



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

HACU/Solution Generation Leadership in Climate Change Awareness Award

Proposals Due: August 31, 2015 @ 5:00 p.m. EST

I. Summary and Background

The organizers recognize that stakeholder engagement efforts on climate solutions are now emerging at institutions across the nation and seek to highlight and reward institutions leading this wave.

The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) and partner organization, ecoAmerica, are currently accepting proposals for a **HACU/Solution Generation Award for Leadership in Climate Change Awareness**. A \$10,000 award will be given to a single HACU-member institution deemed by the selection committee to have the broadest, most innovative, and most effective outreach effort at **engaging the campus and broader community** in climate and sustainability solutions. The winner will be featured at the HACU 2015 Town Hall Meeting during HACU's 29th Annual Conference and in other media outreach.

The **Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities**, founded in 1986 with a membership of eighteen institutions, represents approximately 450 colleges and universities committed to Hispanic higher education success in the U.S., Puerto Rico, Latin America and Spain.

Solution Generation is a national council of diverse higher education partners committed to leading by example on a path to a positive future for climate solutions. As higher education leaders, it is our responsibility to ensure that we work with our students and communities to act today in order to protect and strengthen our towns, regions, nation and world. Solution Generation provides tools, talking points and tips to help you effectively communicate on climate change and engage participation with any audience.

ecoAmerica grows the base of popular support for climate solutions in America with research-driven marketing, partnerships, and national programs that connect with Americans' core values to bring about and support change in personal and civic choices and behaviors. ecoAmerica is the primary organizing partner behind the Solution Generation initiative.

II. Proposal Application and Evaluation Criteria

Institutions that have not been actively involved in climate solutions and sustainable actions but would like to get on the path to a positive future are encouraged to apply. Describe your future plans with regard to the criteria below and actions your institution will undertake to demonstrate your role towards a sustainable future and how you will use the award funds.

The RFP evaluation committee comprised of HACU staff and Solution Generation Leadership Circle members will review all proposals based on three criteria:

1. **Current and Planned Efforts to Engage the Campus and Broader Community on Climate Solutions.** Does your institution have a program to engage students, professionals, and the community in awareness and behavior change on climate change including aspects such as:
 - courses or components of courses that teach climate change communications

- an institute, a committee, or formal work group that has as its primary mission, or part of its primary mission, the responsibility to engage the community in climate change solutions
 - events and activities that engage the community in climate awareness and solutions such as a green dorm challenge, green carpet awards, climate awareness week
 - formal participation in programs such as Solution Generation (the Path to Positive commitment), AASHE, the Billion Dollar Challenge, or RecycleMania
 - policies and materials that encourage awareness and action on climate solutions
 - a pledge or program to divest from fossil fuels
 - stories about climate and sustainability solutions in campus publications.
2. **Current and Planned Efforts to Lead by Example (reduce your carbon footprint).** This would include active participation in the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment, AASHE's STAR program or other comparable independent or collective initiatives.
 3. **Statement of Use for the Award Funds.** Creative use of the \$10,000 award to stimulate and expand efforts to engage the campus and community in climate solutions.

III. Proposal Preparation and Submission

This Request for Proposals represents the requirements for an open and competitive process. All proposals must be signed by an official representative of the institution submitting the proposal. Submissions should include a cover letter and be no longer than 5 pages, excluding the cover. Single line spacing, 12 point Arial font, and 1" margins all around.

Proposals must be sent via email to hacuproposal@ecoamerica.org no later than **August 31, 2015 @ 5:00 p.m. EST**. Proposals submitted after this deadline will not be accepted.

Questions may be submitted to hacuproposal@ecoamerica.org through the submission deadline.

The Award will be made on October 12, 2015 at the Townhall Meeting of HACU's 29th Annual Conference. A representative of the winning institution must be present to accept the award.

Please provide the following information about your institution on the cover letter:

- Institution Name, address, POC
- The President's Name
- The total student headcount enrollment at the institution
- The number of faculty working at the institution

