



COMMUNITY
ENERGY PLANNING
**GETTING TO
IMPLEMENTATION**
IN CANADA

Funding Community Energy and Climate Change Initiatives

A guide to funding for Alberta local governments

NOVEMBER 2016

www.gettingtoimplementation.ca



Acknowledgments

Project Co-Directors

Dale Littlejohn, Community Energy Association
Richard Laszlo, QUEST

Project Manager

Sarah Marchionda, QUEST

Senior Project Advisors

Brent Gilmour, QUEST
Stephanie Cairns, Sustainable Prosperity

Research and Writing Team

Patricia Bell, Community Energy Association
Susan Chalmers, Community Energy Association

Expert Advisors

The project team would like to thank subject matter experts who provided input into the development of this report.

Cover image: Patrick Chin

Copyright © QUEST – Quality Urban Energy Systems of Tomorrow, 2016.

These materials may be reproduced in whole or in part without charge or written permission, provided that appropriate source acknowledgements are made and that no changes are made to the contents. All other rights are reserved. The analyses/views in these materials are those of QUEST, and these analyses/views do not necessarily reflect those of QUEST’s affiliates (including supporters, funders, members, and other participants). QUEST’s affiliates do not endorse or guarantee any parts or aspects of these materials, and QUEST’s affiliates are not liable (either directly or indirectly) for any issues that may be related to these materials

Project Supporters



Project Partners



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE..... iv
- CROSS REFERENCE TABLE - FUNDING GUIDE..... v
- FUNDING GUIDE 1
 - 1. Agri-Innovation Program.....1
 - 2. Alberta Community Partnership.....1
 - 3. Alberta Community Resilience Program.....1
 - 4. Alberta Indigenous Community Energy Program2
 - 5. Alberta Indigenous Solar Program2
 - 6. Alberta Municipal Solar Program2
 - 7. Alberta Municipal Water/Wastewater Partnership / Water for Life3
 - 8. Alberta Real Estate Foundation Grant.....3
 - 9. Basic Municipal Transportation Grant.....4
 - 10. Biological Greenhouse Gas Management Program.....4
 - 11. CCEMC Call for Proposals.....4
 - 12. Community and Regional Economic Support Program.....5
 - 13. EcoAction Community Funding Program.....5
 - 14. Energy Innovation Program.....6
 - 15. ENMAX Community Investment Program6
 - 16. EQUUS Solar PV Micro-Generation Financing & Incentives.....7
 - 17. FCC AgriSpirit Fund7
 - 18. Federal Gas Tax Fund.....7
 - 19. Fortis Alberta Community Grants8
 - 20. Green Municipal Fund.....8
 - 21. Green Transit Incentives Program (GreenTRIP).....9
 - 22. Municipal Sustainability Initiative.....9
 - 23. New Building Canada Fund - Small Communities Fund.....9
 - 24. Taking Action to Manage Energy (TAME+) Program.....10
 - 25. TD Friends of the Environment Foundation Grant10
 - 26. Western Diversification Program10
- STEPS TO A WINNING GRANT APPLICATION 11

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This funding guide is intended to assist Alberta local government staff and elected officials find appropriate funding to support local government energy planning, efficiency and renewable energy projects. Due to limited space, it is only possible to include key information about each program.

The guide provides a comprehensive listing of programs for which Alberta local governments are eligible that provide financial incentives for climate action, energy planning, efficiency, or renewable energy activities. Each listing includes the program title, description, restrictions on eligibility, amount of funds available, organization, contact information, and website address.

It is organized alphabetically by program name. Each program has been categorized according to the focus of each program: Buildings, Infrastructure, Renewables and Transportation. Many programs are applicable to more than one or sometimes all of the categories. The cross-reference table enables quick identification of programs within categories and types of incentive and resources available.

While this guide presents numerous funding sources for action on climate change, it is not intended to provide information for adaptation to the impacts of climate change.

