



**ACS Committee on Environmental Improvement and  
Committee on Local Section Activities  
Mini-Grant Application  
For Sustainability Programming**

The commonly accepted definition of sustainable development comes from the Brundtland Commission, which defined sustainable development as development that meets current environmental and human health, economic, and societal needs without compromising the progress and success of future generations. Sustainability addresses the major challenges of meeting society's energy needs now and in the future, feeding a growing population, and providing clean drinking water throughout the world. Chemists can have a vital role in each of these sustainability objectives.

The Committee on Environmental Improvement, in recognition of the ACS strategic plan objective to be a global leader in enlisting the world's scientific professionals to address, through chemistry, the challenges facing our world, seeks to promote opportunities to enhance the chemical community's awareness of and response to the challenges of sustainability. This mini-grant program is designed to encourage local sections to develop programming, in the broadest possible sense, that furthers the discussion of sustainability within the chemical enterprise. All avenues of programming will be considered, including (but not limited to) speakers at local section meetings, Science Café's, workshops, educational programs, community events, or other innovative programming concepts.

Please complete the following information and return to:

Ray Garant, Staff Liaison, Committee on Environmental Improvement  
American Chemical Society  
1155 16<sup>th</sup> St., N.W., Room H501  
Washington, DC 20036  
800-227-5558 x6063, [cei@acs.org](mailto:cei@acs.org)

Contact Name: Malcolm Barnard  
Local Section: Eastern North Carolina  
Phone: 252-726-6841 x254  
Email: malcolm.barnard@unc.edu

1) State the goal of your sustainability programming in 1-2 sentences.

The sustainability programming seeks to educate and to promote diversity in the chemical and technical community through a proposed seminar series highlighting Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) chemists. This will be a free virtual seminar series so that all who wish to engage with the will have the ability to participate.

2) Who is your intended audience?

- ACS members
- Chemical/technical community

- K-12 students  
 General public  
 Other – Please Specify

3) Brief paragraph describing the details of the programming, including potential timeline, how you plan to use the funds, and how you plan to publicize the programming (before and/or after). If you have other source(s) of funding to support the programming (if needed), please also indicate that.

The proposed underrepresented virtual chemist seminar series aims to highlight diversity in the chemical sciences. The monthly seminar series will highlight BIPOC scientists from academia, industry, and government from various areas of chemistry. The initial seminar series will start in August and run through December, hopefully continuing past the Fall 2020 semester with support from the various academic institutions in Eastern North Carolina. The funds from the grant will provide an honorarium (\$100 per speaker) and will hopefully lead to future funding acquisition to continue the seminar series into the future. We plan to publicize through email communication (department, ACS, community-wide, and other listservs), announcements over the local public radio station (Public Radio East), and through social media. After the seminar series begins, we hope to publicize the seminar series through local media (e.g. television, newspaper, etc.). We hope that after the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, the virtual seminar series will transition into a science-café-style gathering celebrating diversity in the chemical sciences.

4) How will your programming seek to enhance the chemical community's awareness of and response to the challenges of sustainability?

The virtual seminar series aims to highlight diversity within the chemical sciences, as it is crucial to increase the visibility of the diverse researchers within the chemical sciences. By highlighting diversity in chemistry, we can work towards recruiting a more diverse group of scientists into the chemical sciences, which is crucial to the sustainability of the field of chemistry. Additionally, by each seminar covering a separate section of chemistry and for speakers from academia, industry, and government, the seminar series aims to increase awareness of the wide range of research and job opportunities for those entering the chemical sciences.

5) What can CEI do to help foster the success of this programming (such as provide mentoring, help with identifying experts, etc.)?

CEI would be helpful if they were able to provide a list of BIPOC speakers in environmental chemistry for the first round of this seminar series, and suggest approaches for increasing engagement of the seminar series.

I am interested in undertaking sustainability programming in our Local Section. I am applying for \$500 mini-grant to support this activity. I understand that mini-grant funds can be used to support speaker travel, for advertising and promotion or to help offset other cost associated with the proposed programming. A summary report describing the event will be submitted to CEI within 30 days of the conclusion of the event using the CEI template at <http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/about/governance/committees/cei/local-section-activities/sustainability-programming-grants.html>

Proposed date of when report will be submitted: December 21, 2020

Chair's Signature:

