

CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR RESEARCH GRANTS

The Alberta Land Institute announces a Call for Proposals for its research grants competition in two research categories. The deadline for receipt of applications is **August 15, 2017**. We expect that successful applicants will be notified by **September 29, 2017**

About Alberta Land Institute (ALI)

The Alberta Land Institute was established at the University of Alberta in 2012 to connect research and policy for improved land use planning and land management in the province. ALI supports multidisciplinary research to develop, evaluate and promote innovative land-use policies, including those that explore a variety of policy, regulatory and market instruments that will consider and evaluate environmental, social, and economic outcomes. ALI works with stakeholders to identify specific research gaps related to a land use planning issue or policy. ALI is focusing on four key policy areas: agriculture, municipal development, water, and governance. Previous research projects sponsored by ALI can be found online at <http://www.albertalandinstitute.ca/research/research-projects>

Selection Process

Applications will be pre-screened by ALI staff and reviewed by a Research Advisory Committee (RAC). Upon the recommendations of the RAC, the Research Director and Director of ALI will make the final decision on the awards.

Requirements

Applicants must submit a completed application form along with a personal data form from a tri-council agency for themselves and for each Co-Investigator. Application forms and guidelines can be downloaded from the following website:

<http://www.albertalandinstitute.ca/research/callforproposals>

Please review the guidelines carefully before completing the application form. Please submit one PDF file containing all required information and documentation on or before the deadline to:

<http://www.albertalandinstitute.ca/research/callforproposals>

The following must be submitted within two months of project completion (i.e., by December 30, 2018 for one year projects):

1. A Final Report describing the research findings, methodology and conclusions as well as – and in a substantive manner – the policy issue that the research addresses and the implications of the report for policy and/or practice. For some projects specific synthesis reports will be required as outlined in the description of research areas.
2. A short (2–4 pages), non-technical summary of the Final Report.

The above documents will be posted on the ALI website.

Subsequent applications will only be considered if satisfactory final or interim progress reports of all previous and existing ALI grants have been fulfilled prior to the new application.

Any published work that is derivative of the research supported by the grant must acknowledge the financial support received from the ALI. ALI must be provided with a copy of any publications.



Contact

All inquiries can be addressed to: albertalandinstitute@ualberta.ca. Please clearly indicate the nature of your email in the subject line.

Additional information about the ALI and the Call for Proposals is available at:
<http://www.albertalandinstitute.ca/research/callforproposals>

Please refer to the attached Grant Guidelines and Application for further information on the application process.

RESEARCH AREAS – SPRING 2017 - CALL FOR PROPOSALS

1) Additionality and economic incentives to sustainable agriculture in Alberta

Background

Incentivizing desirable practices – that is, rewarding private actions that generate ecosystem goods and services and other public goods, while penalizing private actions that produce negative externalities – is a critical component in sustainable policy (Defries & Nagendra, 2017). Financial incentives to landowners, both positive and negative, can be cost-effective mechanisms for achieving environmental outcomes (Pannell, 2008).

A key feature of many compensation or credit schemes is that payments to landowners are made only for “additional” benefits, and that no payments are due for actions or practices which would have been carried out even in the absence of the scheme (Horowitz & Just, 2013). The rationale for the “additionality” requirement is that the purpose of compensation is to induce a change in private behaviour. On the other hand, failure to compensate landowners who already engage in best practices can be regarded as unfair. It may also be argued that additionality perversely incentivizes such landowners to abandon best practices in order to gain eligibility for compensation.

Research Questions:

- Compile a catalogue of existing direct and indirect incentives for best management agricultural practices in Alberta
- Analyze existing research into additionality, as well as previous experience with additionality in Alberta and in other Canadian provinces
- Assess the policy implications of additionality, and in particular, the efficiency and equity of additionality/alternative baselines or policy-mixes for structuring incentives to private landowners

Project Period: (One year) Call for Proposals in May 2017 with project completion by October 2018.

Proposed Budget: A maximum of \$40,000. Funding for further research may be available in subsequent years depending on the potential policy implications and the proposed approach.



References:

- Pannell, D. J. (2008). Public Benefits, Private Benefits, and Policy Mechanism Choice for Land-Use Change for Environmental Benefits. *Land Economics*, 84(2), 225-240.
- Horowitz, J. K., & Just, R. E. (2013). Economics of Additionality for Environmental Services from Agriculture. *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, 66(1), 105-122.
- DeFries, R., & Nagendra, H. (2017). Ecosystem management as a wicked problem. *Science* (New York, N.Y.), 356(6335), 265-270.

2) Call for Proposal – OPEN

Background

The Alberta Land Institute is accepting for consideration research proposals in the open category. Proposals must fit one of the three Research Categories within ALI's research portfolio (Discovery Research, Policy Research, or Educational Projects), and must engage directly at least one of the themes of this call (Municipal Development, or Agriculture), or an area of study within the Institute's mandate. A description of the Research Categories and Research Themes is provided below.

Potential applicants in the open category are strongly encouraged to contact ALI's Research Director, Eran Kaplinsky, at eran.kaplinsky@ualberta.ca or 780-492-2941 to discuss the suitability and scope of the proposal prior to formal submission.

Research Categories: The Alberta Land Institute is seeking to augment its research project portfolio in the following three categories.

Discovery Research	Research undertaken to identify and examine emerging and future issues critical to the Institute's mandate. Successful proposals in this category will articulate broad research questions, inform long-range policy development using different disciplines and theoretical perspectives, and offer or inspire new information or innovative solutions to land use and land use management problems. Multi-year proposals may be considered in this category.
Policy Research	Projects focusing on a specific issue of immediate and critical concern to ALI's stakeholders, providing concrete analysis of policy alternatives, land use instruments, etc., and supported by comprehensive academic research. The primary purpose of projects in this category is to fill knowledge gaps and support decision-making in Alberta.
Educational Projects	Projects aimed at translating and transmitting existing or new ALI or other relevant knowledge beyond the academic community in order to shed light on issues specifically relevant to ALI's partners and stakeholders and to support public discussion and policymaking in Alberta.



Research Themes: Municipal Development and Agriculture have been selected as the focus of this call. However, other proposals related to the Institute's other areas of study (water or governance: see <http://www.albertalandinstitute.ca/about/areas-of-study>) may be considered.

Municipal Development A changing physical and social landscape in Alberta, increasing development and fiscal pressures, and recent and pending legislative reforms, pose challenges to municipal councils and local policymakers, as well as opportunities for improved land use and land management. ALI is inviting research proposals related to municipal development. The Institute is particularly interested in research proposals related to (i) the institutional capacity of urban and rural municipalities for planning, collaboration, and cost/revenue sharing; and/or (ii) economic incentives to sustainable growth and development.

Agriculture The Institute continues its commitment to connecting research with policy to promote viable and sustainable agriculture in Alberta. The Institute will consider new research proposals focusing on the provision of ecosystem services and enhancing biodiversity on agricultural land, and/or the management, fragmentation, and conversion of agricultural land. In addition, ALI is particularly interested in research proposals exploring the relationships between social values and attitudes toward agriculture, public policy and regulation, and the political and economic environment impacting agricultural land in Alberta.

Project Period: (One year) Call for Proposals in May 2017 with project completion by October 2018. Two- or three-year proposals may be considered depending on the scope of the research.

Proposed Budget: A maximum of \$60,000 for one-year projects. Funding for further research may be available in subsequent years depending on the potential policy implications and the proposed approach.

