

Acceleration Fund - Second Round Application Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is the Acceleration Fund?

The Acceleration Fund is a small innovation fund that is dedicated to supporting the scaling of Second Nature's climate action acceleration activities. Proposal applications for the funding are openly sourced during the application period.

If our school is not a Climate Leadership Network signatory or a University Climate Change Coalition (UC3) member can we still apply for this Fund?

Unfortunately, no. This Fund is specifically to help support the climate action efforts of colleges and universities that are either a signatory or a UC3 member. If you are interested in learning how to become either, please contact Steve Muzzy at: smuzzy@secondnature.org.

Who from the college or university can apply?

Any faculty or staff affiliated with an eligible university can apply for funding. Students may also submit applications, but they should include a sponsor or advisor who is a faculty or staff member.

When is the application period?

The application period is April 1, 2021 - April 30, 2021.

How much funding can we apply for?

You can apply for anywhere between \$5,000 to \$10,000; however, there is no guarantee that if you are awarded funding, that you will be awarded the full amount requested.

What types of projects are eligible?

The funding may be used for project implementation or to support climate action planning activities. All proposals must advance cross-sector (campus and external stakeholders) climate action. Priority will be placed on funding proposals that (1) foster long-term campus-community partnerships, (2) have the potential to scale beyond the grant term, and (3) place an explicit emphasis on climate justice/equity and engaging with communities of color.

How will my proposal be reviewed?

Proposals will be evaluated by a Review Committee of campus representatives and Second Nature staff. The criteria for review are:

- Involvement of key community stakeholders
- Incorporation of principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Emphasis on climate justice/equity and engaging with communities of color
- Potential for scaled impact
- Potential for development of long-term campus-community relationships
- Meaningful impact on reducing GHG emissions and/or building climate resilience
- Recognition of the urgency of the climate crisis

How many proposals will be awarded?

For this round of funding, between 5-10 proposals will be funded. Depending on the success of this second round, Second Nature hopes to be able to offer additional funding opportunities in the future.

Are indirect costs allowed in the budget?

Yes, indirect costs up to 10% may be included in the budget.

Can the proposal requesting funding be part of a larger project?

Yes, the Acceleration Fund can be used to support components of a larger project or initiative, however the proposal should make clear which outcomes can be directly related to Acceleration Fund support, and how the money from the Fund would be used.

Still have questions? Contact Alex Maxwell at: amaxwell@secondnature.org.