

UVIC Climate Connector: Actionable Climate Research Grants

Terms of Reference

Overview

Recognizing that meeting complex challenges like climate change requires diverse expertise, approaches, and partnerships – and thus, new ways of conducting research – [UVic Climate Connector's](#) first funding call will support **Actionable Climate Research**.

Designed for impact, actionable climate research is co-developed by interdisciplinary teams of researchers and solutions-seeker partners to help solve a pressing climate-related problem. Projects will therefore need to be highly relevant to the solutions-seekers and will respond to an identified need for specific information that is currently impeding progress on climate change decision-making or action. This funding call will support teams to achieve impactful actionable climate research throughout the research pipeline:

- **Incubator Grants:** support building new partnerships and co-designing new projects.
- **Amplification Grants:** support scaling up or tackling a new problem with existing partners.

Proposed projects for each grant type must address one of two themes:

- **Theme I** projects must address a pressing problem that is related to any aspect of climate change mitigation or adaptation, and advance community, industry, business, or broader societal transitions to resilient, low carbon futures.
- **Theme II** projects, which are made possible by generous donor support, must be related to conserving B.C. biodiversity in a changing climate.

We encourage novel, creative collaborations amongst faculty and postdoctoral scholars from across campus, bridging diverse disciplines to approach critical challenges in Themes I or II in innovative ways.

Supports and Incentives. Grant recipients will be supported with professional skills training on best practices for actionable research, including research co-development and mobilization.

Key Dates

Application open: September 28th, 2026

Application deadline: November 30th, 2026

Results announced: January 20th, 2027

Project start date: March 1, 2027

Grant Types

Incubator Grant

\$5,000 - \$20,000 for either theme

Actionable Climate Research **Incubator Grants** provide seed funding for interdisciplinary teams of researchers to initiate and build relationships with solutions-seeker partners, leading to the identification of an opportunity for new actionable research and the co-creation of the new actionable research project. This grant will support expenses related to partnership building and project development.

We expect to give out up to 4 incubator grants in this first round, with grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$20,000 depending on project scope and complexity.

Eligibility: This grant is open to teams comprised of UVic researchers from at least two disciplines and solutions-seeker partners.

- Teams must be diverse, including members from two different UVic faculties, research centres or institutes;
- Each team should have a nominated PI who will provide leadership and be responsible for correspondence, including updates and annual reporting. The PI should be a full-time UVic tenured or tenure-track faculty member;
- Faculty members may participate in more than one application but cannot be the designated PI on more than one application;
- The research team may include UVic postdoctoral researchers, and may include consideration of how an undergraduate and/or graduate student may become involved in the research effort;
- The project must include at least one solutions-seeker partner organization (e.g. local or provincial government, First Nation, industry, business, non-profit organization, etc.) or identify potential partner(s);
- The project must address either Theme I or II of this funding call.

Possible Activities: partner meetings, events, grant writing retreats.

Eligible costs:

- Salaries and related costs: postdoctoral fellows, technicians, research assistants (including Masters and PhD students), administrative and clerical staff, consultants.
- Costs relating to convening people including travel, accommodation, catering, meeting facilities.
- Costs relating to engaging partners, including stipends, honoraria, training fees.
- Equipment/supplies for meetings.
- Expenses for communication tools and platforms.

- Grant writers to help prepare funding proposals.
- Costs relating to childcare while attending meetings.
- Matching funds for external funding applications.

Other costs will be considered with adequate justification.

Expected Deliverables: During the grant period, each Incubator Grant recipient team will be expected to develop an actionable research project which addresses the problem identified in their application and produce a competitive proposal for a research funding call or philanthropic funding opportunity (>\$100K) to carry out the project.

Timeline and Reporting

Successful applications will have 12 months to spend the funds and will be required to submit a final report at the end of the funding period [to the OVPRI] that details progress made towards the goals, milestones, and outcomes articulated in the proposal.

