The Institute for a Sustainable Earth (ISE) hosts the ISE Newsletter, which aims to provide up-to-date information on conferences, funding opportunities, and latest research pertaining to environmental science and sustainability. The biweekly newsletter connects members of the Mason community–as well as other communities, policy-makers, and businesses and organizations–so that, together, we can more effectively address the world's environmental challenges.

Recent issues have featured discussions on topics such as the Virtual Festival for Our Planet! A global online broadcast to mark World Environment Day, on June 5, 2020. The event featured discussions on sustainability and leadership with experts like Jeffrey Sachs (SDSN), Adenike Akinsemolu (Green Institute), and Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, President of Qatar Foundation.

The Institute for a Sustainable Earth (ISE) and the Office of Science of the US Department of Energy partnered to support novel perspectives from the global scientific community on climate research and action, particularly in the following program areas: Advanced Scientific Computing Research, Basic Energy Sciences, Nuclear Physics, and Geographic Information Systems. The initiative aimed to enhance the innovation pipeline and foster a collaborative spirit.

CIVIC is a research and action competition that promotes impactful projects. Projects can receive up to $5,000,000 in funding. Unlike many community-university partnerships that take years to provide tangible results, CIVIC awards projects that can produce immediate outcomes to address local issues. Proposals for Stage 2 were recently accepted, offering opportunities for projects to take the next step.

The Civic Innovation Challenge is a research and action competition in the Smart and Sustainable Community initiative. It fosters collaboration and innovation with communities to solve pressing issues. The initiative is a tool for you to find others with complementing expertise and for communities to identify and prioritize projects that are uniquely suited to their needs.

In the realm of infectious disease research, Mason is participating in the National Science Foundation’s RAPID: A Portal to Support Models for Assessing Strategies for Pandemics in rural environments. The project aims to develop models that can forecast results and address the demographic, socioeconomic, and geographic factors that characterize rural populations, what has been observed for other areas, epidemiologists and network scientists will discuss the demographic, socioeconomic, and geographic factors that characterize rural populations, and adverse health disparities due to a variety of contributing factors, such as differential access to health services. Mortality rates are higher in rural areas; for example, in COVID-19, mortality rates are more than twice as high in rural areas compared to urban areas.

For the latest updates and research opportunities, visit the Institute for a Sustainable Earth’s online directory. If you haven’t yet submitted your research profile, it’s a tool for you to find others with complementing expertise and for communities to identify and prioritize projects that are uniquely suited to their needs. Mason's Faculty Excellence in Social Impact program joins forces with the Institute for a Sustainable Earth in a webinar offering an opportunity to learn from key presenters. Registration is open until September 15-17, 2020, and the webinar is virtual. The webinar is an opportunity to learn from key presenters and discuss the social inequities and disparities of impact caused by the pandemic.

To download the ISE Newsletter, please visit the following link: [ISE Newsletter](#).