

From: Keaton Miller [REDACTED]
Sent time: 07/25/2024 03:49:32 PM
To: Shankha Chakraborty; Sheila Keen
Subject: Re: Checking in on climate change grant fund availability
Attachments: proposal-for-worthington-fund-uo.pdf

See attached, particularly the last page. (I had the other pages ready to go as it was part of the material I developed with the team to land the gift)

Keaton

From: Shankha Chakraborty [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, July 25, 2024 11:17 AM
To: Sheila Keen [REDACTED] >; Keaton Miller <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Checking in on climate change grant fund availability

Thanks Sheila.

Keaton, it sounds like you have specific goals in mind for this fund, besides the course buyout. Would you please write a brief proposal itemizing them so that we can retain it for future reference?

Shankha

Professor and Head of Economics
University of Oregon
[REDACTED]
<http://pages.uoregon.edu/shankha>
On 7/24/24 1:46 PM, Sheila Keen wrote:

Hi Keaton and Shankha,

See attached. This helps explain the fund and fund purpose. I also see a balance of [REDACTED] in the fund as of my last report from the Foundation. I will connect with the Dean's office on the specifics, such as summer salary, and let you know more as soon as possible.

Best,

Sheila

From: Keaton Miller [REDACTED] >
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 12:48 PM
To: Sheila Keen [REDACTED] >; CAS ASU 2 <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Shankha Chakraborty <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Checking in on climate change grant fund availability

Sounds like it's good that I reached out! As far as I know this did not go through SPS, but rather through Development – Pete Korstad is the contact over there that I was working with to land the gift. My understanding is that the language is set up in such a way that gives [REDACTED].

From: Sheila Keen [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 4:15 PM
To: Keaton Miller <[REDACTED]>; CAS ASU 2 <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Shankha Chakraborty <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: Checking in on climate change grant fund availability

Hi Keaton,

Was this funded by a grant? Did it get processed through SPS? Please share any documents that you may have and I can research it. I don't think I was included in the latest emails on this buyout.

Best,

Sheila

From: Keaton Miller [REDACTED] >

Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 1:59 PM

To: CAS ASU 2 [REDACTED] >

Cc: Shankha Chakraborty [REDACTED] >; Sheila Keen <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Checking in on climate change grant fund availability

Hi folks --

My understanding is that the department received a big chunk of money for some climate change work that I am engaged in. In addition to money to [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] for the project, etc. Is that correct? What's the index, and who should I send expenses to?

Thanks!

Keaton

Keaton Miller, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Economics

University of Oregon

Forum on Oregon Climate Economics

Statement of Purpose

The science is clear: anthropogenic climate change threatens the quality of life of humans throughout the world. Changes to climate both locally and globally will affect crop yields, migration patterns, kinetic conflicts, and the global macroeconomy. The list of potential impacts is lengthy and can feel overwhelming. At the same time, scientists continue to study and debate the precise nature and timing of future impacts, even as more accurate measurement, modelling, and analysis tools provide us with a clearer picture of changing weather patterns.

The rapid pace of discussion in the climate space combined with the contentious nature of scientific debate has unfortunately resulted in a great deal of ambiguity in the information available to laypeople and local- or state-level policymakers. In the absence of clear information about the future harms imposed by a changing climate, it has been easy for policy and political discussion to focus on the costs of reducing carbon emissions or mitigating future impacts. Though impact models do exist, they are designed for national-level discussions and are almost incomprehensible to non-experts.

What is needed is ongoing translation of the best available climate science into an easily-digestible format that can be understood by lay audiences and sub-national-scale policymakers. How will the changing climate impact a typical household's bottom line? How will it affect the small businesses that form the backbone of our towns and cities? While some changes will be apparent through changes in prices for everything from canned corn to fiberglass insulation, others may be more subtle, such as the degradation and loss of outdoor recreation facilities.

The Forum on Oregon Climate Economics (FORCE) aims to provide the answers to these and related questions for Oregonians. We are a team of researchers and practitioners with deep experience of both the scientific understanding of climate change and the work involved in translating research into policy practice. We understand the urgency of communicating the risks of climate change, and that cost/benefit analyses can't proceed without quantitative estimates of the harmful impacts of a warming atmosphere.

Though climate policy is often highly politicized, FORCE is non-partisan and our work is focused on providing information, not performing advocacy. Throughout our work, we clearly identify assumptions, data, and methods in such a way that our results are replicable by anyone with access to a computer and spreadsheet software.

Outline of Initial Work

FORCE aims to release three reports within 12 months of beginning operations. The first report will lay a foundation for future work by describing the impacts of climate change that Oregonians are already experiencing and what kinds of impacts Oregonians are likely to experience in the future if greenhouse gas emissions are not curbed. We will describe the harms and connect the supply-and-

demand language of economics to the lived experience of Oregonians: increased prices, reduced supplies of important goods, and diminished well-being. We will include information about the evaluation of risks, as the potential for harms can affect prices for services like insurance even if the harm does not materialize for a given person. We will discuss the primary sources of greenhouse gas emissions and other climate-damaging activities taking place in Oregon. We will also discuss the framework of “externalities” that many economists use to determine liability for these costs.

The second report will quantify the costs of climate change to the typical Oregon household. We will do so by using data from consumer expenditures to understand the spending patterns of the median Oregonian and results from the scientific literature on the potential impacts of climate change to the various sectors that households engage with. The report will be designed to be easily updateable both as economic conditions change (e.g, the income and spending habits of households) and as the climate evolves.

