

2026 OAE Research Call for Proposals:

Application Guidance

Applicant Eligibility

The lead applicant must be formally affiliated with an eligible entity such as a research organization, academic institution, incorporated company, non-profit organization or similar entity. These organizations must be legally recognized, capable of receiving charitable donations, and capable of conducting research, technology development, technical analyses, network-building, and/or stakeholder engagement activities. There are no geographic restrictions for applicants. Proposals involving multiple institutions are eligible, provided the lead applicant's institution is able to receive the full award amount and facilitate sub-grants to the partner institutions, as needed.

Awarded applicants must commit to the operational conduct, overhead cost policy (limited to 15%), reporting requirements, data-sharing policy, intellectual property conditions, and other best practices and requirements outlined in the [Terms and Conditions](#). Carbon to Sea requires all applicants to review these terms and conditions before submitting an application.

Applicants should note that the first priority for these funding opportunities will be to contribute to the scientific body of knowledge about ocean alkalinity enhancement (OAE), and conduct transparent research that advances the field as a whole. While for-profit companies are permitted and encouraged to apply, this funding is not intended as a means for private companies to develop proprietary products or intellectual property.

Application Process & Instructions

The 2026 OAE Research Call for Proposals adopts a two-stage application process consisting of a short pre-proposal for a first stage evaluation and, for those selected, a full proposal for second-stage evaluation via scientific peer-review.

Stage 1: Pre-Proposal

Pre-proposals are **limited to 1,750 words** and should answer the **nine questions below**, succinctly communicating how the idea delivers on the desired scope of the grant, why the technical approach and team is likely to be successful, and how the proposed work will catalyze the field.

The general pre-proposal guidance applies to all grant types except Network Participation (Grant Type 1D) grants, which will use a simplified format (see below) with separate and specified pre-proposal guidance. Applicants should answer the pre-proposal questions **keeping in mind the specific scope and purpose of their target grant type**.

Figures are permitted, but not required, and should not be used to exceed the word count. References and short bios of lead team members may be included as supplemental materials and do not contribute to the word count.

Submission Process:

- Submit pre-proposals by **September 30, 2026, 11:59 PM Eastern Time**, using the webpage [submission form](#). Submissions must be complete to be considered.
- Optional supplemental materials should use this naming convention: Grant Type_Last Name_Affiliation_Document
 - a. 1A_Gamble_CarbontoSea_Figure1.pdf

Pre-proposal Questions (Grant Types 1A, 1B, 1C, 2A, 2B)

Proposal Components	Word Count
Project summary Describe what you would like to do as clearly as possible with no jargon.	250
Desired outcomes Describe the outcomes of your proposal. If you are successful, what difference will it make to your organization, community, and/or the broader OAE field.	250
Technical approach Describe your technical approach. Please highlight any unique or differentiating factors, and what makes you confident it will succeed in achieving the project outcomes. Please include an approximate project timeline.	350
Project site Describe the potential field research site, including (if applicable) its physical characteristics, and research infrastructure.	100
Team and partners Describe who is on your team, and why they are well positioned to deliver. Please include the names of any collaborating institutions. <i>You may include brief bios of significant team members or partners as supplemental materials.</i>	150

Project readiness Describe the project's starting point, and the unique or valuable assets that demonstrate your readiness to begin and succeed.	250
Project risks Describe the project's execution and operational risks, and your risk mitigation strategies.	250
Approximate funding request	\$ USD
Budget details & justification Provide additional details on main budget categories, relevant co-funding or in-kind funds.	150

Network Participation Pre-proposal (Grant Type 1D only)

Proposal Components	Word Count
Field Activity Overview Describe your planned or ongoing field activity (including research scope, scale and methodology).	250
Project Location Where is the project taking place? Be as specific as possible.	100
Network Benefits How would you hope to benefit from being a part of the network?	150
Network Contributions How could you contribute to the network? (e.g. functional expertise, field data, hosting site visits, etc.)	150

Stage 2: Full Proposal (invited applicants only)

Carbon to Sea will invite successful Stage 1 applicants to develop a more detailed proposal and budget, and will follow up with additional details on the requirements and process for this stage.

Application Timeline

Stage	Date
Pre-proposal submissions open	August 11
Pre-proposal submission deadline	September 30
Stage 2 invitations sent	October 21
Full proposal deadline	December 15
Scientific peer review	January 2027
Award decision	February 2027
Contracting & Project start date	February 2027

Proposal Evaluation Criteria

As part of the evaluation process, Carbon to Sea intends to engage expert reviewers under a confidentiality and conflict of interest agreement for independent review and feedback. Leading candidates in each grant type may be interviewed and asked to provide additional information.

Proposals will be assessed using the following criteria:

- **Scientific Merit:** Is there a high-impact scientific value proposition? Is the proposed research built upon existing relevant and credible research insights?
- **Strategic Alignment:** Does the proposed work align closely to the research goals identified in the funding call? Would it unlock or set the foundation for momentum to advance OAE's knowledge base and field development?
- **Credibility:** Does the team appear to be composed of credible, collaborative, and interdisciplinary scientists and operators? Does the team have a strong track record in marine science, environmental research, marine technology, social research, or related fields?
- **Cost Effectiveness:** Does the applicant bring valuable and definite in-kind contributions? Is it likely that there is strong co-funding or future funding potential, especially with public funds?
- **Scalable Learnings:** Does the proposed research contribute to scalable learnings beyond the proposal's immediate community or organization? Can the anticipated project outcomes provide transferable insights to future projects?

Carbon to Sea will make the final selection of awardees based on a combination of external expert reviews and our internal evaluation, both measured against the listed

criteria. Awardees must demonstrate alignment with the goals and scope described in the funding opportunity being applied to, and provide a thorough and complete proposal.