



Funding Your Community Energy and Climate Change Initiatives

A guide to funding for
British Columbia local governments

October 2016

The 'first stop' for local government leaders addressing
energy sustainability and climate change



Connecting communities, energy and sustainability

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HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This funding guide is intended to assist British Columbia local government staff and elected officials find appropriate funding to support local government energy planning, efficiency and renewable energy projects. Due to limited space, it is only possible to include key information about each program.

The guide provides a comprehensive listing of programs for which BC local governments are eligible that provide financial incentives for climate action, energy planning, efficiency, or renewable energy activities. Each listing includes the program title, description, restrictions on eligibility, amount of funds available, organization, contact information, and website address.

It is organized alphabetically by program name. Each program has been categorized according to the focus of each program: Buildings, Infrastructure, Renewables and Transportation. Many programs are applicable to more than one or sometimes all of the categories. The cross-reference table enables quick identification of programs within categories and types of incentive and resources available.

While this guide presents numerous funding sources for action on climate change, it is not intended to provide information for adaptation to the impacts of climate change.

Disclaimer

The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the Community Energy Association.

About Community Energy Association

The Community Energy Association is a charitable organization assisting BC local governments to promote energy efficiency and alternative energy through community energy planning and project implementation. For contact information and more local government resources, including a downloadable version of this guide or updated versions as funding programs change, please visit: www.communityenergy.bc.ca.

Contact Information

Community Energy Association
201-4501 Kingsway, Unit 157
Burnaby, BC V5H 0E5
Tel: 604-628-7076
info@communityenergy.bc.ca
www.communityenergy.bc.ca

Feedback

We welcome your feedback. Please send comments and suggestions via the contact information above.

CROSS REFERENCE TABLE – FUNDING GUIDE

Funding Guide	Category				Financial Incentives				Non-Financial Resources				
	Buildings	Infrastructure	Renewables	Transportation	Planning/studies	Implementation	Grants	Loans/Tax breaks	Information	Assistance	Workshops	Advocacy	Other
1. BC Clean Air Research Fund		●	●	●	●		●						
2. Bike BC				●		●	●						
3. Bullitt Foundation Grant	●	●	●	●	●	●	●						
4. Canada-BC Agri-Innovation Program		●	●			●	●						
5. Clean Energy Vehicle for BC Program				●	●	●	●						
6. Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program	●	●	●	●	●	●	●						
7. Commercial Custom Design Program – New Construction (FortisBC)	●					●	●		●				
8. Commercial Custom Design Program – Retrofits (FortisBC)	●					●	●		●				
9. Commercial Product Rebate Program	●					●	●		●				
10. Custom Business Efficiency Program	●					●	●		●				
11. EcoAction Community Funding Program	●	●	●	●		●	●						
12. Efficient Boiler Program	●					●	●						
13. Energy Innovation Program	●	●	●	●	●	●	●						
14. FCC AgriSpirit Fund	●	●				●	●						

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15. Field of Interest Grant – Environment & Animal Welfare	●	●	●	●	●	●	●						
16. First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund			●		●	●	●	●					
17. Gas Tax Agreement – Community Works Fund	●	●	●	●	●	●	●						
18. Gas Tax Agreement – Strategic Priorities Fund	●	●	●	●	●	●	●						
19. Green Municipal Fund	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●
20. Highway 16 Community Transportation Grant Program				●	●	●	●						
21. Infrastructure Planning Grant Program	●	●	●	●	●		●						
22. Innovative Clean Energy Fund	●	●	●	●		●	●						
23. New Building Canada Fund – Small Communities Fund	●	●	●	●	●	●	●						
24. Power Smart – Business Energy Savings Incentive	●					●	●		●				
25. Power Smart - Commercial New Construction Program	●					●	●		●				
26. Power Smart – Sustainable Communities Program – Certified Energy Manager	●	●	●	●	●	●							
27. Power Smart – Sustainable Communities Program – CEEP	●	●	●	●	●								

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28. QuickStart – Community Energy and Emissions Planning (CEEP)	●	●	●	●	●				●	●	●		●
29. REFBC General Grant	●	●				●	●						
30. Regional Economic Trust – Columbia Basin Trust	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	
31. Regional Economic Trust – Island Coastal Economic Trust	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●			
32. Regional Economic Trust – Northern Development Initiative Trust	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			
33. Regional Economic Trust – Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●			
34. TD Friends of the Environment Foundation Grant		●				●	●						
35. Western Diversification Program		●		●	●	●	●						

FUNDING GUIDE

1. BC Clean Air Research Fund

Category: Infrastructure, Renewables, Transportation

Description

Funding is available for applied research related to air quality management. Emission control approaches featuring clean fuels and new technology or processes as well as behaviour change methods are examples of relevant research areas. Thus, renewable and district energy projects and sustainable transportation initiatives could use this funding to address air quality issues.

