Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to announce the annual call for the Philomathia Forum on Energy and Environment, which facilitates a series of prominent annual events on topics related to climate, energy, and the environment. The next Forum will be in the Fall of 2018.

Program Goals
Overseen by the Berkeley Energy and Climate Institute (BECI), the Philomathia Forum on Energy and Environment invites proposals from UC Berkeley faculty and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) senior scientists who wish to organize a symposium or workshop on a topic concerning issues associated with energy and the environment. Special areas of interest include:

1) cutting-edge climate science and data that inform both mitigation and adaptation strategies;
2) innovative energy policies such as carbon-pricing that reduce global dependency on fossil fuels;
3) energy efficiency in all sectors (industrial, residential, commercial, transportation) using today’s energy supplies;
4) fundamental and applied research to advance clean, renewable energy for a sustainable planet;
5) adaptation strategies connected to sea-level rise, wildfire, and new climatic conditions; and,
6) broad environmental issues and impacts including changes in biodiversity.

Proposers are encouraged to address topics that have not been addressed in prior Fora.

Proposal Submission Process
Please submit a 2-3 page proposal including a brief description of the goals of the proposed symposium, draft program, a brief budget, other potential sources of financial support (including registration fees), plans for advertising the proposed meeting, and expected outcomes. The proposed Forum should showcase leading academic research being done at Berkeley and beyond – both nationally and internationally. In this regard, this high-profile event must bring eminent speakers to the campus. Please include suggested academic, government, and industrial presenters. The Forum will therefore continue to establish Berkeley as a global epicenter of energy and climate activities for a dynamic and optimistic conversation on opportunities for successful climate change mitigation and adaptation. As in previous years, with international attendees, please indicate how the 2018 Forum will be leveraged in a strategic fashion to help generate meaningful follow-on activities.

The proposal should also name at least 3-4 members of an ad hoc “Conference Organizing Committee” led by one or two Berkeley faculty or senior scientists at LBNL, a post-doc, and one other staff member or senior graduate student. Joint Berkeley campus/LBNL proposals are encouraged. This committee will be responsible for the detailed operation and management of the 2018 Forum. During the early winter, emailed letters of invitation should be sent to potential speakers so that in the early new year, a draft program can be posted on the Forum website as a “save the date.” The Conference Organizing Committee will also plan, with their presenters, the session titles, content, format and specific program flow.

Requests for support of up to $50,000 will be considered for the Forum. This financial award must cover the airfares and accommodation of eminent speakers (see above).

Please submit your proposal to info@beci.berkeley.edu. A list of prior events is included at http://beci.berkeley.edu/Philomathia-forum/. The application deadline for this Fall 2018 meeting is December 1, 2017. Please contact info@beci.berkeley.edu with any questions you may have.

Best regards,

G. Steven Martin, Interim Vice Chancellor for Research
Carl Blumstein, Acting Director, Berkeley Energy and Climate Institute