

2026 Halifax OAE Joint Learning Opportunity: Questions and Answers

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to maintain an updated and transparent record of the questions that have been asked regarding the 2026 Halifax OAE Joint Learning Opportunity both at the virtual Webinar held on Monday November 17th at 13:00 AST and the ongoing questions that are submitted to the research-network@carbontosea.org mailbox. It also includes the answers that have been provided so that all potential applicants have the opportunity to access the same information.

Webinar Questions

1. *What are the matched funding requirements?*

Matched funding means funding for the project that you will bring in either from your own organization or from partners (excluding federal departments, agencies, or crown corporations of the Government of Canada). In the Terms and Conditions document there is an evaluation rubric that shows how increased matched funding (cash or in-kind) secured for the project will receive higher scores on the evaluation grid.

Eligible recipients of MEOPAR funds include post-secondary institutions, not-for-profit organizations, Indigenous organizations and governments, municipalities, research networks, public engagement networks, organizations and companies that deliver public engagement activities, or start-up companies (including those housed in Canadian post-secondary-linked incubators).

Eligible recipients do not include federal departments, agencies, or crown corporations of the Government of Canada.

2. *Are we allowed to talk with MEOPAR or Planetary Technologies to see if proposed works align with their current works at Halifax and revise the proposal accordingly?*

We ask that all questions about the JLO be routed to the research-network@carbontosea.org mailbox to ensure accurate, fair, transparent and consistent information sharing. MEOPAR and Planetary will be closely involved in answering questions and questions the mailbox receives and answers provided will be updated frequently in this document. Please note that questions and answers submitted through our mailbox will be sanitized to our best ability to remove sensitive information, summarized and shared transparently with on our website for the benefit of other proponents.

3. *What is the duration of this Joint Learning Opportunity period?*

This JLO is scheduled to run from May to September of 2026. We understand that additional synthesis time may be required, so final reports may be submitted by January of 2027. If there are extenuating circumstances like long testing turnaround times for biological tests or adjustments required for in water research or lab analysis, please specify in your response and we will consider.

4. Could we extend a project already underway in Halifax Harbor and include sample analysis for samples previously collected, in addition to those we plan to collect, in our scope and budget?

Potentially, but only if you can show a direct linkage between how analyzing those samples will contribute to the outcome you are trying to achieve with the research activity occurring in 2026. Unrelated samples will have a harder time meeting our strategic fit criteria.

5. Could you please provide a bit more detail on the definition of "organizations and companies that deliver public engagement activities" with respect to the eligibility requirements noted?

Public engagement networks are entities involved in one or more of the following:

- Coordinating or supporting public-facing science or research engagement activities
- Facilitating partnerships between researchers and community groups
- Delivering programming that enhances public understanding or participation in science or policy.
- Organizations with experience engaging communities of interest in nature-based solutions or social innovation

We would welcome these organizations' participation in the Joint Learning Opportunity.

6. Must proposed projects align directly with Planetary's alkalinity addition in at the Tufts Cove Generating Station or can it be more general regarding OAE?

Yes. Although proposals focused on community engagement and social license may necessitate geographic flexibility.

7. Would the JLO be open to a different OAE process flow/design, or just measurements of the current process?

Additional or alternative ocean alkalinity enhancement is out of scope so as to avoid intervening with the core field activity

8. Best practices for trace metals require three month acidification. Can these measurements also follow the guidance for longer measurement types, such as biological assays?

If there are good scientific reasons why analysis / measurement turnaround times can't be completed in the JLO window, we will of course consider those, though a desired outcome is to better understand and improve the time it takes to analyze samples.

9. *What feedstock will be used by Planetary at Tufts Cove Generating Station?*

It will be mineral based feedstock that is either magnesium or calcium based. In your proposal if your research design is dependent on the use of one feedstock please specify.

10. *Could a JLO proposal be a joint application led by two scientists from separate affiliations? Let's say one academic researcher and one industry researcher?*

Yes. That is one of the advantages of the flexibility of this funding mechanism. In the past there have been academic as well as private sector awardees. We welcome collaborative proposals that adhere to our Data Management Protocol and guidelines.

Mailbox Questions (will be updated as questions are received)

1. *Would volunteering students' time be helpful as a JLO proposal?*

Simply providing an extra set of volunteering hands, while appreciated, would not be viewed as additive to the field's learning as a clear scientific proposal containing a research question your volunteers would set about answering (what would they do, how would they do it, and what question about OAE would it help answer). While a volunteering model could be relevant, we are really looking for applicants with clear plans about how their work helps close one of the 'Knowledge Gaps' we identified. With the limited funds available we're still prioritizing proposals that contribute the most to society's understanding of this emerging climate solution.

2. *Can groups access Planetary's TA sensor?*

Potentially, but highly dependent on what is meant by "access". There are significantly different operational implications between different access models:

- A. Accessing the data feeds of the TA sensor as currently deployed near the outfall may be the least disruptive but also restricts the experiment designs and scientific conclusions that can be drawn.
- B. Accessing and repositioning the TA sensor itself would open up the types of research / experiments that can be designed but is more disruptive to normal operations at Tufts Cove and would need to be reviewed and approved by Planetary.

- C. Deploying an additional (owned or rented) TA sensor at the Tufts Cove site. This method would be least disruptive, and still allow for flexibility in research design but likely cost more than models A and B.

The JLO Management Team's feedback was to be very clear up front in the scientific objectives of the study and the hypothesis the team is looking to prove or disprove and then to present the multiple options above for the Expert Reviewers' consideration with a description of the tradeoffs that each presents.

3. *What kind of Community Educational programming would be most beneficial? Would (our) proposal be beneficial?*

While we can not comment on the specific merits of individual applications we can restate that projects that deliver lasting community benefits and enduring engagement are encouraged. Additionally the JLO Management Team is seeking projects that may involve testing of various communications materials with the community to explore attitudes and perceptions of OAE, with conclusions that can be drawn for other research projects moving forward.

4. *Can you clarify what is considered an "in-kind" contribution?*

These can be any valuable contributions your organization or other third parties would bring to the project but are not billed for and included in your budget. Examples would include:

- a. Extra non-billed time from senior leadership or SMEs
- b. Equipment or technologies on loan
- c. Discounted rates for research purposes
- d. Matching funds from other sources that will be used to contribute to the project

Work / activities that would be required of the JLO host(s) e.g. Planetary Technologies should not be listed as part of the budget. Instead they should be included in the "logistical and operational requirements" section of your proposal response.