Eligibility

Local governments, First Nations, industry, NGOs and academic institutions.

Funding Available

Up to \$20,000 for 1 year period. Application deadlines are usually the end of October each year.

Contact

Fraser Basin Council
604-488-5377
echia@fraserbasin.bc.ca
http://www.fraserbasin.bc.ca/ccaq_bc_clear.html

2. Bike BC

Category: Transportation

Description

Financial support is available for new cycling infrastructure that aims to increase bike commuting between home and work, school or errands. Bike projects should also address the larger goals of lowering traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions as well as improving cycling safety. The most preferable types of infrastructure funded include (in order): separate bike paths, cyclist bridges/overpasses, buffered bike lanes, cycling lanes, and shoulder bikeways. The proposed infrastructure must comprise part of a local government's adopted bicycle network plan and be ready for construction and completion within a year.

Eligibility

Local governments and First Nations.
Applicants need to meet best practices in cycling infrastructure design and include council/board approval for project. Broader goals featured in above description must also be met.

Funding Available

Granted amount or 50% of eligible project cost, whichever is less. Third party contributions will be deducted.
Eligible costs include: engineering, construction, utility relocation, pavement marking, traffic calming devices, and more.
Applications for 2016 have now ended. Refer to the website for future intakes.

Contact

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
250-356-5306
MoTCycling@gov.bc.ca
<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/funding-engagement-permits/funding-grants/cycling-infrastructure-funding>

3. Bullitt Foundation Grant			Category: All
Description This US based foundation funds environmental projects based in the Pacific Northwest Emerald Corridor within five program areas: energy, climate and materials; green buildings; resilient cities and healthy communities; regional ecosystem health; and thought leadership and innovation.			
Eligibility Non-profit organizations working to protect the natural environment in the Pacific Northwest, specifically urban areas west of Cascade Mountains in BC, Washington and Oregon. Priority is given to projects fostering sustainability in Vancouver, Seattle and Portland.	Funding Available Grants fund eligible project costs. Two application intakes per year – May 1 and November 1 with inquiry deadlines beforehand on March 15 and September 15.	Contact Bullitt Foundation 206-343-0807 grants@bullitt.org http://www.bullitt.org/grants/grantmaking-process/ and http://www.bullitt.org/programs/	

4. Canada-BC Agri-Innovation Program			Category: Renewables and Infrastructure
Description This program provides funding to pilot/demonstration projects that result in the commercialization of innovative products, technologies and practices that address one of five activity areas: energy and waste management; climate change adaptation; air quality, soil and water improvement; product development and commercialization; and food science advancement.			
Eligibility Local governments, academic institutions, BC agri-food producers/processors, retail and foodservice businesses, industry associations, and technology/support service providers.	Funding Available Usually up to 50% of costs covered by applicant; however up to 100% of project costs could be covered by foundation if industry benefit is substantial. Applications accepted on ongoing basis. Projects must be completed by December 2017.	Contact Investment Agriculture Foundation 250-356-1662 funding@iafbc.ca http://iafbc.ca/funding-opportunities/innovation/	

5. Clean Energy Vehicle for BC Program			Category: Transportation
Description Funding is provided for point of sale vehicle purchase or lease for local government fleets. Financial support for investment in electric vehicle charging infrastructure (Level 2 and DC Fast) is also available.			
Eligibility Local governments, First Nations, non profit organizations, businesses, and residents.	Funding Available Up to \$5,000 off pre-tax price of new battery electric, fuel cell electric and plug in hybrid vehicles. Up to \$6,000 off pre-tax price of new hydrogen full cell vehicles. Free fleet business case analysis and rebates up to \$2,000 on a Level 2 EV charging station for Fleet Champion Program participants. Due to high uptake, applications for incentives for EV charging stations in multi-unit residential buildings are closed. CEV for BC Program operates until March 31, 2018 or until funds are depleted.	Contact Clean Energy Vehicle Program https://www.cevforbc.ca/clean-energy-vehicle-program Fraser Basin Council 604-488-5365 rdavis@fraserbasin.bc.ca http://pluginbc.ca/charging-program/	

6. Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP)			Category: All
Description CARIP is a grant offered to local governments that have signed the BC Climate Action Charter. The funds help municipalities with initiatives to lower greenhouse gas emissions and meet the Charter's goals. A completed and signed 2015 Carbon Tax Calculation Form must have been submitted by June 1, 2016 to the email address listed below. As part of receiving these funds, local governments also need to publicly report on their progress toward achieving their climate action goals.			
Eligibility Local governments that are signatories to the BC Climate Action Charter.	Funding Available 100% of carbon taxes paid to BC government.	Contact Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development 250-387-4060 infra@gov.bcca http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/greencommunities/carip.htm	

7. Commercial Custom Design Program – New Construction

Category: Buildings

Description

FortisBC's Commercial Custom Design Program for New Construction is offered in collaboration with BC Hydro's equivalent program to boost construction of new high performance buildings. Owners and developers of commercial and institutional buildings have the opportunity to reduce costs and enhance performance by using natural gas more efficiently for space and domestic water heating. Funding assistance may be provided for the following types of projects, among others: creating a high performance building envelope, recovering and reusing energy, instituting more efficient equipment, and lowering the rate of energy consumption.

Eligibility

FortisBC commercial rate class natural gas customer and BC Hydro commercial customer. Participants must apply for BC Hydro's New Construction Program first and then meet FortisBC project [eligibility criteria](#).

Funding Available

Energy Study Incentives fund up to 100% of the study (co-funded with BC Hydro).
FortisBC Capital Incentives are proportional to expected natural gas savings and apply to the incremental cost of the conservation measure.
Maximum \$500,000 per annum for both programs.

Contact

BC Hydro
604-522-4713 in the Lower Mainland or Account Manager
1-866-522-4713 elsewhere in BC
<https://www.bchydro.com/powersmart/business/programs/new-construction.html>
FortisBC
1-866-884-8833 or FortisBC representative
<https://www.fortisbc.com/Rebates/RebatesOffers/CommercialCustomDesignProgramNewConstruction/Pages/default.aspx>

8. Commercial Custom Design Program – Retrofit Projects

Category: Buildings

Description

This FortisBC program provides funding for retrofit projects for existing commercial, institutional and multi-unit residential buildings. It helps customers to determine and institute natural gas upgrades to lower energy use, costs and greenhouse gas emissions.

Eligibility

FortisBC commercial rate class natural gas customer and possess medium to large sized commercial, institutional, light industrial or multi-unit residential building/facility. Projects should save at least 1,200 GJ/yr. of natural gas. See Participant Guide on website for further info.

Funding Available

Energy Study Incentives cover up to 50% of the cost of the energy study or a maximum of \$25,000.
Capital Incentives apply to the extra cost of instituting an energy conservation measure from the energy study compared to an equivalent, less efficient one. The value of one year's natural gas savings is deducted from this amount.
Implementation Bonus funding is available to those that deliver more than half of the energy savings. The maximum available is \$25,000.

Contact

FortisBC
1-866-884-8833 or Account Manager
commercialrebates@fortisbc.com
<https://www.fortisbc.com/Rebates/RebatesOffers/CommercialCustomDesignProgramRetrofit/Pages/default.aspx>

