

UChicago/Argonne/MBL Joint Initiative: Technologies and Materials for Sustainability

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The University of Chicago's Office of the Vice President for National Laboratories, Science Strategy, Innovation, and Global Initiatives recently convened a group of researchers from the University of Chicago, Argonne National Laboratory, and the Marine Biological Laboratory in a half-day workshop on technologies and materials for sustainability. The workshop followed a meeting in June, with the purpose of connecting researchers across the three institutions around sustainability. The workshop, and this call for proposals, are part of a joint initiative in Technologies and Materials for Sustainability. The purpose of the initiative is to facilitate the development of innovative new partnerships and to launch promising research at the intersection of technologies and materials for sustainability, involving researchers from three institutions.

UChicago, Argonne, and MBL are now pleased to announce a joint call for proposals. As part of the Joint Task Force Initiative, this call will fund up to five joint projects addressing topics such as environment fate of materials, AI/ML applied to sustainability, polymer circularity, carbon capture, biotechnology, green batteries, sensing technology and sustainability, resource recovery, critical material life cycle analysis, and solar technology. Joint proposals are welcome on any aspect related to these, or relevant topics.

Awards will be for a period of 12 months and are expected to be around \$50k per project with exceptions possible when justified. There will be the possibility of renewal for up to an additional year contingent on significant progress in year one. All projects must include at least one principal investigator from Argonne National Laboratory and at least one principal investigator from either the University of Chicago or the Marine Biological Laboratory. Strong preference will be given to projects with the potential to expand into a sustainability collaboration over time, and that speak to the research priorities of the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and/or the National Science Foundation to facilitate follow-on funding.

Timeline

Call Date: September 29, 2021

Application Deadline: October 31, 2021 Approximate Decision Date: November 30, 2021

Requirements

Proposals responding to this call should use the template on page 3 of this RFP and follow its instructions.

Process

Send any questions and all proposals via email to Erin Lane ([erinlane at uchicago dot edu](mailto:erinlane@uchicago.edu)).

Decision

The initiative leads, Stuart Rowan, Michael Wang, and Max Delferro, and additional reviewers as we required, will jointly review proposals and make final funding recommendations to UChicago and Argonne leadership. Up to five grants will be made.

Terms and Conditions

The terms of awards are as follows:

1. **Progress reporting:** A final project report and financial report must be submitted within 60 days of completion of the grant period. An application process for renewals will be announced in the fourth quarter of the grant period.
2. **Research publicity:** UChicago, Argonne, and the MBL expect to publicize any/all research results following the approval of PIs. Communications staff will work closely with researchers to disseminate research results, in line with UChicago, Argonne, DOE and MBL processes and requirements.
3. **Participate in joint activities:** Grantees may be requested to participate in joint activities when possible. Activities may include workshops, presentations, conferences, and other relevant activities.
4. **Credit University of Chicago Joint Task Force Initiative:** Any presentations and publications intended for the public domain, including policy briefs, press releases, blogs, papers, and newsletters that emerge from projects should credit the UChicago Joint Task Force Initiative. When appropriate, the official logos of UChicago, ANL, and MBL should also be included, subject to each institution's prior approval.
5. **Funding usage:** Funds may not be used to directly support PI salary. They may be used to cover salary support for project personnel such as, but not limited to, post-doctoral scholars, research assistants, and/or graduate students, in addition to data, computing time, and other relevant project costs.

**UChicago/Argonne/MBL Joint Initiative:
Technology and Materials for Sustainability**

Project Title:

Lead Investigators (UC/ANL/MBL)

Project Abstract (<500 words)

Proposed Budget (expected average amount of funding \$50K but higher can be requested for special projects)

e.g.

graduate student (x months): \$y

materials and supplies: \$z

etc.

Total requested: \$XX

Brief summary of the role of each institution/lab in the project: (< 80 words per lab)

Research proposal (not to exceed 2 page (12 pt font, 1" margins) including charts, tables, and references).

CVs of investigators (not included in the page limit)

Evaluation criteria:

- Fit to Technologies and Materials for Sustainability
- Innovation of the idea
- Role of all participating institutions to achieve the proposed project
- Opportunity for follow-on external funding and sustained collaborative research program