

What are Farm Solar Grants?

Farm Solar Grants support primary food producers (Food Producers) to install ground or structure mounted solar photovoltaic arrays (Solar) to generate electricity for their farm operations.

Farm Solar Grants help make local food production more affordable by reducing energy costs.

Who can apply?

Eligible applicants include Food Producers in the Columbia Basin Trust region (ourtrust.org/map) that grow grains, vegetables, fruit or forage, produce honey, or raise livestock for meat, dairy, or eggs (Eligible Applicants).

Eligible Applicants must meet all the following requirements:

- be located in the [Columbia Basin Trust region](#);
- have been in commercial operation for a minimum of two years;
- demonstrate ownership of their property;
- provide a T2042 Statement of Farming Activities or a corporation income statement for 2024 (required) and an estimate of 2025 revenues;
- have a minimum of \$50,000 in average annual revenues from food sales over the past two years;
- be a taxable entity with a GST and business number;
- if incorporated, be in good standing with BC Corporate Registry;
- intend to apply or have applied to all available and applicable utility and government grants and rebate programs; and
- demonstrate ability to support ongoing maintenance of any acquired infrastructure.

When is the application deadline?

Wednesday, June 24, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. PT / 3:00 p.m. MT.

What types of project costs are eligible?

Eligible costs include costs related to the purchase and installation of Solar including:

- the purchase and installation of Solar on buildings, structures, or properties that are owned by the Eligible Applicant;
- costs for engineering studies related to assessing the feasibility or installation of the Solar; and/or
- electrical panel upgrades, interconnection costs and other related upgrades required for the installation of Solar.

The Grants will only support improvements to property and/or structures used exclusively for farm operations. Personal residences, rental residences or staff housing are not eligible. Where personal and farm use is not separately metered, the Trust may consider a proportionate contribution based on a calculated estimate of farm use.

What types of projects are not eligible?

Individual project eligibility is determined by the Trust at its sole discretion. Ineligible projects include the following, but are not limited to those that:

- focus on research, planning, communications, or campaigns;
- result in improvements to a building that contains any portion of personal residences or staff housing;
- involve the adoption of technologies that are not market-ready;
- support projects that take place outside of the Basin;
- relieve any level of government of its obligations; and/or
- undertake activities of political parties, advocacy or lobby groups, or organizations that are exclusive or discriminatory in nature.

What types of project costs are not eligible?

Ineligible costs include but may not be limited to:

- maintenance and administration costs;
- general interior and/or exterior building renovations including structural roof upgrades;
- GST amounts that are subject to rebates;
- costs that are incurred before funding approval (retroactive costs); and/or
- enhancements that would result in the displacement of any current employee(s).

How much will the Trust fund?

Up to 75 per cent of total project costs to purchase and install Solar can be requested from the Trust. It is anticipated that individual project grants will range between \$20,000 and \$70,000.

Eligible projects must demonstrate that they:

- achieve a positive return on investment (ROI). A simple formula is $ROI = ((\text{total accumulated annual savings over the project's lifespan} - \text{capital cost}) / \text{capital cost}) \times 100$ (formula and guidance provided in the Application Worksheet);
- support improvements to property and/or structures used exclusively for farm operations;
- are eligible to participate in net-metering with their local utility and must not generate more electricity than their estimated annual consumption;
- will apply for all available and applicable utility and government grants and rebate programs;
- are financially sustainable and that there is a plan for capital replacement and overall asset management; and
- demonstrate overall operational sustainability.

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:

- they meet the program eligibility listed above;

- they have confirmed project quotes from reputable suppliers and installers;
- they have the ability to withstand adjustments in business operations;
- significant and measurable project impacts that align with the program intent;
- the project is ready to move forward in the stated timelines; and
- planning for long term maintenance and repairs.

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

When will organizations hear the results?

The review process usually takes up to eight weeks. Trust staff may request additional information during the evaluation phase. Food Producers will be contacted by email, at the address provided on the application form, to confirm if the project application has been approved for funding.

To finalize funding, both parties will sign a Contribution Agreement.

When can a project begin?

Funds can only be used for approved project expenses that occur after a 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. Review the Program Guide.
2. If you would like to work offline, download the Application Worksheet [here](#).
3. Complete the online Application Form [here](#).

Eligible Applicants should work with a reputable Solar installer and/or engineer with relevant experience to develop their project scope and funding application, including determining the maximum Solar size based on the farm's electricity usage. Please attach the installer quote and recommendation to the application.

Questions?

Any additional questions should be directed to the program contact, Melissa Johnson, at farmsolar@ourtrust.org.