CROSS REFERENCE TABLE - FUNDING GUIDE

Funding Guide	Category				Financial Incentives				Non-Financial Resources				
	Buildings	Infrastructure	Renewables	Transportation	Planning/studies	Implementation	Grants	Loans/Tax breaks	Information	Assistance	Workshops	Advocacy	Other
1. Agri-Innovation Program		•	•		•	•		•					
2. Alberta Community Partnership		•			•	•	•						
3. Alberta Community Resilience Program		•			•	•	•						
4. Alberta Indigenous Community Energy Program	•				•		•		•	•			
5. Alberta Indigenous Solar Program	•	•	•			•	•						
6. Alberta Municipal Solar Program	•	•	•			•	•						
7. Alberta Municipal Water /Wastewater Partnership / Water for Life		•				•	•						
8. Alberta Real Estate Foundation Grant	•	•	•	•	•	•	•						
9. Basic Municipal Transportation Grant				•		•	•						
10. Biological Greenhouse Gas Management Program			•	•		•	•						
11. CCEMC Call for Proposals	•	•	•	•	•	•	•						
12. Community and Regional Economic Support Program	•	•	•	•	•	•	•						

CROSS REFERENCE TABLE - FUNDING GUIDE

Funding Guide	Category				Financial Incentives				Non-Financial Resources				
	Buildings	Infrastructure	Renewables	Transportation	Planning/studies	Implementation	Grants	Loans/Tax breaks	Information	Assistance	Workshops	Advocacy	Other
13. EcoAction Community Funding Program	●	●	●	●		●	●						
14. Energy Innovation Program	●	●	●	●	●	●	●						
15. Enmax Community Investment Program	●	●	●		●	●	●						
16. EQUS Solar PV Micro-Generation Financing & Incentives			●			●	●						
17. FCC AgriSpirit Fund	●	●				●	●						
18. Federal Gas Tax Fund	●	●	●	●		●	●						
19. Fortis Alberta Community Grants	●	●				●	●						
20. Green Municipal Fund	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●
21. Green Transit Incentives Program				●		●	●						
22. Municipal Sustainability Initiative	●	●	●	●	●	●	●						
23. New Building Canada Fund – Small Communities Fund	●	●	●	●	●	●	●						
24. Taking Action to Manage Energy Program	●				●	●	●		●				

CROSS REFERENCE TABLE - FUNDING GUIDE

Funding Guide	Category				Financial Incentives				Non-Financial Resources				
	Buildings	Infrastructure	Renewables	Transportation	Planning/studies	Implementation	Grants	Loans/Tax breaks	Information	Assistance	Workshops	Advocacy	Other
25. TD Friends of the Environment Foundation Grant		●				●	●						
26. Western Diversification Program		●		●	●	●	●						

FUNDING GUIDE

1. Agri-Innovation Program		Category: Renewables and Infrastructure
<p>Description</p> <p>This federal government program provides funding for agricultural research and development in addition to projects that result in the commercialization/adoption of innovative products, technologies and practices. They should address one of five activity areas: energy and waste management; climate change adaptation; air quality, soil and water improvement; product development and commercialization; and food science advancement.</p>		
<p>Eligibility</p> <p>For profit entity. Initiative must be innovative, feasible, market ready, and in demand.</p>	<p>Funding Available</p> <p>Up to \$10 million for the adoption/commercialization stream but usually \$2 million is awarded for demo projects.</p> <p>Applications accepted on ongoing basis. Projects must be completed by December 2017 as program ends March 31, 2018.</p>	<p>Contact</p> <p>Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada 1-877-246-4682 aip-pai@agr.gc.ca http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/programs-and-services/list-of-programs-and-services/agriinnovation-program/?id=1460123349608#11</p>
2. Alberta Community Partnership		Category: Infrastructure
<p>Description</p> <p>This partnership aims to enhance the long term sustainability of municipalities through support for regional collaboration and capacity building. Eligible projects include inter-municipal collaboration on regional municipal service delivery, metropolitan restructuring (e.g. amalgamation or dissolution), cooperative processes to manage conflict and facilitate collaboration, and municipal internships.</p>		
<p>Eligibility</p> <p>Municipalities, Metis settlements, Capital Region Board, and Calgary Regional Partnership.</p>	<p>Funding Available</p> <p>Funding varies per project. Application deadlines depend on the project area and are available when program guidelines are released. However, the internship program deadline is October 1 each year.</p>	<p>Contact</p> <p>Alberta Municipal Affairs 780-427-2225 acp.grants@gov.ab.ca http://municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/alberta-community-partnership</p>
3. Alberta Community Resilience Program		Category: Infrastructure
<p>Description</p> <p>The Alberta Community Resilience Program helps to raise long term community resilience to floods and droughts as well as support integrated planning. The grant program funds the development and implementation of projects that reduce the effects of these weather related events on municipal infrastructure. Eligible projects either help to protect critical infrastructure or mitigate public safety hazards. Water, wastewater and storm water infrastructure in addition to infrastructure utilized to access them qualify.</p>		
<p>Eligibility</p> <p>Municipalities, Improvement Districts, Metis settlements, and First Nations.</p>	<p>Funding Available</p> <p>90% of eligible construction and engineering costs up to \$3 million. 70% of costs above \$3 million.</p> <p>The fall application deadline for 2017/18 fiscal funding has passed. Refer to the website for next intake.</p>	<p>Contact</p> <p>Alberta Environment & Parks ESRD.ACRP@gov.ab.ca http://aep.alberta.ca/water/programs-and-services/alberta-community-resilience-program/default.aspx</p>