9. Commercial Product Rebate Program			Category: Buildings
Description FortisBC's Commercial Product Rebate Program provides financial support for commercial and industrial clients to upgrade to more energy-efficient products during retrofit and replacement projects. Rebates are offered for lighting, compressors, heating, ventilation, air conditioning (HVAC), refrigeration, irrigation, and ENERGY STAR pool pumps.			
Eligibility FortisBC commercial electricity customer or equivalent customer of the municipalities of Grand Forks, Penticton, Summerland or Nelson Hydro.	Funding Available Funding varies by product/program.	Contact FortisBC 1-855-857-7411 businessrebates@fortisbc.com https://www.fortisbc.com/Rebates/RebatesOffers/CommercialProductRebateProgram/Pages/default.aspx	
10. Custom Business Efficiency Program			Category: Buildings
Description This FortisBC program provides financial and technical assistance to commercial, institutional, industrial and irrigation customers planning to construct high performance or retrofit existing buildings. A FortisBC advisor helps to determine less expensive, energy-efficient upgrades and suggest measures that are eligible for incentives. Lighting projects should save at least 10,000 kWh per year while others must save a minimum of 50,000 kWh. Eligible projects may include the installation of energy efficient equipment and technologies, a significant redesign of lighting systems, enhancements to the building envelope, new HVAC systems, among others. Customers should apply for pre-approval before starting any projects.			
Eligibility FortisBC commercial electricity customer or equivalent customer of the municipalities of Grand Forks, Penticton, Summerland or Nelson Hydro. Minimum energy savings apply based on project (see above).	Funding Available Rebates up to \$.15/kWh saved each year. Funds are dispersed once the project is finished and energy savings are validated. Amounts range from \$1,000-\$300,000.	Contact FortisBC FortisBC Electricity Technical Advisor https://www.fortisbc.com/Rebates/RebatesOffers/CustomBusinessEfficiencyProgram/Pages/default.aspx	
11. EcoAction Community Funding Program			Category: All
Description Environment Canada's EcoAction program supports projects that protect and improve the natural environment as well as increase the capacity to sustain the environmental initiatives over the long term. Funded projects should address one of four themes: clean air, climate change, clean water or nature.			
Eligibility Aboriginal organizations, community and environmental groups, and community based associations.	Funding Available Up to 50% of total project costs. A maximum of \$100,000 is available per project. For each dollar provided by the federal government, at least the same amount must be received from other partners. Application deadline is November 1 each year.	Contact Environment Canada 1-800-567-1570 ec.ecoactionouestnord-ecoactionwestnorth.ec@canada.ca https://www.ec.gc.ca/ecoaction/	

12. Efficient Boiler Program

Category: Buildings

Description

FortisBC provides rebates for installing high efficiency natural gas boilers in commercial buildings for space, pool or process heating in conjunction with domestic hot water. Property owners or lease holders of existing commercial buildings and builders/developers or property owners of new commercial buildings qualify.

Eligibility FortisBC commercial rate class natural gas customer.	Funding Available Up to \$45,000 per boiler plus \$9 per MBH input rating for condensing boiler Up to \$20,000 per boiler plus \$4 per MBH input rating for mid- efficiency boiler. Submit application form within 180 days of purchase or installation date, whichever is first.	Contact FortisBC 1-866-884-8833 commercialrebates@fortisbc.com https://www.fortisbc.com/Rebates/RebatesOffers/EfficientBoilerProgram/Pages/default.aspx
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13. Energy Innovation Program

Category: All

Description

The Clean Energy Innovation component of this Natural Resources Canada program funds energy technology innovation in the following areas: renewable energy, smart grid technology and energy storage systems; decreased diesel use in industrial operations in northern/remote communities; reduced methane emissions; lower greenhouse gas emissions from buildings; greater industrial efficiency; and carbon capture and storage. Projects may be demonstration projects, engineering design studies or research and development initiatives. The second component of the Energy Innovation Program is Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Demonstrations. It supports front end engineering design studies and demonstrations to facilitate the cost effective deployment of next generation charging infrastructure.

Eligibility Local and provincial governments, First Nations, associations, academic institutions, utilities, and private companies.	Funding Available Clean Energy Innovation Component: Up to 50% of project costs for demo or engineering design studies. Up to 75% of project costs for research and development. For both types of projects, the program funds a minimum of \$300,000 and maximum of \$5 million respectively. The deadline for current applications is October 31, 2016. Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Demonstration Component: Up to 50% of project costs. Minimum amounts of \$300,000 for FEED studies and \$1 million for demos apply. The deadline for current applications is November 14, 2016. Applicants must first submit a completed information form in order to receive an Applicant's Guide and Proposal template. The latter document needs to be submitted by above deadlines.	Contact Natural Resources Canada nrcan.energyinnovation-innovationenergetique.nrcan@canada.ca http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/energy/science/programs-funding/18876 and http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/energy/science/programs-funding/18386
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14. FCC AgriSpirit Fund			Category: Building and Infrastructure
Description The FCC AgriSpirit Fund provides funding for capital projects in rural communities with under 150,000 people.			
Eligibility Municipality or First Nation with less than 150,000 residents, non-profit organizations that partner with a municipal government.	Funding Available \$5,000-25,000 per project. Next application intake begins in March 2017.	Contact Farm Credit Canada agrispirit-agriespirit@fcc-fac.ca https://www.fcc-fac.ca/en/in-your-community/giving-back/fcc-agrispirit-fund.html	

