Ian A. Worley Awards
for
Creative and Independent Thinking in Environmental Studies

These awards foster and celebrate creative, integrative, imaginative, and innovative approaches in addressing current and future environmental challenges.

Who can apply? – Any imaginative undergraduate Environmental Studies major or minor, undergraduates enrolled in a 200-level ENVS course, and UVM faculty members who regularly teach Environmental Studies courses.

What projects can I propose? – You may propose any creative or innovative project, whether in art, education, journalism, activism, community partnership, or academic research, etc., that addresses an environmental issue. We invite you to propose projects with new and even untested paths of mind and thought that address critical responses to persisting environmental ills or the sudden appearance of unforeseen threats, and/or the enhancement of flourishing environments and Earth’s well-being. Check out the projects of previous winners, and use these themes as guiding principles:

- New paths of mind and thought
- A broadly interdisciplinary approach
- Creative, integrative, imaginative, and innovative approaches
- The potential to be a catalyst for change

How do I apply? – Use the attached guidelines and submit your application to:

  Rory Shamlian
  Program Assistant
  Bittersweet House
  153 South Prospect Street
  Burlington, VT 05401

☐ When can I apply? – Applications are due: November 1

How much money can I request? – Between $500 (minimum) and $2500 (maximum).

What can I spend the money on? – Supplies, travel, conferences, events, small equipment, but not computers, salaries, or wages (more details in Award Guidelines).

Who selects the awardees? – Proposals will be evaluated by a selection committee, to be appointed and chaired by the Director of the Environmental Program.

Is there a final report? – A final written report of work accomplished will be submitted to the Environmental Program, sent to the donor, and archived on the Program’s website (details in Award Guidelines section).

If I receive an award will I get to meet with other awardees? – Yes, at least once a year there will be a gathering for the community of all awardees, past and present, to share and celebrate their ideas, findings and experiences.

When will awards be announced? – December 1
Award Application

[A] The application should be prepared and saved as a Word document (in doc or docx format) and submitted in two forms:

(1) One paper print copy to:
   Rory Shamlian
   Program Assistant
   Environmental Program
   Bittersweet House
   153 S. Prospect Street
   Burlington, VT 05401

(2) One electronic word document attachment to Rory Shamlian: Rory.Shamlian@uvm.edu

[B] The application should include these elements:

1) **Cover sheet** that indicates: a) name of project, b) name of proposer, c) contact information, d) faculty sponsor, if you are a student, e) proposed budget total, f) any additional funding support, g) project timeline.

2) A **project description** with details on the proposed project or idea, not more than 2 single--spaced pages in 11 pt font. The description should explain how the idea meets the award criteria, why the applicant is prepared and qualified to carry out the project, expected timeline and outcomes. You should include enough detail so the project is clear and understandable to the ENVS award review committee.

3) A **budget description** that includes an overview paragraph with budget rationale, and a detailed budget, line by line, of all equipment, items, travel, etc. necessary to complete the project. Proposed award budgets must be between $500-2,500 total. If additional funds are necessary to complete the work, explain how you will obtain them.

4) An **equipment and necessary facilities description**, if appropriate. State how these items will be obtained, and if costs are involved how those costs will be paid.

4) A **letter of support** from faculty sponsor (if a student proposal) indicating strengths of the idea and willingness to serve as sponsor, not more than 2 paragraphs long.

5) A **resume** of the proposer not more than 2 pages long.

6) **Additional supporting and explanatory documentation** is welcome, if concise. Check with the Program Director for appropriateness.

**Note:** If your project or creative activity involves human or animal subjects, we will need documentation for IRB clearance.

For questions on the application process, allowable expenses, or review process, please contact Nate Sanders, Interim Director of the UVM Environmental Program, Nathan.sanders@uvm.edu.
Award Guidelines

**Dates**
- October 1: Call for proposals
- November 1: Proposals due (both hard copy and e-copy)
- December 1: Awards announced; 75% of funds available for award budgets (additional 25% given upon project completion)
- September 1: Final report due

**Selection Process**
Proposals will be evaluated by a selection committee, chaired and appointed by the Director of the Environmental Program. Ian A. Worley is invited to serve as a member of the selection committee. Proposals will be evaluated based on the quality of the proposed idea, the value of the project for the student, how well the proposed project meets the award criteria, and the overall quality of the application. The committee will also consider whether the proposer has made clear his/her qualifications to carry out the project, and whether the project can be successfully completed within the proposed budget and timeline.

**Final Report**
A brief final report (400-500 words) on the outcomes of the proposed research must be submitted as a Word doc to the Director according to the deadlines above. This should be a reflective report outlining, with succinct depth, your experience, how the awards funding specifically aided your process, major findings and/or key take-aways. We also request at least one high-quality photo (and more are helpful) of the proposer and/or project. Final reports will be archived on the Environmental Program website as examples to inspire future awards.

**Award Amounts and Expense Limits**
Awards are capped with a $500 minimum and $2500 maximum. The total annual dollars available to be awarded is $10,000. If the proposed research entails expenses and/or equipment that cannot be acquired within the $2,500 limit, the proposer must specify the source of the other funds/equipment in order that the project be deemed fundable. The award may not be used for salary or wages.

Award funds may be used for:
- Books
- Materials
- Computer software
- Small scale equipment (which will be retained as property of the Program once the project ends)
- Travel
- Conference fees and lodging
- Event preparation

Award funds may NOT be used for:
- Computers
- Salary or wages

Awardees must follow UVM’s Policies and Procedures for Travel and should contact the General Accounting Office at 656-1477 (general.accounting@uvm.edu) for more information prior to making any travel plans.

All operating expenses must be used to support the specific project funded. Monies cannot be applied to or interchanged with other (departmental) expenses. Operating funds cannot be accumulated or rolled-over in anticipation of multiple-year funding. Awardees should retain receipts for reimbursement where expenses are not assignable to purcard charge accounts.
Background for this Award

The intention behind this fund is to recognize students and faculty whose inspired, novel and creative ideas have led them to seek innovative paths in pursuing environmental goals. To encourage such independent thinking and creativity, this fund seeks to award those students and faculty members for their proposed or ongoing creative pursuits in addressing environmental topics. The Fund may also be used to support opportunities for interaction between awardees to foster a learning community of creativity. Establishment of the Fund was inspired by the empowering teaching of Ian A. Worley, former Professor of Botany and Environmental Studies in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and Director of the University’s Environmental Program. Professor Worley’s integrative and creative approach to problem solving and scientific inquiry was inspiring and impactful to the Founding Donor, Gary Simpson, who initiated this award in the spirit of fostering and celebrating creative, integrative, imaginative and innovative approaches in dealing with the environmental challenges that face us.