

March 1, 2024

Environmental Initiatives Grant

The Environmental Initiatives Grant supports community-led projects that empower citizens to take action to achieve the vision and goals of the Environmental Master Plan.

Application deadline: March 28, 2024 at 4 p.m.

Q. Who is eligible for funding from this grant?

A. Registered non-profit societies in good standing which means up to date with filing the Society Annual Return with the Government of Alberta, and not have any outstanding payments or reports due with The City of Red Deer.

Q. What are the outcomes for this program?

- A. The desired outcomes are:
- Help citizens adopt actions to enhance the health and wellbeing of our environment.
 - Foster positive relationships between people and our natural environment.
 - Increase collaboration between citizens through environmental initiatives.

Projects must also support at least one of the goals outlined in The City's Environmental Master Plan:

- Water: improve the quality of our water resources and increase water conservation.
- Waste: decrease the amount of waste going to landfill and increase diversion opportunities.
- Energy: reduce energy use and move towards using renewable energy sources.
- Ecology: protect and enhance the terrestrial and aquatic health of the natural heritage system.
- Community Design: plan and build a well-connected, sustainable community that contributes to a quality of life for residents to live, work, move around and enjoy recreational and cultural pursuits.
- Air: improve air quality and reduce emissions.

Q. How much funding is available through this grant?

A. Total funding available in 2024 is \$75,000 with a maximum of \$10,000 per application.

Q. How can I learn more about this funding opportunity?

A. Visit www.reddeer.ca/envirogrant to view the Application Guide, which provides more details about the grant program and application process.

Q. How can my organization apply?

A. Eligible applicants are invited to apply online via the SmartSimple platform beginning March 1, 2024. Find a link to the online application at www.reddeer.ca/envirogrant.

Q. I am having trouble with the application or my password. Who can help me?

- A. Please contact our Community Development team for assistance*:
- Phone: 403-406-8820
 - Email: environmental.initiatives@reddeer.ca

* Please note: If your request is received within three days of the submission deadline, application support may not be available.

Q. Can the grant be used as 'seed money' for a fundraiser?

- A. No, it cannot. The Fund's intent is to support projects that achieve the goals of the EMP. Expenses and Revenue related to fundraising may be part of your overall project budget.

Q. What is the difference between cash equity and in-kind in creating my budget? Do I have to have all the listed revenue items?

- A. Cash equity is the applicant's own money put toward the project. It might be the shortfall after other sources are calculated. In-kind can be from others or it can be applicant in-kind equity (someone outside of the organization donating use of a stage is an example of an in-kind contribution, but if the applicant can contribute something that offsets expenses that is not cash, it is an applicant in-kind contribution to the project.

You do not have to have all types of revenue in your budget, but considering all potential sources is part of planning.

Q. I started work on my application but when I returned to it, all the fields are empty! What happened to my work?

- A. It is important to save your work at the bottom of every screen before you choose "NEXT" go proceed to the next part of the application, or before you click on one of the tabs Project Feasibility, Outcomes, Budget, etc. Find the red Save button at the bottom of each screen.

Q. Can I upload a Word document into a response field?

- A. No, you will not be able to upload, but you can pre-write your answers into a Word doc and use Copy & Paste to enter your text into the response fields.

Note: SmartSimple does not have an Autosave function – you must click Save on the bottom of each page. Please be aware that each text box has a character limit, so be succinct.

Q. Why does the system open a new draft every time I try to go back into the application I started?

- A. If you are having trouble finding the draft you started or if you unintentionally started new applications, this may help:
- When you begin an application it will save as a draft – because you save your work on each screen or page of the application, you can close out and return to edit your draft until you submit the finished application.
 - When you open the application portal and arrive at the landing page, you will see several icons. Just below them, you should see **My Applications**. **Drafts** is the first item under My Applications, and it will also indicate how many drafts you have started in (#) brackets. The drafts will be listed in a chart at the bottom of the screen. Your drafts will have an application ID like this: FCSS-23-07XX. If you click on the draft you want, you can continue working.

- If you have unintentionally created extra drafts and you want us to delete them to avoid confusion, please e-mail environmental.initiatives@reddeer.ca. Be sure to double check for work you may want to copy or keep before asking us to delete it.

Q. Can applicants apply more than once?

- A. Yes, provided each submission is for a project distinct from the other application(s).

Q. Would you review our draft application before we submit it?

- A. In fairness to all applicants, we will not be reviewing applications but will answer specific questions and share them so all applicants have access to the information.

Q. There may be some sensitivities with certain departments in The City on the logistics of our proposal. Should we be speaking with someone about that?

- A. We suggest you do reach out to all relevant stakeholders, such as the landowner and regulators, and communicate in your proposal their support or how you plan to address any issues.

For more information, contact: Community Development
403-406-8820
environmental.initiatives@reddeer.ca