The third report will focus on small businesses and local governments using a similar methodology. As business spending varies significantly across sectors, we will create multiple example businesses which map to common small businesses owned by Oregonians. At least one will focus on agriculture. Again, we will map results from the scientific literature into a forecast of the businesses’ bottom lines as the climate evolves. We aim to conduct a similar analysis of impacts for local governments (e.g. towns and small cities). This report will also be designed to be easily updated as new studies are published. Through interviews with Oregon businesses and government agencies, the research will both quantify climate impacts for individual businesses and start to build a more general framework for ongoing application to businesses that are beyond our scope in the first year (see Long-Term Vision below).

Upon publication of each report, we will engage in outreach efforts to the public, policy makers, government officials, and media agencies. Our experts will be available for interviews and engagement with the public.

A Long-Term Vision

With sufficient funding, FORCE aims to provide informational support to Oregonians for years to come. In addition to annual updates to our reports for households and small businesses, we will produce occasional reports focused on different groups including the state government and county/city governments, low-income communities, and senior citizens. These materials will be available in a web presence for which we will do outreach to local news organizations and journalists throughout Oregon; the goal will be to have a ‘library’ of clear, concrete, and compelling examples with which to build visceral public understanding of the oncoming costs of a changing climate. We will also produce a scholarly report detailing our methods for publication in an outlet focused on science communication. If successful, we hope our work can serve as an inspiration and a model for groups in other states working to provide similar information.

The Team

(in alphabetical order)

Keaton Miller, Ph.D. is an associate professor of economics at the University of Oregon who specializes in industrial organization, public economics, and applied econometrics. Keaton's work focuses on the way in which public policy affects the experiences of households through the filter of imperfectly competitive markets. His work has appeared in numerous academic journals including the *Journal of Public Economics* and the *Review of Industrial Organization*. Keaton received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Minnesota in 2015.

Noelwah Netusil, Ph.D. is the Stanley H. Cohn Professor of Economics at Reed College. Her research focuses on the effect of flooding and floodplain location on property sale prices and on sustainable stormwater solutions. Noelwah is on the editorial board of the academic journal *Landscape and Urban Planning* and has previously served on the boards of several nonprofit organizations including The Climate Leadership Initiative, Oregon Water Trust, and the Urban Ecosystem Research Consortium of Portland/Vancouver. Noelwah received her Ph.D. in economics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1992.

Ernie Niemi specializes in applying the principles of cost-benefit analysis, economic valuation, and economic-impact analysis to describe the economic importance of natural resources. He formed Natural Resource Economics, Inc. in 2012. From 1978 to 2012, he managed economic and policy analysis for the consulting firm, ECONorthwest, where he was a co-owner, vice president, and senior economist. He also has taught cost-benefit analysis and economic development for the University of Oregon's Department of Planning, Public Policy, and Management, and taught high-school science as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Uganda. Ernie received his Master's degree in City and Regional Planning from Harvard University in 1978.

Joshua Skov is the academic director of the Lundquist College of Business's Center for Sustainable Business Practices at the University of Oregon and Assistant Vice President of Sustainability, Energy and Climate Change at WSP USA. He has been a consultant to business and government organizations on sustainability strategy for more than twenty years. Acting as a liaison between technical analysis and executive-level decision making, he has served more than 50 clients in the United States and abroad in a range of industries, including energy, food, waste management, tech, and consumer products. He was previously a member of the statewide board of directors for Oregon League of Conservation Voters, and on the Lane Transit District board of directors as the board's vice president. Joshua received an MA in Economics from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1997.

John Talberth, Ph.D. is the founder of Center for Sustainable Economy and currently serves as both President and Senior Economist. John coordinates consulting work with non-profits, businesses, universities, and government agencies seeking environmental economics expertise and analysis to support their sustainability initiatives and programs. He also leads work on CSE's Wild and Working Forests, Genuine Progress, and Green Infrastructure Programs. John holds a Ph.D. in International and Environmental Economics from the University of New Mexico.

Use of Worthington Fund for Environmental Economics

The Worthington Fund for Environmental Economics (the Fund) has been established at the University of Oregon in part to support Professor Miller's work on the FORCE team. FORCE proposes to use the money in the Fund for two primary purposes (in order of priority).

1. **Professor Miller's time.** As this project requires a substantial time investment during which Professor Miller will be unable to pursue other professional activities, the FORCE team wishes to support Professor Miller's activities on the project through "purchasing" time through the standard policies and procedures of the University of Oregon and the College of Arts and Sciences. FORCE proposes to use Fund monies to purchase
 - a. One month of summer activity (August 2024); and
 - b. One academic year course equivalent (AY 2024-2025).
2. **Outreach.** FORCE aims to move the needle on the public conversation around climate change in Oregon, which will require a substantial investment in outreach. Successful outreach depends not only on content, but presentation. FORCE proposes to use Fund monies to support outreach through
 - a. a dedicated website; and
 - b. limited contracts with design and communication professionals to assist in the development of public-facing materials

If funds allow, FORCE may propose spending monies from the Fund to support other activities related to the project (particularly expenses generated by the FORCE-related activities of Professor Miller), such as travel for outreach efforts or working sessions.