

What are the Non-Profit SMART Grants?

The Non-Profit SMART (Sustainable, Mitigation, Adaptation, and Resilience Transition) Grants will support Basin non-profits and Indigenous communities (First Nations and Métis) to make operational and/or infrastructure upgrades that help them adapt to the impacts of climate change, and/or reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions.

Eligible applicants seeking funding for building related upgrades must work with the program advisor to support the development of project plans.

Who can apply?

Eligible applicants include registered non-profits and Indigenous communities (First Nations and Métis) in the Columbia Basin Trust region (ourtrust.org/map).

Eligible applicants must show ownership of the property or provide a long-term use/lease agreement (minimum five years).

What is the application process and when is the deadline?

Applicants should contact Trust staff at nonprofitSMART@ourtrust.org or 1.800.505.8998 to discuss their project idea as soon as possible.

Applications for **electric vehicle purchases and charging stations**:

- The application deadline is **June 28, 2023, at 2:00 pm PT / 3:00 pm MT**. If selected to move forward you will hear from us by **July 31, 2023**.

Applications for **solar photovoltaic (PV) arrays, energy retrofits, climate adaption and/or greenhouse gas reduction** follow a two-stage application process:

- The Expression of Interest deadline is **June 28, 2023, at 2:00 pm PT / 3:00 pm MT**. If selected to move forward you will hear from us by **July 31, 2023**, and will be connected with the Trust's program advisor (Advisor).
- The deadline for the full application is **November 23, 2023, at 2:00 pm PT / 3:00 pm MT**.

We will contact you by email, at the address provided on the EOI form, to confirm if the EOI has been selected to move forward or the project application has been approved for funding.

Final applications seeking funding for building related upgrades must be developed with support and guidance from the Advisor. The Advisor will assess your needs in detail and produce a report with a project scope and cost estimates (Report) that will form part of your final application.

Successful applicants will receive a Contribution Agreement for signature and funding will be provided after both parties have signed.

What types of costs are eligible and how much will the Trust fund?

Eligible projects must result in enhancements or transformations to your operations that fit at least one of the following eligible project categories:

1. Greenhouse gas reduction - the project will result in a measurable reduction of greenhouse gasses that are produced by your non-profit operations or Indigenous community;
2. Climate adaptation - the project will help your non-profit or Indigenous community adapt to the effects of a changing Basin climate, or increase your climate resiliency; and/or
3. Energy efficiency - the project will improve your energy efficiency by materially reducing your electricity consumption or generating green electricity and demonstrate a positive return on investment (ROI). This is the amount saved because of an investment relative to the amount of money invested. This can be calculated as $ROI = ((\text{total accumulated annual savings over the project's lifespan} - \text{capital cost}) / \text{capital cost}) \times 100$.

The Cumulative Maximum Grant Amount is \$200,000 total per applicant.

Eligible project examples may include, but are not limited to:

EV Purchases
<p>Eligible Project Costs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The purchase of an electric or plug-in hybrid vehicle (collectively “EV”) for use in Basin communities. <p>Grant Amount:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Up to 75% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$75,000 towards the purchase of one EV. <p>Eligible Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Only for the transportation of clients and/or staff outreach, or transportation of equipment or materials related to core operations. Any vehicle features/model type must directly tie to operational requirements and demonstrated need, and the Trust reserves the right to approve the features/model type.
Charging stations
<p>Eligible Project Costs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The purchase and installation of EV charging stations located at non-profit or Indigenous community sites for fleet vehicle use. <p>Grant Amount:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Up to 75% for installing up to two charging stations to a cumulative maximum of \$35,000. <p>Eligible Criteria:</p>

- Priority will be given to areas that demonstrate need, or communities that do not have an existing charging station.

Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Arrays

Eligible Project Costs

- The purchase and installation of solar PV arrays on buildings, facilities and structures that are owned by the non-profit or Indigenous community.
- Must show a positive return on investment.

Grant Amount

- Up to 75% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$75,000.

Energy Retrofits

Eligible Project Costs

- Energy improvement for buildings, facilities and structures that are owned by the non-profit or Indigenous community.
- Must demonstrate a positive ROI.
- Eligible energy improvements include but are not limited to:
 - roof insulation;
 - air source heat pumps;
 - air sealing;
 - heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) upgrades;
 - LED lighting;
 - hot water heater upgrades; and
 - thermostat and other controls.