4. Alberta Indigenous Community Energy Program

Category: Buildings

Description

This new pilot program offers financial support and other resources to Indigenous communities to raise awareness about how energy is used in their buildings and determine ways to conserve energy and save money. Comprehensive energy assessments are conducted on community owned buildings to understand the efficiency of existing structures and to estimate the energy savings, monetary savings, and greenhouse gas emission reductions of potential building retrofits. The assessments help to make educated decisions about building upgrades. The following types of structures are eligible for funds for the assessments: office buildings, public works buildings, fire and police stations, community centres and arenas, aquatic centres, sports centres, and residential and commercial buildings that are owned by the community.

Eligibility

First Nation communities, Metis settlements and Aseniwuche Winewak Nation.

Funding Available

100% of eligible expenses up to \$90,000 per project.
Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis until program funding is exhausted.

Contact

Alberta Indigenous Relations
780-427-8407
IR.climate@gov.ab.ca
<http://indigenous.alberta.ca/AICEP.cfm>

5. Alberta Indigenous Solar Program

Category: Buildings, Infrastructure, Renewables

Description

The Alberta Indigenous Solar Program awards grants to Indigenous organizations or communities for the installation of new solar PV systems on their facilities. Projects must be between 2 kW and 1 MW, have a cost less than \$3.75/watt, and comply with the province's Micro-generation Regulation 27/2008 if they are grid-connected.

Eligibility

First Nation communities, Metis settlements, Aseniwuche Winewak Nation, and Indigenous led organizations.

Funding Available

60% of eligible expenses up to \$200,000 per project. Applicants can pursue non provincial government sources for the balance of the project costs.
Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis until program funding is exhausted.

Contact

Alberta Indigenous Relations
780-427-8407
IR.climate@gov.ab.ca
<http://indigenous.alberta.ca/AISP.cfm>

6. Alberta Municipal Solar Program

Category: Buildings, Infrastructure, Renewables

Description

This Municipal Climate Change Action Centre (MCCAC) program offers financial rebates to municipalities that mount solar PV systems on their facilities or land. Systems must be between 2 kW and 1 MW in capacity, energized after February 5, 2016, and conform to the Micro-generation Regulation 27/2008.

Eligibility

Municipalities as defined under the Municipal Government Act and non-profit community organizations if their project is on municipal land or facilities.

Funding Available

Less than 10 kW - \$.75/watt
10 kW-149 kW - \$.60/watt
150 kW-1MW - \$.45/watt
Bonus of \$.15/watt if complete application by February 1, 2017.
Rebates will not exceed 20% of eligible expenses.
Funding provided on first come, first serve basis. Submit Expression of Interest before completing detailed application.

Contact

Municipal Climate Change Action Centre
780-433-4431
contact@mccac.ca
<http://www.mccac.ca/programs/AMSP>

7. Alberta Municipal Water/Wastewater Partnership / Water for Life

Category: Infrastructure

Description

This provincial program helps fund the construction of water supply and treatment facilities, as well as wastewater facilities, in smaller municipalities. Private sector companies need to be hired for the construction projects, preferably Alberta businesses. Financial support for regional water facilities (two or more municipalities or regional commissions), including new extensions to existing ones, is available through the Water for Life program. Regional facilities must be more cost effective or environmentally beneficial than individual municipal systems to receive support. New regional water facilities need to be primarily for household use.

