



JU CLIMATE INNOVATION CHALLENGE (CIC)

Jacksonville University invites competitive applications from the Northeast Florida region for its 2nd Annual Climate Innovation Challenge. The CIC is designed to stimulate creative ways to address climate-related challenges while improving the local environment. We are interested in thoughtful projects designed to address social, economic, and environmental conditions, and justice in coastal communities. Mini grants will be awarded to incubate ideas that will make a meaningful impact on the environment. Examples of eligible projects include but are not limited to mitigating an environmental problem, raising public awareness to the impacts of climate change, investigating the causes of and viable solutions to global climate change, promoting positive community action, and raising awareness around global climate change. Projects may include an invention or scientific study, performing and creative art campaigns to raise awareness and inspire action, legislation, or community service projects. This is not an exhaustive list of ideas or project types; we welcome unique and innovative ideas.

Eligibility: The competition is open to residents of and organizations within the greater Northeast Florida region (Duval, Clay, St. Johns, Nassau, Flagler, and Baker Counties), and include but are not limited to public, charter, and private schools, civic groups, art and artist groups, authors, playwrights, poets, screenwriters and scientists/engineers, inventors, and entrepreneurs. Team members can include students, faculty, inventors, entrepreneurs, public service leaders, artists, scientists, or concerned citizens. Be advised that this is not an exhaustive list. To be eligible, applicants agree to work with a project and presentation coach provided by the university, attend a trial run of your presentation for feedback, and attend the in-person challenge event. Those selected for funding will be required to submit written progress reports as a condition of funding.

Jacksonville University is not liable for any activities that are performed as part of the Climate Innovation Challenge Award. Awardees undertake projects at their own risk.

Award Details: Applicants may request up to \$10,000 in funding for their project. A panel of judges will review eligible applications and narrow the field to a group of finalists. Finalists will be invited to the Jacksonville University campus to present their project in a “Shark Tank” format to a panel of judges. The project period is April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026. All awarded funds must be spent no later than February 27, 2026, or they will be forfeited.

Award Utilization: Funds will be distributed on a cost reimbursable basis for eligible expenses as detailed in the approved budget. See budget section of application outline. Awardees requesting payment for time will be paid at the conclusion of the project. Please be aware that gifts, awards, gift cards, or incentive payments of any kind are not permitted. The grant will not cover food, beverages, or refreshments of any kind. Airfare is also excluded.

Criteria: Applications will be reviewed for originality, practicality, impact, and relevance to Northeast Florida. Special consideration provided for concepts that address social, economic, and environmental conditions and justice in coastal communities.

Application Process and Procedure: Applications may be submitted beginning on **October 1, 2024**, and submissions will close on **December 4, 2024**. All applications should be submitted by email to climate@ju.edu. The subject line of the email submission should be ***JUCIC2025_ApplicantName_ProjectTitle***

Key Dates:

- Release of Request for Proposals (RFP) – September 20, 2024
- Submission period opens – October 1, 2024
- Online information session– October 15, 2024 (check website for link)
- Submission Period Closes; all proposals due by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) on Friday, December 4, 2024
- Finalists selected and notified – December 15, 2024
- Pairing of finalists with a project and presentation coach – January 7, 2025
- Finalists attend required coaching and presentation walk through- January 24, 2025
- “Shark Tank” Presentation – the afternoon of January 28, 2025 (time TBA) – Davis College of Business and Technology (DCOBT) Conference Rooms
- Awardees notified via email on or before March 1, 2025
- Project period begins – April 1, 2025
- Written Interim Progress Report due September 15, 2025
- All receipts must be received for reimbursement by March 31, 2026. Project period ends on March 31, 2026
- Written Final Project Reports due by email on or before May 1, 2026

2025 JU Climate Innovation Challenge APPLICATION Format

Please review the instructions and guidelines thoroughly before you submit your proposal. The application form must be sent to climate@ju.edu by 5:00 p.m. local time on December 4, 2024. *Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.* Up to three letters of support may be included with the application. Photos/renderings and weblinks are welcome, as applicable.

Sections	Section Details	Word Limits
Cover Page	Organization Name (if applicable)	
	Primary Contact Name	
	Primary Contact Phone	
	Primary Contact Email	
	Primary Contact Address	
	Project Leader Name	
	Biography of project lead	100 Words
	Biography of additional key project members and roles	300 Words
Application Body	Title of Project	20 Words
	Summary of Concept. Provide a summary of the concept for consideration. Tell us the amount you are requesting, what you are requesting funding for specifically, and what you hope to accomplish.	500 Words
	Objectives. Specify in what ways the project would contribute to improving climate awareness.	500 Words
	Impact on Climate Awareness. Describe how the project outcomes would address climate awareness.	250 Words
	Impact on Northeast Florida Communities. Describe how the project outcomes would address Northeast Florida communities.	250 Words
	Proposed Deliverables. Provide a summary of deliverables that your project will provide.	250 Words
	Impact of funding. Provide a narrative description of the impact that funding will have on moving the concept forward and why. Please provide how the funding will allow you to grow your project.	500 Words
	Cost Share/Other Funding. Detail any additional funding that is being contributed to the project. Please include letters of commitment for any additional funding.	250 Words
	Plan for Evaluation. Include: (1) How the project will be assessed and (2) Who will be involved in the evaluation of success.	250 Words
Budget	<p>Itemized listing of each purchase to be made with the funds. Please consider items carefully as reimbursements will be made based on items listed in the original submitted budget.</p> <p>Eligible budget items may include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Payment for time (must include rate of pay and estimated number of hours to complete project.) 2. Supplies and Materials – specify item cost, quantity, and purpose as applicable 3. Small equipment (less than \$1000 with a useful life of at least one year) 4. Mileage: GSA rate is .655 <u>Privately Owned Vehicle (POV) Mileage Reimbursement Rates GSA</u> <p>Unallowable budget items include: gifts, awards, gift cards, incentive payments of any kind, food, beverages, refreshments, and airfare.</p>	