

WHAT IS THE CLIMATE RESILIENCE PROGRAM?

The Trust is supporting Basin communities in becoming more climate resilient. The Trust defines Climate resilience as the ability to anticipate, prepare for and respond to events, trends or opportunities related to climate change.

This Program helps communities in the Basin become more climate resilient by supporting large-scale, multi-year, shovel-ready climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience projects. Through this Program, the Trust will seek input on project ideas and priorities from community groups, Indigenous Peoples, government and technical experts, and consider existing regional plans and research.

Success stories and lessons learned from projects supported by this Program will be shared throughout the Basin to inspire further action, and improvements to approaches.

Information Sessions: The Trust is hosting a series of online information sessions on the Program in September 2021. The details for the sessions and registration links can be found at ourtrust.org/climateresilience.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Eligible applicants include local governments, First Nations, and registered non-profits in the Columbia Basin Trust region (ourtrust.org/basin-map).

Businesses may be considered depending on the project and its broad community impact. Business applicants must demonstrate partnerships with community-based organizations in the design and delivery of their proposed project.

The project should demonstrate that it will benefit the Basin communities and that the primary beneficiary is not the applicant or solely the members of a membership-based organization. Applicants operating outside the Basin must partner with community-based organizations in the Basin to be eligible and show that the Project benefits the Basin.

WHAT IS THE APPLICATION PROCESS?

The Climate Resilience Program has a two-step application process.

1. **Applicants must first complete a Project Idea (application) online.** The Project Idea submission is a high-level summary of your proposed project. To apply, you must first contact the Coordinator of the Climate Resilience Program at climateresilience@ourtrust.org to discuss your project idea and its eligibility. If the Project Idea is eligible the link to the online application form will be provided to you.

The Project Idea submission deadline is November 1, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. PT / 3:00 p.m.

2. **Project ideas will then be shared and discussed at one of three subregional workshops.** These workshops provide an opportunity for Basin residents to review the

proposed projects and provide input. The Trust will then evaluate and prioritize project opportunities. After that, proponents of prioritized projects will be invited to submit a detailed proposal for the Trust to consider funding.

If selected to move forward, you will hear from us by November 22, 2021, and your detailed proposal will be due by January 25, 2022.

WHAT TYPES OF PROJECTS ARE ELIGIBLE?

The program focuses on projects that:

- implement on-the-ground actions (rather than strictly education, research or planning) to foster a climate resilient Basin;
- are grounded in both an evidence-based and community-engagement based approach;
- reflect input received and perspectives from Indigenous Peoples of the Basin, community/non-profit groups and technical experts;
- are ready or almost ready to implement (e.g., project workplans and prescriptions are complete or close to complete); and
- are seeking or have other sources of funding secured.

The Project should anticipate, prepare for, and respond to events, trends or opportunities related to climate change.

WHAT TYPES OF PROJECTS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE?

- Projects that relieve any level of government of its obligations.
- Projects that involve paying for core or ongoing operating expenses.
- Will undertake activities of political parties, advocacy or lobby groups or of organizations that are exclusive or discriminative in nature.
- Projects solely focused on education, research or planning.
- Projects focused on environmental education, as well as projects that aim to enhance or conserve ecosystems and / or species of conservation concern.
 - The Trust supports environmental education and ecosystem enhancement through our [Environmental Education initiatives](#), [Environment Grants](#), [Grassland and Rangeland Enhancement](#) and [Ecosystem Enhancement](#) programs.
- Projects eligible for funding through the [Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction Program](#).
- Projects that primarily result in improvements to private property (e.g., residences, privately owned businesses, farmland or rangeland etc.).

HOW MUCH WILL THE TRUST FUND?

Applicants can request up to a maximum of 75 per cent of total project costs from the Trust. The maximum amount of Trust funding for any one project is \$500,000 with a maximum duration of five years for multi-year projects.

Applicants must demonstrate that they are contributing at least 25 per cent of the project costs (in kind excluded) from sources other than the Trust.

Projects that demonstrate broad community support and confirmed cash contributions are more likely to receive funding.

HOW DOES THE TRUST SELECT PROJECTS FOR FUNDING?

The Trust uses the following criteria to prioritize funding. A project must:

- demonstrate it directly fosters a Climate Resilient Basin;
- have low likelihood of residual adverse effects to ecological, cultural or community values;
- align with Indigenous Peoples, community and expert input; and
- create local employment opportunities/economic benefits.

Additional consideration may be given to projects that incorporate:

- Indigenous perspectives and/or partnerships with Indigenous Peoples;
- Multiple Trust strategic and integrated priorities, including community well-being, support for business renewal, local food production and access, housing, high-speed connectivity, ecosystem enhancement and working with Indigenous Peoples;
- the following Guiding Principles:
 - **Connection:** Climate resilience is about land, water and air and about people's relationship and connection to land, water and air.
 - **Inspiration:** The challenges of climate change are significant, and efforts will strive to help inspire the People of the Basin to identify solutions and opportunities and celebrate their success and progress toward the same.
 - **Evidence-based Impact:** Efforts will, to the greatest extent possible, be based on best available scientific knowledge and make a tangible difference in strengthening climate resilience.

WHEN WILL I HEAR THE RESULTS?

Applicants must contact the Coordinator of the Climate Resilience Program at climateresilience@ourtrust.org to discuss your project idea and its eligibility. Eligible applicants will be invited to submit an online application by November 1, 2021.

Projects will be presented and discussed at subregional workshops in December 2021 (visit ourtrust.org/climateresilience for details). The Trust will then evaluate project opportunities, and prioritized projects will be invited to submit a detailed proposal for the Trust to consider funding by January 25, 2022.

If your project is approved for funding, you will be contacted at the phone number on your application form. We will let you know at that time whether there are conditions you will need to address. We will then send a Contribution Agreement for signature, and you will receive the funding after both parties have signed.

WHEN CAN MY PROJECT START?

Trust funding can only be put toward approved project expenses after the Contribution Agreement has been signed.

WHAT ELSE DO I HAVE TO KEEP IN MIND?

In the process of reviewing project ideas from across the Columbia Basin that could be supported through the Climate Resilience Program, workshops will be held where your project idea will be discussed with Basin residents. These discussions may provide opportunities for collaborations and project idea adjustment and refinement.

Even if a project meets the eligibility criteria it may not be selected for funding as the Trust often receives requests for more funding than is available. The Trust retains the discretion to determine project eligibility and the amount of funding it may allocate to each project. The Trust retains the discretion to offer part, or all of the Trust portion of the funding request.

It is a requirement for projects to track activities and outputs to ensure stated goals and objectives are achieved.

HOW DO I APPLY?

If you have any questions about the application process, please contact Program Coordinator at climateresilience@ourtrust.org or 1-800-505-8998.