Eligibility

Cities (less than 45,000 people), towns, villages, hamlets within rural municipalities, Metis settlements, municipal and improvement districts.

Funding Available

Municipalities with less than 1,000 people – 75% of project costs.
Municipalities with 1,000 – 45,000 people – grant percentage is based on a formula. The percentage ratio decreases as the population rises.
For regional water systems where upgrades are made to existing facilities, a weighted average is used to determine each municipality's share of the allocated funds.
New regional systems are funded at 90% with future extensions at 100%.
Application deadline is November 30 each year for consideration in following fiscal year budget.

Contact

Alberta Transportation
Contact Regional Director/Grant Technologist
<http://transportation.alberta.ca/5400.htm> - Alberta Municipal Water/Wastewater Partnership
<http://transportation.alberta.ca/5452.htm> - Water For Life

8. Alberta Real Estate Foundation Grant

Category: Buildings, Infrastructure, Renewables, Transportation

Description

Alberta Real Estate Foundation offers grants for projects that fall within one of four categories: housing, land stewardship and environment, community innovation, or industry leadership. Examples of funded projects include, but are not limited to: adopting technologies to increase the energy efficiency and sustainability of buildings; adapting housing best practices from elsewhere to Alberta communities; featuring smart growth principles in land use planning; enabling better land stewardship and land use management; and solving a community problem through collaboration, capacity building, and entrepreneurship. Generally, financial assistance is offered to projects that meet certain criteria such as capacity building in a municipality or real estate industry, knowledge sharing, cooperation to leverage resources, and participation of the real estate sector.

Eligibility

Municipalities (must partner with a non-profit organization).

Funding Available

Funding varies.
Application deadlines for 2017 are January 20, May 5 and August 18.

Contact

Alberta Real Estate Foundation
403-228-4786
questions@aref.ab.ca
<http://aref.ab.ca/get-funding/#tab-id-4>

9. Basic Municipal Transportation Grant

Category: Transportation

Description

The Basic Municipal Transportation Grant funds the construction and maintenance of capital transportation infrastructure such as roads, bridges and public transit. Barrier free initiatives are also funded to enhance transportation accessibility for people with disabilities and senior citizens. The grant is now amalgamated with the Municipal Sustainability Initiative ([see below](#)) and administered by government staff of that program.

Eligibility

Cities, towns, villages, municipal / improvement districts, specialized municipalities, and Metis settlements.

Funding Available

Annual fund allocations are based on a formula that incorporates certain criteria for each municipality.

Contact

Alberta Transportation

<http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/5407.htm>

10. Biological Greenhouse Gas Management Program

Category: Infrastructure, Renewables

Description

This joint program between Alberta Innovates Bio Solutions and the Climate Change and Emission Management Corporation (CCEMC) supports the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from biological industries. Examples of funded projects involve waste management, livestock management, bio-products development, and the utilization of biological products and processes to decrease emissions from other sectors. Projects should meet one of the following three criteria to receive financial assistance: lower emissions from agriculture, forestry or waste management; increase biological carbon sequestration; or use biological feedstock to create products that lower emissions (e.g. forest biomass to produce clean energy).

Eligibility

Technology developers, research teams, industry, NGOs and municipalities.

Funding Available

Up to \$2 million is available for projects each year. A maximum of \$500,000 would be awarded for each one. Matching funding is required. Continuous intake of applications.

Contact

Alberta Innovates Bio Solutions
780-996-1823

[susan.wood-](mailto:susan.wood-bohm@albertainnovates.ca)

bohm@albertainnovates.ca

<http://bio.albertainnovates.ca/stratthemes/biological-ghg-management/>

11. CCEMC Call for Proposals

Category: Buildings, Infrastructure, Renewables, Transportation

Description

Climate Change and Emissions Management Corporation funds initiatives that lower greenhouse gas emissions and foster adaptation to climate change. Priority funding areas include energy efficiency, green energy production and carbon capture and storage. Calls for Expressions of Interest are announced twice each year. They often focus on a particular subject area and feature selection criteria in the funding guidelines.