Amplification Grant

\$50,000 - \$100,000 for either theme

Actionable Climate Research **Amplification Grants** provide funding to established interdisciplinary teams of faculty members and solutions-seekers, to accelerate or scale-up their progress on an existing problem or to tackle a newly identified problem together. Each team must engage at least one new team member (i.e. a faculty or postdoctoral researcher) who brings novel expertise, skills, or perspectives to the problem. Amplification Grant funding should be used either to support the costs of undertaking the research project identified in the application (if the project is within scope of the grant award amount) or to support activities relating to the preparation of a large-scale research or philanthropic funding opportunity.

We expect to give out up to 3 amplification grants in this first round.

Eligibility: This grant is open to teams comprised of researchers from at least two disciplines and solution-seeker partners.

- Teams must be diverse, including members from two different UVic faculties, research centres or institutes;
- Each team should have a nominated PI who will provide leadership and be responsible for correspondence, including updates and annual reporting. The PI should be a full-time UVic tenure or tenure-track faculty member;
- The research team may include UVic postdoctoral researchers, and may include consideration of how an undergraduate and/or graduate student may become involved in the research effort;
- The project must include at least one solution-seeker partner organization (e.g. local or provincial government, First Nation, industry, business, non-profit organization, etc.) who is already working in partnership with researcher(s) on the team;
- The project must address either Theme I or II of this funding call.

Possible Activities: partner meetings, events, grant writing retreats, research project development, undertaking the proposed research project.

Eligible costs:

- Salaries and related costs: postdoctoral fellows, technicians, research assistants (including Masters and PhD students), administrative and clerical staff, consultants.
- Costs relating to convening people including travel, accommodation, catering, meeting facilities.
- Costs relating to engaging partners, including stipends, honoraria, training fees.
- Costs relating to childcare while attending meetings.
- Equipment/supplies for meetings.
- Expenses for communication tools and platforms.
- Grant writers to help prepare funding proposals.
- Computers and electronic communications: Computers, hardware, software, modems.
- Matching funds for external funding applications.

Other costs will be considered with adequate justification.

Expected Deliverables: Grant recipient teams whose project fits within the Amplification Grant budget will report on the outcomes and impact of the project they conducted, while those with larger projects will need to also produce a competitive proposal for a research funding call or philanthropic funding opportunity (>\$500K) to carry out their full proposed project.

Timeline and Reporting

Successful applications will have two years to spend the funds. Teams with funds remaining at the end of the period may apply for a 6-month no-cost extension period in which to spend any remaining committed funds. Teams will submit a final report at the end of the period [to the OVPRI] that details progress made towards the goals, milestones, and outcomes articulated in the proposal.

Application Process

Applicants must use the Actionable Research Grants application template available on the Climate Connector webpage. Each grant type has its own application form. Do not submit an RASF for this internal grant. Applications must be saved as a PDF and emailed to Climate Programs Officer Ana Garza at climateconnector@uvic.ca by November 30th, 2026. All materials must be submitted by the advertised deadline. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Application Assessment Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based upon the relevance and potential impact of the project. Projects must demonstrate the need for the proposed activities and their timely practical application. Specific assessment criteria are:

- Intellectual merit of the proposal;
- Interdisciplinarity of the proposed project;
- Engagement with climate solutions seekers;
- Potential contribution to solving the pressing climate-related problem;
- Justification for the proposed project, including evidence that research impedes advancement of the identified problem and timeliness in terms of potential to have real-world application and impact;
- Justification for funding (and project's potential to secure additional funding, if needed).

Priority will be given to teams with members from diverse backgrounds, including those from diverse equity-deserving groups, disciplines and sectors / i.e. interdisciplinary and intersectoral.

Selection and Award Process

- All applications will be evaluated by an adjudication committee comprised of members from the UVic Climate Connector Steering Committee. The panel will be chaired by the Special Advisor, Climate Solutions.
- Final decisions will be approved by the Vice-President Research and Innovation.
- All applicants will be notified of results, and constructive feedback will be provided upon request.

Questions?

Contact [climateconnector@uvic.ca]