

Clean Energy Fund Recommendations | Spring 2017

Executive Summary

After a short hiatus and reorganization, the Clean Energy Fund (CEF) was made available to the University community again in March 2017. The fund is now managed out of the University Controller's Office. The Socially Responsible Investing Advisory Council (SRI Advisory Council), comprised of representatives from across the University, makes recommendations to the Vice President for Finance following proposal submissions and presentations at a Clean Energy Fund Forum each semester.

At the spring 2017 Clean Energy Fund Forum, the members of the SRI Advisory Council saw four presentations. Two presentations were vetted by the Infrastructure Committee (see the [Organizational Chart](#) for more details) and two proposals came directly from community members under the 'Academics and Co-curricular Education' heading. This document also includes details on the current project funding for 'Innovative Research' by the Graduate College and Honors College.

The SRI Advisory Council used two key methods for evaluating proposals. Discussions in meetings centered on metrics developed by the SRI Advisory Council (see Appendix A for rubric) including alignment with CEF goals, potential for impact and the quality of overall proposal. The SRI Advisory Council also solicited input from attendees at the CEF Forum via written comments and received 44 written comments on the proposals.

The SRI Advisory Council formally recommends full or partial funding for three of the four proposals brought forth at the CEF Forum. Full recommendations follow.

Proposal Recommendations

Headwaters Magazine – Academics and Co-curricular

Name of presenter: Dan Kopin

Proposal summary: *Headwaters* is the University's first environmental student-run publication. *Headwaters* includes 30 core student members serving on its staff from across the University's schools and majors and covers a range of environmental issues. This magazine has been very successful in its first year, securing funding from the Student Government Association, earning an award from the Environmental Studies Department and fundraising through other avenues, like advertising. *Headwaters* made four specific funding requests.

Recommendation: The Council felt strongly that *Headwaters* magazine is an excellent addition to the learning community at the University. They also saw a good opportunity to bring attention to clean energy issues and the Clean Energy Fund. However, the Council members felt the request was too high. The Council requested more details on the New England Clean Energy Campus Journalism Competition and received a sufficient response that answered most remaining questions. **The recommendation is to partially fund this proposal at \$2,000.** The SRI Advisory Council would also like to request the a representative or two from the group sit on the judging panel for the journalism competition to ensure alignment with CEF goals and that the CEF be acknowledged for supporting the event.

Energy Action Seminar – Academics and Co-curricular

Name of presenter: Richard Watts

Proposal summary: The Energy Action Seminar has been funded for three years by the CEF and has been, by all accounts, a very successful program. Richard Watts again requested funding for this course to bring in a total of 14 speakers on renewable energy for the academic year 2017-2018.

Recommendation: The Council was able to come to a relatively quick and unanimous decision that this seminar is an excellent use of funds and has reached hundreds of students, broadening the impact of clean energy co-curricular education on campus. **Total awarded: \$23,700.**