

CDF – Green Initiatives Program Fund Terms of Reference

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of the Green Initiatives Program of the Community Development Fund (CDF) is to support green initiatives that result in improved environmental sustainability in Sault Ste. Marie.

2.0 Policy

The City of Sault Ste. Marie's Environmental Sustainability Committee (ESC) may recommend the allocation of funds for eligible projects or programs that support the City's environmental plans and practices, in particular the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and other community environmental sustainability activities.

Funding applications will be reviewed by the ESC in accordance with the CDF – Green Initiatives Program Fund (GIPF) guidelines and will be recommended to Council for approval.

Total funds available for all projects under the CDF – Green Initiatives Program is \$50,000. This amount will be reviewed on an annual basis.

3.0 Definitions

3.1 "Sustainability" means a broad, interconnected understanding of environmental stewardship. It is not just about preserving resources for future generations but it is also about ensuring that all life forms continue to thrive in balance.

The City of Sault Ste. Marie (the City), whose municipality is in the heart of Turtle Island within the Robinson Huron/Superior Treaty Territory, unsundered lands of the Anishinaabeg peoples, known to them as Bawating - the place of the rapids. The City was historically a centre for trade and knowledge sharing, which the City acknowledges at the start of each of its public meetings. Anishinaabe perspectives are included in the CDF Green Initiatives Program Fund terms of reference. Anishinaabeg peoples emphasize that sustainability decisions must consider the importance of the interconnectedness of all life forms, which they refer to as "relatives", including but not limited to: minerals, weather, plants and trees, fungi, birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians; and arthropods¹. This total view of seeing the environment can ensure that projects aiming towards sustainability consider that the health, survival, wellbeing of all life forms and the ways they are interconnected are taken care of and maintained for present and future generations.

All applicants are encouraged to consider the interconnectedness of ecosystem and the cyclical aspects of sustainability as part of their assessment of the environmental impacts of their proposed project(s). The well-being of all beings and the elements that affect them is essential for maintaining a balanced and sustainable ecosystem, with an understanding that the health of one affects the health of all.

3.2 "Eligible Applicant" means either a:

- i. Incorporated Not-for-profit organization
- ii. Unincorporated organization/collective – must be composed of at least 2 members and have been active as a group for at least 1 year

¹ <https://ir.lib.uwo.ca/etd/5520/>

- iii. Local School or School Group / Committee
- iv. City of Sault Ste. Marie Department

- “Eligible Project” means any project or activity that demonstrates environmental benefits or improvements and is consistent with City policies, and may include, but is not limited to greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions, improving water quality / aquatic habitat rehabilitation, increases to energy efficiency, improving the health and resiliency of the overall ecosystems, including habitat restoration, active transportation or waste reduction.

3.3 “Long-term impact” refers to: the lasting effects of a project on the environment, communities, and the economy, which extends beyond immediate carbon reduction. The goal is to ensure that decisions made today foster sustainable, equitable futures, with consideration for both ecological health and community well-being over the long term (e.g. assessing the sustainability of materials used, ethical practices in supply chains, environmental and social consequences or benefits, resource extraction and/or production, and the ways local businesses (e.g. goods and/or services produced in Sault Ste. Marie) are supported wherever and whenever possible).

4.0 Processing for Evaluating Proposals

4.1 The Community Development and Enterprise Services Department (CD&ES) will provide the resources to support the intake of applications and support the proponent(s) in the development of their proposal.

4.2 City Finance and CD&ES will provide recommendations regarding economic resources available and related concerns (e.g., due diligence collaboration, risk management, etc.)

4.3 Once an application has been deemed eligible and completed by City staff, applications will be reviewed with the Environmental Sustainability Committee for recommendation to City council.

4.4. All requests will be presented to Council in writing with supporting presentations by the applicant, if required. A copy of the application will be included in the Council package, which is public. Any confidential material to support the application should be contained in a separate document and marked confidential.

4.5 City Council will make the final decision regarding the approval of financial contributions.

5.0 Recommendations of Awards

5.1 Funding amounts recommended for the award are at the discretion of the ESC. The committee may recommend funding the total amount requested or a portion of the amount requested, subject to the number/volume of other applications, the strength and alignment of the proposal with ESC terms of reference, and/or scoring and quality of the application.

6.0 Accountability, Monitoring and Reporting of Results

The following will be expected from the successful applicants:

6.1 Recognition of the Community Development Fund contribution to the project in reports and appropriate marketing products, including the City logo.

6.2 Progress reports for longer duration projects as outlined in their application timetable and proposal to City Council.

6.3 A final project report containing an evaluation of the success of the initiative in meeting its goals and key performance targets as well as the benefits to the community is required within 60 days of project completion.

6.4 A complete report of all revenues and disbursements for the project within 6 months of completion of the project. The City Finance Department will require supporting financial documentation (e.g. paid invoices, etc.) and has the right to review or audit projects.

The GIPF are provided on a reimbursement basis, i.e., an organization incurs the cost, provides invoices to the City in a claim report and the City's contribution level to the project is then provided. Where other levels of government or other funding programs are involved, the City will receive claim packages as submitted to the other funding agencies and pay their proportional share of approved and eligible project costs.

Community Development Fund Application Form

Green Initiatives Program Fund

Before filling out an application, please discuss your project and/or activity with Community Development and Enterprise Services (CD&ES) staff. Contact information is available in Section 7 of the application. Staff will help guide potential applicants through the process and answer any questions regarding the program and application form.

Please fill in each of the following sections:

Section 1: Intakes

Applications will be accepted quarterly every year and recommended for Council approval by the City's Environmental Sustainability Committee (ESC) at their quarterly meetings. Please select the intake round you wish to apply for funds.

