



Gund Institute for Environment

Previous Awards

Gund Impact Awards

Learn about [Impact Awards](#).

2026. [Read more](#).

Mads Almassalkhi, Bindu Panikkar, Jayashree Rajaram Yadav, and Kathryn Hinkleman, "Design and Planning of Multi-Energy System to Support Transitions in Arctic Communities"

Gund Catalyst Awards

Learn about [Catalyst Awards](#).

2025. [Read more](#).

- Matthew Scarborough and Heather Darby, "Understanding and addressing the impacts of flooding on greenhouse gas emissions, nutrient loss, and microbial community dynamics in agricultural soils"
- Kelsey Gleason and Gillian Galford, "Land Use Change and Early Childhood Health Outcomes: A Brazil Case Study"

2024. [Read more](#).

- Rachelle Gould and Trisha Shrum, "'Starting with behavior' to understand links between pro-environmental behavior, values, and identity"

2023. [Read more](#).

- Carol Adair and Raju Badireddy, "Low-cost and high frequency quantification of watershed nutrient loss in warming winters"
- Julia Perdrial and Leon Walls, "Intersections between the climate crises, environmental racism, and STEM education: co-creating culturally relevant teacher education in Jackson, MS"

2022. [Read more.](#)

- Ernesto Mendez and Joshua Faulkner, “Towards a regional vision for agroecological soil management in the coffee landscapes of Mesoamerica: Weaving scales”
- Bindu Panikkar and Mads Almassalkhi, “Integrated community microgrids transitions and energy sovereignty in remote communities in Alaska”

2021. [Read more.](#)

- Jane Kolodinsky and Jeff Buzas, “Hemp as a contributor to Rural Resilience and Sustainability”
- Eric Roy and Leon Walls, “Ecological Design and K-12 Students of Color: An Inquiry-Based Science Approach”
- Dan Tobin and Emily Belarmino, “Crop Diversity and Food and Nutrition Security Outcomes across Spatial Scales in Sub-Saharan Africa”

2020. [Read more.](#)

- Aimee Classen, Carol Adair, and Raju Badireddy, “Low cost & high frequency quantification of soil nutrients in ecosystems under global change”
- Arne Bomblied and Meredith Niles, “Harnessing and augmenting the capacity of forests to combat malaria and promote human well-being in Madagascar”
- Gillian Galford and Joshua Faulkner, “Vermont Climate Assessment 2020”
- Rachelle Gould and Nicolas Cheney, “Using artificial intelligence to analyze the relationship between ecosystems and human well-being”

2019. [Read more.](#)

- Eric Bishop-von Wettberg and Travis Reynolds, “Seed System Diversity and Resilience in New Vermont Farming Communities”
- Yolanda Chen and Dan Tobin, Identifying hotspots for agrobiodiversity in Mexico, a major center of crop origin”
- Chris Danforth and Jarlath O’Neil Dunne, “Trees & Happiness: Using Social Media to Infer the Impact of Nature on Well-Being”
- Jon Erickson and Jed Murdoch, “Sustainable cashmere – developing an adaptive management framework for cashmere production to meet ecological, economic, and cultural objectives in the rapidly changing landscape of Central Asia”
- Stephanie Hurley, “The Role of Design in Promoting Cultural Ecosystem Services and Long-term Sustainability in Urban Agroecological Systems”

2018. [Read more.](#)

- Mark Budolfson, “Improving Global Climate and Sustainability Models”
- Heather Darby and Gillian Galford, “Developing Milkweed as Commercial Crop to Enhance Farm Viability and Biological Diversity”
- Joshua Farley and Jon Erickson, “A Research Agenda for Ecological Economics”

- Britt Holmen and Cecilia Danks, “The Biogas Collaborative Working Group (BCWG) – Real-time, Spatially-Resolved Monitoring of Greenhouse Gas Processes for Multiple Users”
- Adriak Ivakhiv and Luis Vivanco, “ArtScience, Eco-Humanities, and the Future of Engaged Research: Stimulating Creative, Transdisciplinary Collaboration at UVM and Beyond”
- Meredith Niles and Eric Roy, “Identifying nitrogen hotspots in the United States to improve nitrogen management through farmer incentive programs”
- Nathan Sanders and Beverley Wemple, “Catalyzing research, scholarship, and teaching in montane systems”

Postdoctoral and PhD Research Fellowships

Gund [PhD](#) and [Postdoctoral](#) Fellowships are made possible by support from the Gund Family, the Patrick and Marcelle Leahy Scholars Initiative, the Roger and Victoria Sant Trust, the Medina Fund, the Barrett Family, and research partnerships with Ben & Jerry’s, Johnson & Johnson, Philo Ridge Farm, and USDA Agricultural Research Service.

