

Weekly Newsletter
May 6, 2025

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Announcements

NEW Undergraduate Minor in Climate Resilience and Adaptation

The mounting threat of climate impacts has created a need for an innovative workforce with the expertise to build community resilience. The newly developed undergraduate minor in Climate Resilience and Adaptation (CRA) at George Mason University will provide students with the skills to develop and implement real-world solutions for communities navigating one of the most pressing issues today. This program bridges climate science, policy processes, and practical adaptation strategies – giving students actionable knowledge to translate research into effective practice.

Climate resilience and adaptation is an interdisciplinary effort; therefore, the CRA minor is geared towards students studying within a wide range of subjects. Most George Mason students will be able to obtain the CRA minor by taking ten additional credits beyond their primary degree program, including two core courses and a topic-relevant practical experience. By exploring the complexities of climate change through diverse perspectives, students will gain the expertise needed to contribute meaningfully to local and global climate resilience efforts.

The CRA Minor is co-hosted by the Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic, and Earth Sciences and Department of Environmental Science and Policy in George Mason University's College of Science.

SHAPE THE FUTURE OF CLIMATE RESILIENCE

EARN A MINOR IN CLIMATE RESILIENCE & ADAPTATION

- Bridge science, policy development & action to build real-world climate resilience.
- Open to all majors with just ten additional credits.

Scan here to learn more!



<https://bit.ly/4jG9XyJ>

Events

Loudoun County Energy & Environment Forum

Members of the community are encouraged to learn and engage about Loudoun County's efforts to increase environment and energy sustainability by attending the third annual Energy and Environment Forum Thursday, May 22, 2025, 5:30 – 8:00 p.m., at the Academies of Loudoun, 42075 Loudoun Academy Drive, Leesburg. The forum is hosted by the Loudoun County Environmental Commission, which advises the Board of Supervisors on policies and practices dealing with the environment, sustainability and the management of energy.

The forum will feature breakout sessions with subject matter experts where members of the public may learn about ongoing activities in the areas of energy and the environment and provide comments.

The forum will also feature an ongoing listening session to hear from the community on what Loudoun should be working on with respect to environmental and sustainable energy matters.

Thursday, May 22, 2025, 5:30 – 8:00 p.m

Funding Opportunities

REACH Center SEED Grants

The Research and Engagement for Action on Climate and Health (REACH) Center is pleased to announce its second annual research seed grant competition. This year we will make available \$80,000 for seed grants, and will fund multiple grants of \$20,000-40,000 in total costs, subject to funding availability.

The goal of the seed grant program is to build capacity so that a new cohort of researchers and community partners will have the skills, connections, and research agendas to apply for National Institutes of Health R-level research grants in these topical areas while also targeting effective interventions to advance health equity and environmental justice.

LOIs due by June 1, 2025

[Click Here to Apply](#)

Heather's Highlights: Each week we will highlight current funding opportunities, alternating between the six ISE Research Themes.

Research Theme 4: Clean Energy, Decarbonization, and Climate Action

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has a call for proposals for their Fire Science Innovations through Research and Education (FIRE) program

The Fire Science Innovations through Research and Education (FIRE) program invites innovative multidisciplinary and multisector investigations focused on convergent research and education activities in wildland fire. All areas of science, engineering, and education supported by the U.S. National Science Foundation are included in this program. FIRE supports research proposals and conference (network) proposals that focus on one or more of the following elements: Focus area 1: Next Generation Coupled Fire Models (FIRE-MODEL); Focus area 2: Enhancing Capacity for Fire Resilience in the Wildland-Urban Interface (FIRE-WUI); and Focus area 3: Fire Science Innovations through Research and Education (FIRE) Networks (FIRE-NET).

Application Due Date: June 12-20, 2025

Anticipated Funding Amount: Not Specified

Research Theme 5: Enhancing Equality, Equity, and Access to Basic Goods and Services

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) has an active funding opportunity open for Exploring Equitable Futures.

RWJF is taking bold leaps to transform health in our lifetime and pave the way to a future where health is no longer a privilege, but a right. They have three main goals: 1) economic inclusion for

family wellbeing; 2) equitable and accountable public health and healthcare systems; and 3) healthy and equitable community conditions. The purpose of this call for proposals is to support projects that seed new and unconventional ideas that could radically advance health equity for generations to come.

Application Due Date: October 15, 2025

Research Theme 6: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions to Support Thriving Economies

The National Science Foundation has upcoming due dates for full proposals for the Security and Preparedness (SAP) program

The Security and Preparedness (SAP) Program supports basic scientific research that advances knowledge and understanding of issues broadly related to global and national security – including conflict dispute resolution, international and comparative political economy, domestic political instability and conflict processes, and security implications of natural hazards and stressors.

Application Due Date: August 15, 2025

Funding Amount: not specified

Student Opportunities

Mid-South REACH Program

The Mid-South REACH (Research Evaluation and Commercialization Hub) program is a National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded program that extends across four states: Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Virginia. The primary goal of this grant program is to accelerate the real-world impact of biomedical and health related innovations through education, mentorship, and financial support for aspiring entrepreneurs. The Mid-South REACH program is not a traditional grant program. It is focused on product development and requires milestone-based project management in six-month increments, renewable up to four times.

Please see the attached Mid-South REACH Cycle 3 Request for Applications (RFA) and Pre-application Template, if you would like to start working on your pre-application draft now.

Pre-applications will be due May 9, 2025, by 5 pm ET.

[Click Here to Apply](#)

Next Generation Fellows

The UCAR Next Generation graduate Fellowship is a prestigious, multi-faceted opportunity to explore the interplay between the areas of Earth System Science research and its impact on society.

Fellows engage with, and learn from UCAR's experts while participating in dedicated professional development and leadership training opportunities.

Each Fellow receives a \$40,000 Fellowship over two years (\$10,000 twice per year); Fellowship Visits that entail up to 20 weeks of paid research trip to Boulder, Colorado or Washington, D.C. or other agreed upon location; funding to attend conferences, professional coaching; and the support of a like minded cohort.

The primary goals of this program are to facilitate engaged, motivated “Next Generation” students in exploring the intersections between science and society, and to support Fellows in becoming future leaders in the field of atmospheric and Earth System Sciences.

[Click Here to Apply](#)

The Institute for a Sustainable Earth (ISE) aims to connect members of the Mason community with others across the Mason community—and with other communities, policy-makers, businesses and organizations—so that, together, we can more effectively address the world’s pressing sustainability and resilience challenges.

The ISE Newsletter provides up-to-date information on conferences, funding opportunities, and research pertaining to environmental science and sustainability. The biweekly newsletter aims to facilitate information sharing among researchers, practitioners, and relevant local, national, and international organization.



ise.gmu.edu

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