Transdisciplinary Environment Studies & Sustainability:
Advancing Research, Education, and Practice

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Washington University has numerous strengths in the area of environmental studies (encompassing science, engineering, design, and community engagement) distributed among our multiple schools and central units. We have two primary goals with this proposal, one focused on crossing disciplinary knowledge boundaries and the other on integrating approaches to use this knowledge. First, we seek to provide a nexus whereby members of the Washington University community who are pursuing environmentally relevant work from a range of disciplinary backgrounds can engage with one another to mutual benefit, fostering a greater sense of community on campus. Our second goal is for these gatherings to serve as a way to better integrate research, education, and practice initiatives by bringing together people with different strengths and expertise in these respective areas. In meeting these goals, we foresee specific outcomes ranging from cross-disciplinary courses, grant proposals, and/or a research workshop addressing environment and climate impacts on vulnerable populations.

This initiative is important for Washington University for several reasons. As a university we have fallen behind many of our peer institutions as a thought leader in the general area of the environment. This is not for a lack of stellar individuals in many areas of environmental research, but rather the absence of an overarching infrastructure to integrate and support individual efforts across campus. We hope that the conversations that these gatherings spark will serve to help lay out the future for a more coherent university-wide vision for environmental initiatives on campus.

<u>Suggested Core Faculty</u>
Aaron Addison (GIS/Scholarly Services)
Rod Barnett (Landscape Architecture/Sam Fox)
Pratim Biswas (EECE/Engineering)
Arpita Bose (Biology/Arts & Sciences)
Carlos Botero (Biology/Arts & Sciences)
David Fike (Environmental Studies/Arts & Sciences)
Dan Giammar (EECE/Engineering)
Sophia Hayes (Chemistry/Arts & Sciences)
Amanda Koltz (Biology/Arts & Science)
Kim Medley (Tyson Research Center)
Phil Valko (Office of Sustainability)
Gautam Yadama (Brown School)