PhD and Postdoc Fellowship Recipients:

2026-2027 Start

- Henry DeLuca, PhD, RSENr
- Ali Lofti, PhD, RSENr
- Daniel Muhwezi, PhD, CALS
- Ingrid Thyr, PhD, RSENr
- Emma Vagelos, PhD, RSENr

2025-2026 Start

- Julia Esposito, PhD, Food Systems
- Nishant Tiku, PhD, RSENr

2024-2025 Start

- Sevda Alvirdizadeh, PhD, Food Systems
- Abraham Awolich, PhD, CALS
- Tabea Hoffmann, Postdoctoral fellow, RSENr
- Robert Jones, PhD, CEMS
- Carina Manitus, PhD, CALS

2023-2024 Start. [Read more.](#)

- Megan Duffy, Postdoctoral fellow, RSENr
- Jayashree Rajaram Yadav, Postdoctoral fellow, CEMS
- Humberto Romero Uribe, Postdoctoral fellow, RSENr
- Luke Briccetti, PhD, RSENr
- Harrison Myers, PhD, Barrett Fellow, CEMS
- Joy Onuh, PhD, Barrett Fellow, CEMS
- Ryan van der Heijden, PhD, Barrett Fellow, CEMS

2022-2023 Start. [Read more.](#)

- Uyoyoghene Adeyemo, PhD, RSEN
- Vitoria Aparecida Cardoso, PhD, CALS
- Lizah Makombore, PhD, Leadership for the Ecozoic, CALS
- Lara de Macedo Monteiro, PhD, RSEN
- Mandy Nix, PhD, RSEN
- L'Dawn Olsen, PhD, RSEN
- Leslie Spencer, PhD, Food Systems

2021-2022 Start. [Read more.](#)

- Rubaina Anjum, PhD, CALS
- Laura Bloomfield, Postdoctoral fellow, CEMS
- Harold Eyster, Postdoctoral fellow, CALS
- Mayra Gonzales-Rodriguez, Postdoctoral fellow, RSEN
- Mario Machado, Postdoctoral fellow, CALS
- Kate Porterfield, PhD, Barrett Fellow, CEMS
- Shashank Poudel, PhD, CALS
- Krizzia Soto-Villanueva, PhD, Food Systems
- Bryony Sands, Postdoctoral fellow, CALS
- Shaurya Swami, PhD, Barrett Fellow, CEMS

2020-2021 Start. [Read more.](#)

- Bella Bennett, PhD, RSEN
- Amaya Carrasco, PhD, Food Systems
- Tafesse Estifanos, Postdoctoral fellow, RSEN
- Carlos Andres Gallegos Riofrio, Postdoctoral fellow, RSEN
- Alissa White, Postdoctoral fellow, CALS

2019-2020 Start. [Read more.](#)

- Aura Alonzo Rodriguez, PhD, RSEN
- Matt Burke, Postdoctoral fellow, RSEN
- Mahalia Clark, PhD, RSEN
- Drew Christ, Postdoctoral fellow, CAS
- Luz de Wit, Postdoctoral fellow, RSEN
- Alejandra Guzman Luna, Postdoctoral fellow, CALS
- Carolyn Hricko, PhD, Food Systems
- Ali Javed, PhD, Barrett Fellow, CEMS
- Jeremy Matt, PhD, Barrett Fellow, CEMS

2018-2019 Start

- Rebecca Diehl, Postdoctoral fellow, CAS
- Tim Treuer, Postdoctoral fellow, CEMS

- Chris Halsted, PhD, RSENr
- Meg Egler, PhD, Leadership for the Ecozoic, RSENr
- Katie Horner, PhD, Leadership for the Ecozoic, CALS
- Jolyon Larson, PhD, Leadership for the Ecozoic, RSENr
- Maya Moore, PhD, Leadership for the Ecozoic, Food Systems

2017-2018 Start

- Christine Carmichael, Postdoctoral fellow, RSENr
- Eva Kinnebrew, PhD, RSENr
- Xin Jing, Postdoctoral fellow, RSENr
- Adrian Wiegman, PhD, RSENr

Other Awards

Apis Fund Awards

The Gund Institute Apis Fund supports research and conservation of vital bee pollinators. Learn more about the [Apis Fund](#).

2024.

