

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Bassam Z. Shakhshiri
President-Elect, 2011
President, 2012
Immediate Past President, 2013

1155 SIXTEENTH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036
Phone 202-872-4461
Fax 202-872-6338

... for the benefit of Earth and its people



**American Chemical Society
Presidential Climate Science Challenge Grant**

Opportunity

Grants of up to \$3000 are available to ACS Local Sections and Divisions for proposing and implementing innovative ways to use the ACS Climate Science Toolkit to engage a wide variety of audiences in dialogue on issues of climate science. A total of 10 or 15 grants will be made in 2013. Proposals are due March 8, 2013. Awards will be announced on April 7, 2013 at the ACS Spring Meeting in New Orleans.

Background & Challenge

In keeping with its mission, ACS must help address global challenges including climate change. ACS members can participate in meaningful initiatives to deepen understanding of both the natural causes and human causes of climate change.

Because the mechanism of climate change is based on fundamental physics and chemistry, scientists, including chemists, bear a responsibility for understanding climate science themselves and helping others who are not scientists understand the issues relevant to maintaining a livable climate.

To help ACS members develop a robust understanding of climate change, I appointed an ACS Presidential Climate Science Working Group to develop the ACS Climate Science Toolkit. The Toolkit covers the basic science of climate change and can be used by every ACS member [www.acs.org/climatescience].

Now is the time for ACS members to take up the mantle as scientist-citizens and reach out with climate science information to their colleagues, teachers, college and university faculty, industrial scientists and business leaders, civic and religious groups, professional science and educational organizations, and elected public officials at all levels and in all branches of government.

Nobel Laureate F. Sherwood Rowland (1927-2012) was an outstanding example of a scientist-citizen who persisted for years in bringing attention to, and catalyzing worldwide action on, ozone depletion by CFCs in the stratosphere. Later, at a White House climate change roundtable Rowland asked:

“Isn't it a responsibility of scientists, if you believe that you have found something that can affect the environment, isn't it your responsibility to do something about it, enough so that action actually takes place? If not us, who? If not now, when?”

This is a multifaceted task that requires different approaches for different audiences and even multiple approaches for audiences with similar, but not identical backgrounds, such as civic organizations in different parts of the country, for example, the northwest and southeast.

Finding ways to engage audiences positively and productively in discussion and dialog around the issues of climate science and climate change is the challenge I am presenting you as ACS Local Section and Division members.

As ACS President I am making available competitive grants to local sections and divisions of up to \$3,000 to support innovative proposals in response to this challenge. Proposals are due by March 8, 2013 with awards to be announced on April 7, 2013 at the ACS National Meeting in New Orleans. These initiating grants will be for 2013-2014 with final reports of the results due at the end of 2014. I have appointed a review panel to select the successful proposals.

Proposals

Proposal narratives should be no longer than five (5) pages plus nor more than a two-page budget sheet. Proposals should contain these elements (which may overlap in some cases):

1. Describe the **audience(s)** you propose to engage in discussion and dialog on climate science and climate change.
2. Describe how you will **organize** or bring about the engagements you propose.
3. Describe the **issue(s)** you propose to focus on with your audience(s).
4. Describe the **outcome(s)** you anticipate during the grant period and how you will assess whether they have occurred.
5. Provide a **timeline** for the planning, execution, and assessment of your engagements.
6. Describe the **climate science knowledge and background** of your members who will carry out the engagements. If applicable, include in your description how the ACS Climate Science Toolkit and resources therein, the ACS Leadership Institutes, and invited experts will be used to provide required background information. Also include a description of any materials you propose to develop or collect and distribute as part of your engagements.

7. Describe the **local/other resources and expertise** you will draw on, if applicable. Examples might include schools (including ACS Chemistry Clubs), colleges and universities, ACS student chapters, businesses, industries, government offices, and so on. Such collaborations are encouraged as a way to leverage your impact.
8. Provide a **budget** for your proposed project through the end of 2014. Your budget should include any funds or in-kind contributions from the Local Section or Division and others as well as the funds requested from the ACS.

Submit proposals electronically as a PDF file by **March 8, 2013** to:

Presidential Climate Science Challenge Grant

Office of the President

c/o Frank Walworth

f_walworth@acs.org

I look forward to receiving your proposals and providing funds to support ACS members as you take on the responsibility and challenge of “reaching broad and diverse audiences... to help improve public climate change awareness, understanding, and informed decision-making.”

Thank you.



Bassam Z. Shakhshiri

ACS President

Professor of Chemistry

University of Wisconsin-Madison

bassam@chem.wisc.edu