Do you have a scientific question that could be answered on NC State's campus and engage the campus community in the research process? If so, your project could be this year's highlighted project through the [Citizen Science Campus](#)!

Citizen science and other participatory sciences are the range of approaches in which science and society co-produce new knowledge. Many disciplines have their own forms of participatory research, and these research methods can be an effective way to gather data for complex and widespread challenges. We want to turn NC State's campus into an incubator for participatory science projects and embed these opportunities into campus life.

We are excited to announce a call for proposals for the Citizen Science Incubator, a platform for identifying a focal project of the year for the Citizen Science Campus. The selected Citizen Science Incubator project will be featured in the [Pack Science Challenge](#), a university-wide challenge that engages students and community members as collaborators in ongoing research about their environment. It will also be incorporated as an experiential learning opportunity in [Wicked Problems, Wolfpack Solutions](#), a multidisciplinary online course created to engage all incoming first-year and transfer students and their families in thinking about grand challenges.

Who should submit a proposal?

This opportunity is open to all faculty, staff, postdoctoral scholars, graduate students, and undergraduate students at NC State. NC State community members from any disciplinary background with a participatory science-based project idea are encouraged to submit a proposal. We welcome proposals from individuals or teams.

While there are no requirements for the topical focus of the project, interdisciplinary questions and/or teams are strongly encouraged. This year's Wicked Problems, Wolfpack Solutions course theme is "(Y)Our Changing World," which dives into the grand challenges of climate change and global change broadly. It is preferred, but not required, that projects align with this theme.

What do you receive through this opportunity?

The primary benefit awarded through the Citizen Science Incubator is **increased access to potential participants for your participatory science project** to drive forward your research. The selected project will be featured in an upcoming Wicked Problems, Wolfpack Solutions course, which is offered to all incoming undergraduate students (approximately 7,000), and will be the focus of the Pack Science Challenge, a university-wide challenge for the campus community to engage in participatory research.

In addition to this audience access, the Citizen Science Incubator project will receive access to a variety of support structures, including:

- Logistical guidance from the Citizen Science Campus
- Advertising support
- If applicable, support from the [Libraries' Data and Visualization Services](#) team to help create ways for people to engage with the data
- Funding for promotional items
- $2,000 for an undergraduate research assistant on the project*

- Assistance from graduate students in PSC 551

Please note that the selected project's lead/primary investigator (PI) will be responsible for implementing the participatory science project.

*The undergraduate student must be selected from a pool of students who recently completed Wicked Problems, Wolfpack Solutions. This student pool includes 1,000+ undergraduates from all colleges and academic homes. We will facilitate the application process; selection will be at the project PI's discretion.

Application:

The application will ask you to address the following sections:

1. **Project description.** Describe your proposed project. Why does it require a participatory science approach? What are the scientific aims? What will be done to address these aims? *Limit 500 words.*

2. **Methods.** What is the field protocol for data collection? How will you analyze the data? *Limit 250 words.*

3. **Communication plan.** How will updates about and results from the project be reported back to the participants? How will they be disseminated to the public? *Limit 250 words.*

4. **Alignment with priority areas.** Does your project align with the broad themes of climate change and/or global change? If yes, please explain this alignment. If not, please describe how your project is interdisciplinary in nature, addresses a grand challenge, and/or answers an important question about our campus and NC environment. *Limit 250 words.*

5. **Project status.** Is this a new or existing project? *Multiple choice: new, existing.*
   a. If "new," how will your research benefit by inclusion in the Citizen Science Incubator? Please specify publications, grant proposals, or other anticipated outcomes. *Limit 100 words.*
   b. If "existing," what is the current status of the project? Are there any data? Would this be a continuation of the project, or a new direction that reflects modifications to the protocol and/or aims? How will your research benefit by inclusion in the Citizen Science Incubator? *Limit 100 words.*

6. **Location.** Where could this project be conducted? Please think about the field protocol for data collection and any other logistical considerations. Can participants contribute to this project through the standard protocol from any location (e.g., other parts of the state, country, or world)? If not, are there modifications that could be made to the protocol to enable remote participation? *Multiple choice: on-campus only, on-campus or off-campus without restrictions, on-campus or off-campus with modifications.*
   a. If "on-campus or off-campus with modifications," please briefly describe what participation would look like for someone contributing remotely. *Limit 100 words*.

7. **Dates.** When could this project be conducted? *Select all that apply: December 2024, Spring 2025, Summer 2025.*

Submission Instructions:

Proposals should be submitted here. **All proposals must be received by 11:59pm on the deadline of Monday, September 23, 2024.** Decisions are anticipated by mid-October.

Please contact Caren Cooper (cbcoope3@ncsu.edu) with any questions.