- UVM Office of Sustainability, “Votey and Lafayette Pollinator Gardens”
- Samantha Alger, Spencer Hardy, Dana Williams, Laura Johnson, “Vermont Pollinator Working Group”

2023. [Read more.](#)

- Samantha Alger, Spencer Hardy, and Laura Johnson, “Vermont Pollinator Working Group”

2021. [Read more.](#)

- Janica Anderzén, “Participatory research to support the viability of beekeeping and improve pollinator health in the buffer zone of El Triunfo Biosphere Reserve in Southern Mexico”
- Natalia Aristizábal, “Bee Pollination Services and Coffee Quality”
- Spencer Hardy, “Web Atlas of Vermont Bees”
- Caitlin Williams, “Bittersweet Pollinator Garden”

2020. [Read more.](#)

- Kristian Brevik, “Ghosts of Extinction Yet to Come - Vermont Pollinators”
- Matthew Burke, “Solar Energy within Vermont’s Working Landscape”
- Guanacaste Dry Forest Conservation Fund, “You don't know what you've got 'til it's gone: Gaining a better understanding of Neotropical Pollinators across an elevation gradient in Northwestern Costa Rica” (*Awarded but cancelled before implementation due to COVID-19.*)

Joint Catalyst Awards

In partnership with the Northern New England Clinical and Translational Research Network (NNE-CTR) these two-year awards fund research at the intersection of rural health and the natural environment.

2024

- Christine Vatovec, Meagan Stabler, and Leslie Gordon, “Assessing the State of Climate-Informed Primary Care in Northern New England.” [Read more.](#)

2020

- Meredith Niles, Rachel Schattman, and Jennifer Laurent, “Protective effects and risk factors for food security and health outcomes through natural resource reliance before and since COVID-19 in rural New England.” [Read more.](#)

Vermont Flood Event Rapid-Response Grants – 2023

In partnership with the Office of Research, six awards were given to evaluate and recover from 2023’s catastrophic flooding as well as plan for future climate events. [Read more.](#)

- Paige Brochu and Jarlath O’Neil Dunne, “Identifying the risk of drinking water contamination using geospatial analyses due to the July 2023 flood to prepare for future events.”
- Chris Callahan and Vernon Grubinger, “Research enhancing productive land activities in the near term. “
- Sarah Grajdura and Dana Rowangould, “Rural mobility, housing, and infrastructure: Flood resilience and equitable recovery in Vermont.”
- Kelly Hamshaw and Daniel Baker, “Urgent needs in Vermont manufactured housing communities impacted by July 2023 flooding.”
- Eric Roy, “Water storage, sediment deposition, and phosphorus capture by restored riparian wetlands during the historic 2023 Vermont flood.”
- Kristen Underwood and Rebecca Diehl, “Evaluating the channel and floodplain impacts from sudden and uncontrolled removal of the Clark Sawmill Dam during July 2023 flooding on the Winooski river in Lower Cabot.”

Equity and Justice Grants – 2022

In partnership with UVM’s Office of the Provost, three Equity & Justice research grants were awarded for projects focused on the advancement of diversity, equity, and inclusion dimensions of sustainability and environment. [Read more.](#)

- Bella Bennett and Krizza Soto-Villanueva, “Interdisciplinary Environmental Research Centering Underrepresented Undergraduates”
- Ariana Chiapella and Kelsey Gleason, “Evaluating drivers of contaminant exposure risk among indigenous, immigrant, and recreational angling groups in the Lake Champlain basin”
- Katie Horner, “Exploring the Potential of Alternative Land Access Models to Foster Equity and Sustainability in U.S. Agriculture”

Gund COVID-19 Rapid Research Fund – 2020

Six seed grants were awarded to support interdisciplinary research on the socio-environmental dimensions of the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read more.](#)

- Pablo Bose, “Environment, refugees and risk: mapping environmental vulnerabilities, epidemic outbreaks and camps”
- Rachelle Gould, “Nature, Values, and Human Well-being During and After COVID-19 Restrictions”
- Chris Koliba, “COVID-19 Outbreak Behavior Experimental Simulation Game and Survey: Accounting for the Heterogeneity of Human Behavior to Prevent Infection Spread Due to Pro-Environmental Attitudes and Behaviors”
- Meredith Niles, “The food system and public health implications of coronavirus: Immediate impacts and long-term opportunities for resilience”
- Bindu Panikkar, “COVID-19 Crisis, State Policies, Executive Orders, and Socio-Environmental Health Disparities”
- Easton White, “Effects of a global human pandemic on fisheries”