

Policy Initiative (Contact: Lois Wright Morton)
--

Policy Initiative Summer 2010 RFP

Focus Areas

Please indicate which focus area(s) your pre-proposal primarily addresses.

- Research to identify policies that create or reduce barriers to sustainability for various sizes and types of farm operations, particularly for those groups that may be underserved at present.
- Research on effectiveness of existing land use policies or policies that would help local and regional governments to encourage enhanced water quality and/or flood mitigation practices.
- Research on local or regional policy that encourages or enhances energy conservation and/or use of renewable energy in agricultural food, feed and fiber systems.
- Research that encourages more effective participation by local or state government and/or farmers in federal farm programs (i.e., carbon credits, market subsidies, etc.)

Please note: The Center does not take positions on or advocate for specific legislation. It is our expectation that work in this area will help inform policy makers and stimulate creative thinking about potential policies and the impacts and consequences of those policies.

End-of-project outcomes:

- Increase in number of immediately available incentives offered to help beginning or transitioning farmers get started in agriculture in Iowa
- More farmers, community leaders and policy makers know about and understand the economic impacts of alternative production systems
- More Iowa farmers are accessing and using long-term programs to implement conservation practices developed by conservation agencies and adopted by farmers and landowners
- Greater awareness that policies can help growth of local and regional food commerce in Iowa at the local and state levels

Long-term outcomes:

- Increase in number of policies or practices adopted at local and state levels based on research by the Leopold Center or other sustainable agriculture groups
- Adoption rates of proven alternative practices have increased via creative use of education or incentives
- Knowledge and use of policies that help reduce obstacles to growth of local and regional food commerce have increased in Iowa at the local and state levels

Important considerations:

- Please articulate how your proposed work will address one or more of the objectives listed in this RFP.
- Suggested budget request terms are one to two years. Please contact the initiative leader if you are considering something different.
- Emphasis will be placed on pre-proposals with multiple benefits and clearly articulated and measurable outcomes; meaning, there should be at least one, and hopefully more than one, qualitative or quantitative impact that will arise from your project work.

Questions about your Policy pre-proposal?

Contact: Lois Wright Morton, Director and Policy Initiative Leader

Phone: 515-294-3711

E-mail: lwmorton@iastate.edu, subject line: LCSA 2010 RFP - Policy



**LEOPOLD CENTER
FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE**

209 CURTISS HALL
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
AMES, IOWA 50011-1050

LEOPOLD CENTER

(515) 294-3711 • FAX: (515) 294-9696 • E-MAIL: leocenter@iastate.edu

Request for pre-proposals (RFP) – Summer 2010

The Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture was established by the Iowa Legislature as part of the Iowa Groundwater Protection Act of 1987. Its legislatively mandated *mission* is to identify and reduce negative environmental and socio-economic impacts of agricultural practices, contribute to the development of profitable farming systems that conserve natural resources, and cooperate with Iowa State University Extension to inform the public of new findings.

The Center's work is organized in three initiative areas—*ecology, marketing and food systems, and policy*—each aimed at enhancing the condition and viability of Iowa's natural resources in varying, yet integrated ways. Each initiative has a separate section in this RFP.

Note: Special project call planned for ~~fall-2010~~ Spring 2011

The Leopold Center believes that a focus on stronger and more diverse local and regional collaborations will lead to increased adoption of sustainable practices, new market opportunities, and added incentives for farmers and entrepreneurs. The Center is considering an investment in local and/or regional projects that will create the conditions necessary for increased dialogue and collaboration among diverse farming and community partners. Look for a special call for pre-proposals on this topic **next spring 2011**.

Important information about the RFP process

Who may submit a pre-proposal? Investigators representing any *Iowa* nonprofit organization/agency and/or educational institution (such as soil and water conservation districts, schools and colleges, and regional development groups). The Center strongly encourages the involvement and collaboration of farmers, landowners, and farm-based businesses in the pre-proposal process.

What to include in your pre-proposal? Please refer to each initiative's RFP section to find the best fit for your pre-proposal, and follow these directions.

- Prepare a **two- or three-page concept paper** containing the following group of **required** elements.

- Separate **cover page** with project title, complete contact information for the principal investigator including mailing address, phone number and email address, dollar request per year, and the initiative area—ecology, marketing and food systems, or policy—that best fits your pre-proposal. Do not count the cover page as part of your page total.
- **Focus areas**—How does your pre-proposal fit within one or more focus areas for one of the initiatives?
- **Objectives**—What do you want to achieve? Must be well defined and measurable.
- **Strategies**—What activities will help you achieve project objectives? Describe by objective.
- **Outcomes**—What will be the outcomes, both end-of-project and long-term, if you achieve your objectives?
- **Outreach**—How (and with whom) will you share project results?
- **Budget** estimate and brief financial explanation by calendar year, starting February 15, 2011. Funding may be for multiple years, depending on initiative.
 - Estimate total expenses and itemize by: Salary and Benefits; Equipment/Supplies/Materials; Travel; Subcontracts/Consultants; and Other.
 - Which of the following best describes your estimated budget? Does this change per year of your request?
 - _ LCSA will provide all funding.
 - _ LCSA funds are a start, but work is contingent on other funds to meet all desired outcomes.
 - _ LCSA funds are filling a gap in ongoing work sponsored by other funding.
 - _ LCSA funds will support completing part of the work even if funds from other sources are not received.

(Note: Letters of support are not a consideration at the pre-proposal stage.)

How to submit? An electronic copy (sent via e-mail or delivered on a CD) or one hard copy must be received by **5:00 p.m., Monday, August 16, 2010**. No faxes, please. The electronic version should be a .doc or .txt file or contained within the body of the e-mail. Be sure to combine all elements of your pre-proposal into **one** document. Send your copy to the appropriate contact person listed in this RFP.

What happens after submission? An invitation to submit a full proposal will be based upon review of all pre-proposals by the Leopold Center Advisory Board and staff. Pre-proposals will be screened for adherence to requirements found in this RFP as well as economic, environmental, and community/social sustainability. The Center will notify all applicants in late September 2010 as to whether they will be invited to submit a full proposal. Full proposals will be due November 8, and funding decisions made by late January 2011.

Other pre-proposal ideas?

Other innovative research or education ideas not fitting specific focus areas will be considered as part of the competitive grant process. Research and/or demonstration projects in areas critical to the Center's legislative mission are highly desirable. It is highly recommended, however, that you contact the appropriate initiative program leader *prior* to submitting the pre-proposal to discuss any ideas that are outside the focus area topics in this RFP.