

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS – FUturist

Innovating Climate Protection and Sustainability with Your Ideas

Application deadline: Sunday, December 17, 2023

The Idea & Innovation Management at Freie Universität Berlin is guided by the seven objectives of the climate emergency declaration. It invests in new targeted solutions and approaches to specifically promote sustainability and climate protection at our university. With this in mind, we are inviting all university members to submit innovative ideas related to sustainability to us by December 17, 2023.

I. Objective of the Call for Applications

Under the banner of “FUturist,” we want to promote and fund ideas that will transform sustainability at Freie Universität Berlin in various areas.

One focus of this year’s call is to strengthen engagement, visibility, collaboration, and transfer within Freie Universität.

This year, four applications can be selected that show how teaching or research:

- strengthen sustainability-oriented engagement;
- or improve visibility and communication about sustainably development;
- or show local to international cooperation with regard to sustainable development;
- or demonstrate sustainability transfer.

In addition, a prize will be awarded for ideas that strengthen sustainability and climate protection-related campus activities in their own individual areas of responsibility, such as IT, disposal, energy, procurement or mobility, to get one step closer to reaching the goals of the climate emergency declaration.

II. Target Groups, Funding Criteria, and Application Documents

This call for applications is open to all students and employees of Freie Universität Berlin. Funding can be allocated to individual applicants as well as teams, whereby one person serves as the primary applicant and point of contact for the project. Only one idea can be submitted per person. The project ideas can be carried out in collaboration with other departments, divisions, and institutions – this has proved to be helpful so far.

Only ideas that have not yet been initiated in another project will be allowed to receive funding within the scope of the competition. You are, however, permitted to submit ideas that build on the results of ongoing activities. Only expenses that are actually necessary to implement the idea will be eligible for funding.

In total, five ideas can be funded with up to 25.000€. Fundings for each project are endowed with 5000€, with four spots used for teaching/research and an additional spot for sustainability and climate protection-related campus activities.

The funding is solely designated for the specific purposes of the project.

Applications and all supporting documents must be submitted electronically via email as a single PDF file by the end of the day on December 17, 2023. Please use this file as a [template](#).

Please provide the following details on the application (max. 5 pages including budget):

- 1) General information on all members of a project, including proof of FU membership Brief description of the idea/project
- 2) Brief description of the idea/project and its intended effect
- 3) Approach/method
- 4) General project schedule
- 5) General budget with a short description of the budgetary items
- 6) Risk assessment

In addition:

- 7) Informal declaration of consent to the publishing of the results
- 8) Declaration that the rights of third parties have not been infringed

Please note: Only full applications will be considered in the selection process.

The applicants will be notified of the winners on February 1, 2024. The funded projects will be publicly announced.

An interdisciplinary advisory council with expertise in sustainability and innovation in teaching, research, and management at Freie Universität will be appointed to select the winning ideas. The assessment criteria will be primarily oriented toward the innovative potential of the project and the objectives of the climate emergency declaration. Applicants will not be entitled to take legal action to contest the decisions of the advisory council.

All ideas that receive funding, descriptions of the ideas, the project participants, and the results will be made open to the public. The ideas and the current state of progress will be presented at an awards ceremony in summer 2024. The funding period runs from February 1, 2024 to the ending of 2024.

III. Contact and Further Information

You can find further details on this call for applications in the FAQ, which are available on the website of the Unit for Sustainability and Energy Management.

Sabine Heckmann, Project Coordinator for Idea & Innovation Management within the Sustainability & Energy Unit, will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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We are very much looking forward to hearing your suggestions for how to improve climate protection and sustainability at Freie Universität Berlin – good luck!