

What is the Climate Resilience Program?

Based on input from Basin residents, one of the Trust's integrated priorities is to support the Basin in becoming more climate resilient. This Program helps communities in the Basin become more climate resilient by supporting large-scale, multi-year, shovel-ready mitigation and adaptation projects.

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

Information Session:

The Trust is hosting an online information session on May 27th, 2022. The details for the sessions and registration links can be found at ourtrust.org/climateresilience. The session will be recorded and available online.

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 where the community is the primary beneficiary of the project impacts. 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 public 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 **August 30, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. PT / 3:00 p.m.**

- 2. Project ideas will then be shared and discussed.** Workshops provide an opportunity for Basin residents to review the proposed projects and provide input. The Trust will then evaluate and prioritize project opportunities. Proponents of prioritized projects will then be invited to submit a detailed proposal for the Trust to consider funding.

If selected to move forward, you will hear from us by October 17, 2022, and your detailed proposal will be **due by January 10, 2023.**

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

What types of projects are eligible?

The program focuses on projects that:

- anticipate, prepare for, and respond to events, trends or opportunities related to climate change; this means both mitigation and adaptation projects are eligible for the program
- implement on-the-ground actions (rather than strictly research, education 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 work plans are complete or close to complete);
- are seeking or have other sources of funding secured; and
- have concrete, measurable outcomes towards climate resiliency (e.g. tCO₂e reduced, MWh of green power generated, measured risk reductions to climate events such as flooding, community assets with measured resistance to hazards, measured protection against extreme heat and drought).

For projects that include elements of government responsibility, applicants must demonstrate they have applied, or have begun preparing to apply, to all relevant federal, provincial, local government or First Nations government grants available to the project.

A list of possible project ideas is provided on Page 3. Please contact the Program Coordinator at climateresilience@ourtrust.org to discuss your Project Idea.

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 research, education or planning.
- Projects eligible through other Trust programs, specifically the [Ecosystem Enhancement Program](#), the [Grassland and Rangeland Enhancement Program](#), [Community Readiness Program](#) and the [Community Resiliency Investments Program - Columbia Basin Wildfire Resiliency Initiative](#).
- Projects that result in improvements to an individual private property (e.g., residences, privately owned businesses, farmland, or ranchland etc.).
- Projects that have not applied, or have begun preparing to apply, to all (if any) relevant grants available to the project.
- Projects that seek carbon offset credits.



Greening Communities

- **Clean transportation** (e.g., active transport projects consistent with approved regional plans, such as bike lanes on commuter routes)
- **Green infrastructure** on public lands or unincorporated communities (e.g., bioswales)
- New **tree planting projects** on public lands or unincorporated communities
- Projects which lead to wide-scale adoption of energy efficient or climate resilient **innovations for community infrastructure** (e.g., fuel-switching or cool/green roofs)



Energy Sources

- **Generation of clean energy** for community benefit (e.g., capturing excess heat produced by sewage treatment to heat nearby infrastructure, reducing reliance on natural gas)
- **Increased capacity to manage renewable energy** for community benefit (e.g., plant which converts local organic waste into useable biogas)



Resilient Communities

- **Flood prevention and mitigation** projects (e.g., stormwater solutions with multiple purposes; flood mapping and alert systems; use of forests and vegetation to reduce flood risk on crown land)
- Initiatives that inspire individual residents or small to medium sized businesses of the Basin to take action, for community benefit
- Targeted **supports for vulnerable populations** affected by climate change



Indigenous Climate Resiliency Projects

- Supporting First Nations and communities in addressing their identified climate resilience priorities

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.

Eligible applicants including First Nations, non-profit organizations and local governments representing communities or unincorporated areas with populations of less than 2,500 are eligible to request up to a maximum of 90 per cent of total project costs.

Applicants must demonstrate that they are contributing the indicated percentage of project costs (in kind excluded) from sources other than the Trust and must cover all project costs outside the approved grant amount, including the balance of eligible costs, any costs deemed ineligible during project review, and any cost over-runs. Projects that demonstrate confirmed cash contributions are more likely to receive funding.

The Trust hopes to support the creation of new job experience opportunities for Basin residents through successful projects to this Program. These are opportunities for full time Basin residents to build on their existing education and increase their job related and technical skills through direct employment on projects. The Trust is prepared to support a portion of salaries for such positions:

- 50% of the employee's wage (total wage must be between \$15.50 and \$25 per hour);
- the employee can work up to 35 hours per week for a maximum of one year; and
- \$100/week to provide valuable work-integrated learning and training opportunities beyond entry level skills.
- The Trust does not assist with hiring for job experience positions. Full-time student positions are not eligible.

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;
- demonstrate broad community support;
- address 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;
- incorporate 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.
- **Respect:** People will be treated with respect, honouring the rich and diverse cultures in the Basin and recognizing the importance of understanding Indigenous views on climate change.

When will organizations hear the results?

The community input and review process will follow as below:

- Launch date: May 3, 2022
- Information Session: Date TBC
- Project Idea Development Session: June 15, 2022
- Project Idea Deadline: August 30, 2022
- Community Workshops: October 3/5, 2022
- Detailed project deadline: January 10, 2022

If your project is approved, 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.

When can a project begin?

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

What else 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. Any projects that have elements of research, planning or education must show measurable actions and outcomes that directly result in increased climate resiliency.

Ready to apply?

If you have any questions about the application process, please contact Program Coordinator at climateresilience@ourtrust.org or +1 250-687-4976.