Eligibility

Various organizations. Past funded projects have been from private sector energy and non-energy companies, municipalities, academic institutions, and NGOs.

Funding Available

Funding varies by project. Refer to the guidelines for each Expression of Interest.

Expressions of Interest are announced in the spring and fall. Successful applicants are then requested to submit a Full Project Proposal.

Contact

Climate Change and Emissions Management Corporation
780-417-1920

info@ccemc.ca

<http://ccemc.ca/funding/#>

12. Community and Regional Economic Support Program

Category: Buildings, Infrastructure, Renewables, Transportation

Description

Through this new program, the provincial government provides financial assistance to regions and municipalities for initiatives that foster long term economic growth. The Community and Regional Economic Support Program (CARES) supports endeavours that meet at least one of the following objectives: enhance the business environment or regional economic collaboration; provide extra support to small and medium sized businesses to help them prosper; support industries that economically diversify a municipality or region; and invest in areas that create more high value jobs. Instituting economic development initiatives from strategic plans, attracting sustainable business and industries, and revitalizing commercial areas to entice investment are examples of initiatives that would qualify. Grants are available through either the community (CED) or regional economic development (RED) stream. Projects in the former stream enhance local capacity and approaches to improve the economy, while projects in the latter category feature collaboration between communities and partners to foster positive regional economic outcomes.

Eligibility

Municipalities, Metis settlements, First Nations, non-profit organizations specializing in economic development (e.g. REDAs).

Funding Available

\$30 million from 2016-2018, of which \$26.45 million is earmarked for municipalities and regions.
CED stream - Minimum of \$10,000 in funding and up to 50% of project cost.
RED stream - Minimum of \$25,000 in funding and up to 50% of project cost.
Three application intakes periods exist: October 1-November 30, 2016
April 1-May 31, 2017
3rd intake is to be announced.

Contact

Alberta Economic Development and Trade
CARES.program@gov.ab.ca
<http://www.alberta.ca/community-regional-economic-support-program.aspx>

13. EcoAction Community Funding Program

Category: Buildings, Infrastructure, Renewables, Transportation

Description

Environment Canada's EcoAction program supports projects that protect and improve the natural environment as well as increase the capacity to sustain the environmental initiatives over the long term. Funded projects should address one of four themes: clean air, climate change, clean water or nature.

Eligibility

Aboriginal organizations, community and environmental groups, and community based associations.

Funding Available

Up to 50% of total project costs. A maximum of \$100,000 is available per project. For each dollar provided by the federal government, at least the same amount must be received from other partners.
Application deadline is November 1 each year.

Contact

Environment Canada
1-800-567-1570
ec.ecoactionouestnord-ecoactionwestnorth.ec@canada.ca
<https://www.ec.gc.ca/ecoaction/>

14. Energy Innovation Program

Category: Buildings, Infrastructure, Renewables, Transportation

Description

The Clean Energy Innovation component of this Natural Resources Canada program funds energy technology innovation in the following areas: renewable energy, smart grid technology and energy storage systems; decreased diesel use in industrial operations in northern/remote communities; reduced methane emissions; lower greenhouse gas emissions from buildings; greater industrial efficiency; and carbon capture and storage. Projects may be demonstration projects, engineering design studies or research and development initiatives. The second component of the Energy Innovation Program is Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Demonstrations. It supports front end engineering design studies and demonstrations to facilitate the cost effective deployment of next generation charging infrastructure.

Eligibility

Local and provincial governments, First Nations, associations, academic institutions, utilities, and private companies.

Funding Available

Clean Energy Innovation Component:
Up to 50% of project costs for demo or engineering design studies.

Up to 75% of project costs for research and development.

For these projects, the program funds a minimum of \$300,000 and maximum of \$5 million respectively.

Recent application deadline ended October 31. Refer to website for future intakes.

Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Demonstration Component:

Up to 50% of project costs. Minimum amounts of \$300,000 for front-end engineering (FEED) studies and \$1 million for demos apply.

Current application deadline is November 14.

Applicants must first submit a completed information form in order to receive an Applicant's Guide and Proposal template. The latter document needs to be submitted by above deadlines.