Grant Amount

- Up to 75% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$100,000.

Climate Adaptation

Eligible Project Costs

- Improvements to buildings or property to provide resiliency against impacts of a changing climate, including but not limited to flooding, wildfire or extreme heat.
- Eligible improvements include but are not limited to:
 - flood alarms, backwater valves, and sump pumps;
 - site drainage;
 - sprinklers;
 - building envelope enhancements including exterior fire-resistant measures;
 - exterior rolling shutters and sunscreens and shade structures (trees, canopies, etc.); and
 - insulation.

Grant Amount

- Up to 75% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$100,000.

Greenhouse Gas Reduction

Eligible Project Costs

- Improvements to buildings, property or processes that create a measurable reduction of greenhouse gasses that are produced by your non-profit or Indigenous community.
- Eligible improvements include but are not limited to:
 - transitioning from a fossil fuel heat source (such as propane or natural gas) or electricity (e.g. diesel generators) to electric from the grid or off-grid renewable energy sources;
 - technologies for food retailers and restaurants to compost/reduce or divert food waste; and
 - electrification of heavy equipment or machinery.

Grant Amount

- Up to 75% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$100,000.

Depending on an applicant's ability to contribute, the Trust may consider a larger contribution than 75%.

If applying for more than one project (e.g. the purchase of an electric vehicle, purchase and installation of solar PV arrays and an upgrade to LED lighting), please submit one EOI that highlights all your project ideas and prioritize them in order of importance.

What types of projects are not eligible?

Ineligible projects include projects that:

- focus on research, planning, communications, or campaigns;
- result in improvements to personal residences or properties that contain personal residences;
- are intended for personal use of staff/volunteers;
- result in improvements to buildings or properties that are fully or partially rented to generate income;
- occur on property that is a sports facility, or a place of worship;
- involve the adoption of technologies that are not market-ready;
- relieve any level of government of its obligations;
- take place outside of Basin;
- involve advocacy and/or lobbying;
- involve EV purchases that are intended for:
 - personal use by staff or volunteers;
 - renting out;
 - promotional, advocacy, or lobbying; or
 - rideshare.
- result in climate adaption improvements that would not have a direct, measurable impact on reducing exposure to, and vulnerability to climate hazards; or

- would not create a measurable reduction of greenhouse gasses emitted by the applicant.

Individual project eligibility is determined by the Trust at its sole discretion.

What types of costs are not eligible?

Ineligible costs include but may not be limited to:

- maintenance and administration costs;
- retroactive costs (e.g. costs that have already been incurred prior to funding approval); and
- enhancements that would:
 - not directly and measurably increase climate resiliency; and/or
 - result in the displacement of any current employee(s).

How does the Trust select projects for funding?

The Trust often receives requests for more funding than what is available and will prioritize requests from eligible applicants that:

- demonstrate the project meets the program eligibility listed above;
- demonstrate significant and measurable project impacts that align with the program intent;
- demonstrate readiness to move forward in the stated timelines;
- demonstrate an understanding of the need for long term maintenance of the project and ongoing and scheduled asset management, maintenance, and repairs; and
- demonstrate confirmed financial commitments and local economic benefit (e.g. employment, purchase from local suppliers).

The Trust strives to distribute Program funds across communities, organizations and project types and will consider this as part of the adjudication of all applications.

When can a project begin?

Funds can only be used for approved project expenses that occur after Trust approval of funding has been received and the Contribution Agreement has been signed.

What else to keep in mind?

Even if a project meets eligibility criteria, it may not be selected for funding as the Trust often receives requests for more funding than what is available. The Trust retains the right to determine project eligibility and the amount of funding allocated to each project; this may be all or part of what was requested.

Depending on the nature of the project, applicants may have to obtain specific permits and approvals prior to receiving Trust funds.

Ready to apply?

1. Email nonprofitSMART@ourtrust.org or call 1.800.505.8998 to discuss your project idea.

Non-Profit SMART Grant Program Guide

2. Develop your project idea and start your expression of interest (EOI). Use the [EOI worksheet](#) to develop the application offline, if preferred.
3. Complete the [online expression of interest form before the deadline](#).