



Request for Participation

Climate Quest Competition 2014

Individuals and groups are sought to participate in *Climate Quest*, a competition to develop pragmatic and actionable solutions that help society mitigate or adapt to climate change. Climate change is an urgent challenge, and UW-Madison can lead the way in creating and implementing transformative and disruptive solutions. *Climate Quest* seeks proposed solutions that scale up so that a solution sustains broad impact on society, taking, social, political and financial capital into account. Technological solutions are of interest, but social innovations must also be addressed. Successful proposals will identify a critical issue or problem that is solvable but for one major obstacle, and clearly articulate the approach to overcoming the obstacle.

Climate Quest has three sequential phases: (i) *idea solicitation*, (ii) *solution development*, and (iii) *solution validation and prototype deployment*. The *idea solicitation* phase begins April 4 and extends through June 2014. Individuals or groups are requested to confirm their intention to participate in the competition and associated activities by **30 May 2014** (see www.climatequest.wisc.edu). Participants need to submit a description of their idea and the question they wish to address on the Climate Quest website. Submitters will be invited to participate, at no cost, in a *Solutions Workshop* hosted by the UW-Madison Office of Sustainability on 12 June 2014. At this workshop, individuals and groups will share and develop their proposed solutions in an environment facilitated to drive team formation and innovation using design-thinking principles. We expect that teams will coalesce during the workshop.

During the second phase of the competition, *solution development*, teams that coalesce during the solutions workshop (or subsequently) will work collaboratively over the summer to refine and shape a solution and submit a detailed concept paper (details to be provided at the solutions forum). Concept papers must be submitted by 25 August 2014 and then presented orally to a review panel comprised of thought leaders from industry, government, and NGOs. This panel will select a subset of teams submitting *concept papers* to develop detailed full proposals for the final phase: *solution validation and prototype deployment*. Planning grants to develop detailed full proposals for *solution validation and prototype deployment* are anticipated for the successful teams.

Full proposals will be submitted at the end of the fall semester and then presented orally to the review board in a *Shark Tank*-style format. The review panel will select one or more of the proposals for *solution validation and prototype deployment* in 2015-2016. Winning teams will be resourced to deploy their solution and collect the information necessary for validation. **We encourage teams to think creatively and to think big. The review board will be selecting high risk and high impact proposals. Budgets should be commensurate with the scope and expectations articulated in the proposal.**

www.climatequest.wisc.edu

UPDATED 9 May 2014



Climate Quest
PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS. BIG IMPACT.

First Step: Interested participants and groups must confirm their intention to participate in the competition and associated activities by **30 May 2014** (see www.climatequest.wisc.edu). Submitters will be provided with an invitation to attend the solutions forum on 12 June 2014.

Addendum:

Criteria for evaluation of concepts and proposals (evaluated starting August 26, 2014)

Concept papers will be evaluated according to the following criteria by a board of judges:

- Ability to have significant impact on climate change mitigation or adaptation, meaning the degree to which proposed solution can have or demonstrate improvements in environmental, social, and organizational conditions related to climate change.
- Ability to spread idea for increased impact, meaning the degree to which proposed solution can lead to wide spread adoption on a regional, national, or international level ultimately having society-wide impact.
- Ability for idea to use social innovations or policy development to advance their solution in addition to more conventional strategies, such as technological innovations. Ideas must demonstrate appeal to human stakeholders in ways that are novel, creative, and innovative.