

DENIN Working Groups

Objectives

Environmental problems are complex—they escape linear or singular solutions. To address them, we need innovative, interdisciplinary collaborations. The goal of DENIN working groups is to provide space and structure for the integrated research and solutions that environmental problems demand. Working groups will bring together people from across the university around topics of mutual interest and pressing need. Through seed funding and administrative support, the groups aim to build sustainable sources of fundings to continue their research beyond the bounds of the original group.

Structure

Chair. Working groups are led by a chair or co-chairs. Chairs must be faculty or staff members at UD; graduate students cannot serve as chair. The chair serves a one-year renewable term. They are responsible for:

- Creating meeting agendas
- Facilitating at least 6 meetings a year
- Working with DENIN staff to schedule meetings
- Submitting a 1-page annual summary of working group progress, including what activities have taken place, what funds have been used, and what the group plans for the following year

Members. Membership in working groups is open to all faculty, staff, and students at UD, including all colleges and role statements. Members are open to join or leave the working group at any time. Topics for the working group must be broad enough to invite participation from multiple disciplines and colleges.

DENIN Staff. DENIN will provide the support necessary for working groups to thrive. Staff are available to help:

- Develop customized grant portfolios related to the research interests and goals of the group
- Schedule meetings (including room reservations, Zoom links, and meeting invitations)
- Take meeting notes
- Create and manage a working group Google Drive
- Create and manage a working group Google Group with email listserv
- Support groups during pre- and post-award phases of grant proposals

Funding

DENIN will provide each working group with \$15,000 seed funding for year one of the group. These funds are to be used at the discretion of the working group chair, with approval from DENIN. While appropriate uses for the funds may vary and are negotiable, examples include:

- Summer salary for the chair or key working group personnel to compensate for effort toward the group during the year
- Speakers
- Events
- Student researchers
- Travel
- Other expenses that can be justified as advancing the goals of the working group

Continued funding in years 2+ may be awarded to groups that are still actively collaborating; these additional funds must be solicited by the chair and are at the discretion of the DENIN Director.