Intake	Submission Period	Application Due	ESC and Council Review	Project Implementation
<input type="checkbox"/> Q1	January 1 – March 31	Last Friday in March of each calendar year	April	After May 1
<input type="checkbox"/> Q2	April 1 – June 30	Last Friday in June of each calendar year	July	After August 1
<input type="checkbox"/> Q3	July 1 – September 30	Last Friday in September of each calendar year	October	After November 1
<input type="checkbox"/> Q4	October 1 – October 31	Last Friday in October of each calendar year	November	After December 1

Section 2: Applicant Information

Please select which type of organization you represent:

- Incorporated Not-for-profit organization
- Unincorporated organization/collective – must be composed of at least 2 members and have been active as a group for at least 1 year
- Local School or School Group / Committee
- City of Sault Ste. Marie (list Department): _____

Organization/Collection/School/School Group Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ **Fax:** _____

Contact Name: _____ **Email:** _____

Phone: _____

Names of Organization Officers, Directors & Principals (if applicable): _____

Briefly describe the function or purpose of your organization (e.g. include a short history, mandate, goals and objectives)

Contributing partners (elaborate on the partner (name), type of partnership (e.g. joint venture, in-kind organization) or proposed collaboration, and provide references): _____

Section 3: Project Information

Please provide key information about your project including: project description, objectives, performance targets, impacts and limitations of project, methodology and timing (including key dates for progress reports and final grant report)

Outline your communication strategy for promoting the project you are seeking GIF for (e.g., press release, social media post, community event, etc.) and any plans to ensure that the project is brought to the attention of the community. Please also include the target audience of your project and anticipated impact (e.g., education, awareness, reduced emissions, water quality improvement).

Section 4: Costs and Financing

Total amount of assistance requested \$ _____

Please specify as accurately as possible how the Green Initiatives Fund will be used if approved. Requests for capital purchases or printed material must include a minimum of one quote from a firm/business to provide the service/material.

If you are a City Department, please elaborate on how you plan to use this request to build a pathway into future operating and/or capital budgets. Please also tie this into the environmental sustainability section of the corporate strategic plan.

Does your organization currently receive other financial assistance from the City, either in-kind or direct funding?

Yes

No

If yes, please specify:

Have you received Green Initiative funding from the City previously?

No

Yes Amount (\$) _____

Project Title / Description: _____

What was the last year received: _____(specify year)

If yes, for the last year that the grant was received, append a copy of a Post-Project Report. Please note that applicants can apply more than once a year, providing their last project post-project report has been submitted to and approved by the City. Organizations that have previously received funding in previous years, may apply for additional grants in subsequent years, provided they have submitted a complete and satisfactory post-grant report for any previous funding received. However, to ensure broad and equitable community access to funding, priority will be given to first-time applicants and new organizations.

In cases where the total funding requested exceeds the available annual budget, funding will be allocated first to eligible new applicants and organizations that have not previously received support from this program. Returning applicants may receive funding only if sufficient resources remain after new applications have been considered.

For grants given to assist in capital purchases or printed material, please append an example and/or colour photo of the item(s).

Submit the following required attachments with your application:

- i) Detailed project costs
- ii) Financing arrangements (e.g., equity, loans, etc.) and funding partners
- iii) In-kind contributions

- iv) Balance, Financial Statements, Cash flow projections (historical and projected), where appropriate
- v) Demonstrated need for assistance and supporting documentation and applications to other government assistance programs, etc.

Section 5: Environmental Benefits

Description of how the project aims towards or achieves environmental sustainability.

If your project looks to replace a piece of equipment (e.g. fluorescent lighting with LED), please explain how the old materials will be disposed of, ensuring that they are decommissioned properly or recycled, if applicable.

If applicable, has your project considered local, regional, and/or Provincial supply chain, such as the materials used in their production and transportation. If so please explain the ways you have considered local supply chains in the materials of the goods or products you are seeking, and their impacts on sustainability.

Section 6: Community Benefits

If applicable, does your project seek to support local businesses with the purchase of goods and/or services that you are applying for funding for?

Does the project complement or connect to other local initiatives? If so, how?

Section 7

I UNDERSTAND that by signing this application, I agree that my project:

- Has a distinct start and end date within the year that the grant is provided.
- Has specific deliverables based on the project.
- Will benefit the residents of Sault Ste. Marie.
- City of Sault Ste. Marie property held by the organization must have a current and up-to-date tax payments upon the City’s receipt of application. Through the grant period, tax payments must be maintained and up-to-date. Organizations whose property taxes are in arrears will not be considered for this program. Organizations who default on their property taxes through the grant period will not receive any payment from the City of Sault Ste. Marie, and the grant agreement may be terminated immediately.

I CERTIFY that to the best of my knowledge, the information provided in the Green Initiatives Program Fund application is accurate and complete and is endorsed by the organization society or City department, which I represent.

DATED in Sault Ste. Marie, this _____ day of _____, 20__

NAME	Title	Signature	Phone Number
_____	_____	_____	_____

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM AND RELATED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION TO:

Emily Cormier
 Sustainability Coordinator, Community Development & Enterprise Services
 99 Foster Drive, Level 1
 Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 5X6
 Telephone inquiries: (705) 989-8748
 Email: e.cormier2@cityssm.on.ca

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Application Received By: _____ **Date:** _____

Collection of Personal Information Notice

Personal information of the Green Initiative Fund Application is collected under the authority of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy ACT R.S.O. 1990 m c.M.56 and will be used solely to determine applicable information necessary for application. Questions about this collection should be directed to the address noted in the Competition Outline.