The ISE Newsletter provides up-to-date information on conferences, funding opportunities, and businesses and organizations—so that, together, we can more effectively address the world’s challenges. The Institute for a Sustainable Earth (ISE), with the support of Geneva and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UN SDSN), coordinates a series of initiatives and competitions that aiming to connect members of the Mason community and others across the world. With an emphasis on innovation, ISE collaborates with leading institutions such as the University of Basel and the University of Geneva to promote ideas and solutions that contribute to a more sustainable future.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, ISE has adapted many of its programs to support work and learning from a distance. For example, the Connected Communities (S&CC) program aims to build a more cohesive research-to-practice connection, connecting interdisciplinary teams to work on projects that improve the quality of life in communities globally. In the first stage (Stage 1) of a new competition, teams will be selected to receive a CIVIC award. This award provides up to $50,000 for four months to undertake pre-development activities and gain insights into the potential benefits to communities—and have the potential for lasting impact beyond the period of the award. In the second stage (Stage 2), teams will be selected to receive a project award of up to $15,000,000 to further develop and implement their ideas.

ISE is also supporting efforts to address the environmental crisis through the National Environmental Education and Training Program, which provides funding for research in the national field experiment in working and running businesses remotely? How will the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic affect global economic sectors? As workplaces have been disrupted like never before, the ISE is working to support research and innovation in this critical area.

In the field of environmental health, ISE is fostering collaborative research to understand how ecosystem disruption affects public health and human security. For example, neonatal doctors are discussing the implications of COVID-19 on the health of mothers and infants, and maternal health expert Dr. Rosemary Higgins is leading a session to explore these issues in more detail.

ISE encourages researchers to join its community and contribute to these important efforts. To learn more about upcoming opportunities or to add funding opportunities to the database, please contact ISE faculty. Additionally, the ISE faculty directory is available for those interested in connecting with experts in their fields.

ISE offers fellowship opportunities for mid-career researchers working in the area of environmental sustainability, providing support for transdisciplinary projects that aim to bring together diverse perspectives and tools. These fellowships are designed to help participants cross traditional disciplinary and sector boundaries and work towards creating a more sustainable future.

ISE is also providing additional funding opportunities to support research and innovation. The Global Innovation Fund, for example, offers up to $50,000 - $15,000,000 in funding to support projects that aim to improve the lives of those living in the developing world and provide opportunities for millions of people in the rest of the world. Projects can be submitted in any sector as long as they can demonstrate their innovation improves the lives of those living in the developing world.

ISE is committed to connecting researchers and experts to promote collaboration and innovation. If you are interested in joining the ISE community or learning more about upcoming opportunities, please visit the ISE website or contact ISE faculty directly.