Contact

Natural Resources Canada

nrcan.energyinnovation-innovationenergetique.nrcan@canada.ca

<http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/energy/science/programs-funding/18876> and

<http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/energy/science/programs-funding/18386>

15. ENMAX Community Investment Program

Category: Buildings, Infrastructure, Renewables

Description

ENMAX financially supports community projects that correspond to one of four focus areas. Powering Alberta and Powering Tomorrow are the two investment areas that most closely align to local government initiatives. *Powering Alberta* funds grassroots energy projects that help communities, while *Powering Tomorrow* supports the enhancement of electricity literacy through education with the goal of creating more electricity stewards.

Eligibility

Non-profit or for-profit entities.

Funding Available

Funding varies per project.

Continuous intake of applications.

Complete [online questionnaire / application](#).

Contact

ENMAX Corporation

community@enmax.com

<https://www.enmax.com/community/our-focus>

16. EQUS Solar PV Micro-Generation Financing & Incentives

Category: Renewables

Description

EQUS offers financial assistance to members that generate electricity from solar PV systems. Financing is available for the installation of solar PV units. In addition, monetary incentives are offered per watt of solar PV installed.

Eligibility

EQUS members

Funding Available

Solar PV unit installation - \$1,500 / kW up to \$15,000.
Incentive - \$.10/W of solar PV installed up to \$500 (5 kW).

Contact

EQUS
Refer to website for contact info for regional offices
<http://www.equs.ca/services/sustainability/micro-generation/financing-and-incentives-for-solar/>

17. FCC AgriSpirit Fund

Category: Building and Infrastructure

Description

The Farm Credit Canada AgriSpirit Fund provides funding for capital projects in rural communities with under 150,000 people.

Eligibility

Municipality or First Nations with less than 150,000 residents, non-profit organizations that partner with a municipal government.

Funding Available

\$5,000-25,000 per project.
Next application intake begins in March 2017.

Contact

Farm Credit Canada
agrispirit-agriespirit@fcc-fac.ca
<https://www.fcc-fac.ca/en/in-your-community/giving-back/fcc-agrispirit-fund.html>

18. Federal Gas Tax Fund

Category: Buildings, Infrastructure, Renewables, Transportation

Description

The Federal Gas Tax Fund supports municipal government capital infrastructure projects that pertain to transportation, community energy systems, drinking water and waste management, and capacity building. Local governments determine which projects to fund.

Eligibility

Cities, towns, villages, municipal/improvement districts, specialized municipalities, and Metis settlements.

Funding Available

Funding is automatically provided on a per capita basis plus \$50,000 for each municipality (summer villages receive \$5,000 plus the per capita amount).
\$1.08 billion is expected to be dispersed from 2014/15 to 2018/19.

Contact

Alberta Municipal Affairs
780-427-2225
ma.gtfgiants@gov.ab.ca
<http://municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/federal-gas-tax-fund>

19. Fortis Alberta Community Grants

Category: Buildings and Infrastructure

Description

Fortis Alberta offers community grants in three areas that help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions: tree planting projects in public areas, naturalization initiatives, and the Earth Hour Challenge. Grants from the latter event go towards future energy efficiency measures in the municipality.

Eligibility

Municipalities and non-profit organizations in Fortis Alberta service area.

Funding Available

Tree planting - \$2,500 (4 grants available).
Community Naturalization - \$3,000 (12 grants available).
Earth Hour Challenge - varies per winner.
2017 application dates will be posted early next year.

Contact

Fortis Alberta
<http://www.fortisalberta.com/about-us/in-your-community/grants>

20. Green Municipal Fund

Category: Buildings, Infrastructure, Renewables, Transportation

Description

Local governments and project partners may apply to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Green Municipal Fund (GMF) for grants and low interest loans to support sustainable community plans (including greenhouse gas reduction plans), feasibility studies or pilot projects, and capital projects. Studies and projects fall within five sectoral areas: brownfields, energy, transportation, waste and water. GMF funding can be combined with other federal funding.

Eligibility

All local governments and their partners in municipal environmental projects.

Funding Available

Grants up to 50% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$175,000 for plans and feasibility studies and \$350,000 for pilot projects.

Low interest loans up to 80% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$5 million for capital projects. These loans are usually combined with grants. The maximum grant amount is 15% of the loan or up to \$750,000. Greater funding may be available for high ranking projects.

Note: Brownfield capital projects are eligible for loans only and FCM may adjust the maximum limit per project.

Applications are accepted on a continuous basis and a new funding offer launched on April 1, 2015. Prior to submitting a final application form, municipalities applying for financial assistance for capital projects (except brownfield sites) must undertake an initial review regarding their eligibility.

Contact

Federation of Canadian Municipalities
613-907-6208
gmf@fcm.ca
www.fcm.ca/gmf

21. Green Transit Incentives Program (GreenTRIP)

Category: Transportation

Description

GreenTRIP funds a variety of transit projects including buses, LRT systems, transit terminals, and park and rides. Projects are evaluated based on local and provincial priorities. The Alberta Government prefers transit systems that are safe, affordable and environmentally friendly and accessible.

Eligibility

Municipal governments.

Funding Available

\$424 million remains from the original budget, of which \$130 million is available to Calgary region municipalities.

The third call for applications is now closed. Refer to the website for any future intakes.

Contact

Alberta Transportation
780-415-1266

<http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/5409.htm>

22. Municipal Sustainability Initiative

Category: Buildings, Infrastructure, Renewables, Transportation

Description

This initiative provides financial support for municipal capital infrastructure projects such as roads, public transit, sport/recreation facilities, community centres, water and wastewater systems, and solid waste management facilities. Funds can also be allocated to operating projects. Examples include capacity building initiatives that increase efficiency, planning activities, and building maintenance.

Eligibility

Cities, towns, villages, municipal/improvement districts, specialized municipalities, and Metis settlements.

Funding Available

Allocations are based on a formula that incorporates certain criteria.

Approximately \$1.2 billion was allocated to the program in 2016.

Funding for 2017 and beyond is under review to ensure continued support to municipalities.

Applications are required for both capital and operating grants.

Contact

Alberta Municipal Affairs
780-427-2225

msicapitalgrants@gov.ab.ca or
msioperatinggrants@gov.ab.ca
http://www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/municipalgrants-description?program_id=38

23. New Building Canada Fund - Small Communities Fund

Category: Buildings, Infrastructure, Renewables, Transportation

Description

The Province of Alberta and federal government jointly allot funds for infrastructure projects in smaller communities through this program to foster economic growth and a clean environment. The following types of infrastructure categories are funded: green energy, solid waste, wastewater, drinking water, brownfield redevelopment, disaster mitigation, internet connectivity/broadband, innovation, highways and major roads, local airports, public transportation, short sea shipping, and short line rail.

Eligibility

Municipalities and Metis settlements with population under 100,000.

Private sector and non-profit organizations are eligible with local government support.

Funding Available

Up to two-thirds of eligible project costs are jointly funded by the provincial and federal governments (one third each).

A minimum of \$50,000 and maximum of \$3,000,000 per government permitted.

The latest intake of applications is closed. Refer to the website for an announcement on the third intake.

Contact

Alberta Municipal Affairs
780-427-2225

ma.scfggrants@gov.ab.ca
<http://municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/smallcommunitiesfund>

24. Taking Action to Manage Energy (TAME+) Program

Category: Buildings

Description

TAME+ offers financial support and tools to municipalities so they can learn how their buildings use energy and ascertain potential energy saving measures in order to retrofit their facilities. Both energy audit and implementation incentives are available to reduce the costs of audits and retrofits. Participants in the program must undergo a detailed energy assessment of all buildings featured in their application. The Municipal Climate Change Action Centre (MCCAC) encourages municipalities to review two online documents before the energy assessment. Similar to the solar program, municipalities should submit an Expression of Interest before completing a detailed application form.

Eligibility

Municipalities, as defined under the Municipal Government Act, and non-profit community organizations if their project is on municipal land or facilities.
Funding for projects that do not lower GHG emissions by \$40/tonne will be pro-rated.

Funding Available

Energy Audit Incentive:
(maximum of 50% of audit costs)
Less than 2,000 m² - up to \$500
2,000-5,000 m² - up to \$1,000
5,000-10,000 m² - up to \$1,500
10,000 m² or more - up to \$2,000
Implementation Incentive:
(maximum of 50% of capital costs)
Less than 2,000 m² - up to \$25,000
2,000-5,000 m² - up to \$50,000
5,000-10,000 m² - up to \$75,000
10,000 m² or more - up to \$100,000
Funding provided on first come, first serve basis.

Contact

Municipal Climate Change Action Centre
780-433-4431
contact@mccac.ca
<http://www.mccac.ca/programs/TAME>

25. TD Friends of the Environment Foundation Grant

Category: Infrastructure

Description

The foundation supports the protection of the environment and green communities. The focus of the grants vary slightly each year. For 2017, funding is allocated to projects involving the revitalization and stewardship of public green spaces.

Eligibility

Local governments, First Nations and registered charities.

Funding Available

Funding requests are needs based. Thus, there are no minimum or maximum amounts awarded. The deadline for an Expression of Interest for 2017 has now passed. Please refer to the website for future funding opportunities.

Contact

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
lillian.truong@td.com
<https://fef.td.com/funding/>

26. Western Diversification Program

Category: Infrastructure, Transportation

Description

This program funds projects related to community economic development and policy, innovation and business development. Key focus areas include enhancing community and transportation infrastructure, building community capacity in economic development, creating value-added production in resource industries and fostering community innovation.

Eligibility

Municipal governments, First Nations, industry associations and economic development organizations, post-secondary institutions, provincial government depts./agencies, federal crown corporations.

Funding Available

The second application intake has closed. Refer to website for future calls for proposals, which will include further information on the level of project funding.

Contact

Western Economic Diversification Canada
1-888-338-9378
wd.ab-ab.deo@canada.ca
<http://www.wd.gc.ca/eng/242.asp>



STEPS TO A WINNING GRANT APPLICATION

Preparing an Application

1. Review *Funding your Community Energy and Climate Change Initiatives* or other funding guides to determine if programs are available to support your project.
2. Ensure a good fit. Check you project's goals and objectives against those of the funding program. Review evaluation criteria and ensure that your proposal responds directly to each, or as many as possible.
3. Contact funding agency. Describe your project and ask:
 - Does this project meet the funding program's goals and objectives?
 - What are key elements of past successful applications?
 - What are evaluation criteria (if not listed on form)?
 - Can supporting material (such as letters of support) be submitted after the closing date?
 - Are previous applications available for review?
 - Is Council or Board endorsement of the application required?
4. Create a timeline for application preparation and an application package checklist, including:
 - Obtaining executive committee, Council or Board endorsement, if required
 - Identifying and/or obtaining supporting funding
 - Identifying possible partners and reaching agreements
 - Writing the proposal and ensuring senior management review and final edits
 - Securing letters of support
 - Developing a budget
 - Copying and filing
 - Submission deadline, format and method of delivery (postmarked document, email, etc.)
5. Review application package checklist and ensure that all requirements have been met.
6. Submit proposal on time in the required format.

Application Content

1. Follow the recommended format of proposal.
2. Focus on key elements and ensure that you clearly address evaluation criteria. Include everything you think is important, but be succinct – longer is not better.
3. List resources your agency has committed or will commit to ensure success of project.
4. Identify partners and note how will you work with them to ensure success.
5. Describe any planned community engagement processes, if required. Consider using innovative approaches.
6. Facts and figures are helpful. If possible, calculate or estimate magnitude of benefits of the project.
7. A budget can be either calculated or estimated but it should not necessarily reflect the maximum amount of funding available, unless you can justify it. Provide a reasonable level of detail for costs, itemize matching funds, and mention in-kind contributions, if any.

Funding your Community Energy and Climate Change Initiatives can be found at <http://gettingtoimplementation.ca/research/>

For more information on Federation of Canadian Municipalities' *The Partners for Climate Protection (PCP)* program, go to <http://www.fcm.ca/home/programs/partners-for-climate-protection.htm>

This guide was prepared by the Community Energy Association, a charitable organization assisting local governments to promote energy efficiency and alternative energy through community energy planning and project implementation. For contact information and many more local government resources please visit: www.communityenergy.bc.ca or call us at 604-628-7076.