15. Field of Interest Grant - Environment & Animal Welfare			Category: All
Description The Vancouver Foundation offers three types of grants in the Environment and Animal Welfare Field of Interest. Develop grants enable applicants to collect information and meet with important stakeholders in order to better understand an issue and determine a viable project to best address it. These grants also support the capacity of project teams. Test grants assist applicants in testing the effectiveness of a social innovation on a specific issue. Grow grants facilitate the expansion of a social innovation to new geographic areas, new levels of institutions, or further within current systems.			
Eligibility Local governments and registered charities.	Funding Available Develop Grants up to 50% of project budget or maximum of \$10,000 for up to one year. Test Grants up to \$75,000 per annum for up to three years. Grow Grants up to \$50,000 per annum for up to three years. Applications deadlines for 2016 have passed. Refer to website for next intakes.	Contact Vancouver Foundation 604-688-2204 info@vancouverfoundation.ca https://www.vancouverfoundation.ca/grants/field-interest-grants	

16. First Nations Clean Energy Fund			Category: Renewables
Description The First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund provides financial support for the following activities: 1) capacity development to create a community energy plan, produce a feasibility study, engage with clean energy project proponents, develop a business plan for a renewable energy project or company, and receive training related to renewable energy or energy efficiency; 2) equity grants to acquire equity positions in energy efficiency or clean energy projects; and 3) revenue sharing based on new, incremental revenues to government from clean energy projects.			
Eligibility First Nations bands, a representative of an Aboriginal community, or a wholly owned Aboriginal corporation.	Funding Available Capacity funding up to \$50,000. Equity grants up to \$500,000 per applicant Revenue sharing is based on provincial resource rents for land and water. Apply by the last day of the month of each intake period. Intakes in 2016 were January, May and September.	Contact Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation 250-356-8759 lindsay.wood@gov.bc.ca http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/consulting-with-first-nations/first-nations-clean-energy-business-fund	
17. Gas Tax Agreement – Community Works Fund			Category: All
Description The Community Works Fund within the Federal Gas Tax Fund supports various local government projects that pertain to transportation, community energy systems, drinking water and waste management infrastructure, and capacity building to develop integrated community sustainability plans and other long term infrastructure plans. Local governments determine which projects to fund.			
Eligibility Local governments	Funding Available Funding is automatically provided twice annually based on a per capita formula with an estimated amount of \$519 million from 2014/15 to 2018/19. No application is required.	Contact Union of British Columbia Municipalities 250-356-5134 gastax@ubcm.ca http://www.ubcm.ca/EN/main/funding/renewed-gas-tax-agreement/community-works-fund.html	
18. Gas Tax Agreement – Strategic Priorities Fund			Category: All
Description The Strategic Priorities Fund within the Federal Gas Tax Fund supports infrastructure and capacity building projects that meet the following criteria: large scale, regional impact or innovative, as well as encourage economic growth, a clean environment and strong communities. The same categories of projects listed under the Community Works Fund also apply to this fund.			
Eligibility Local governments outside of Metro Vancouver	Funding Available Grants fund eligible project costs. Application based program. Future intake to be announced.	Contact Union of British Columbia Municipalities 250-356-5134 gastax@ubcm.ca http://www.ubcm.ca/EN/main/funding/renewed-gas-tax-agreement/strategic-priorities-fund.html	

19. Green Municipal Fund

Category: All

Description

Local governments and project partners may apply to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Green Municipal Fund for grants and low interest loans to support sustainable community plans (including greenhouse gas reduction plans), feasibility studies and pilot projects, and capital projects. Studies and projects fall within five sectoral areas: brownfields, energy, transportation, waste and water. GMF funding can be combined with other federal funding.

Eligibility

All local governments and their partners in municipal environmental projects.

Funding Available

Grants up to 50% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$175,000 for plans and feasibility studies and \$350,000 for pilot projects.

Low interest loans up to 80% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$5 million for capital projects. These loans are usually combined with grants. The maximum grant amount is 15% of the loan or up to \$750,000. Greater funding may be available for high ranking projects.

Note: Brownfield capital projects are eligible for loans only and FCM may adjust the maximum limit per project.

Applications are accepted on a continuous basis. A new funding offer launched on April 1, 2015. Prior to submitting a final application, municipalities applying for financial assistance for capital projects (except brownfield sites) must undertake an initial review about their eligibility.

Contact

Federation of Canadian Municipalities
613-907-6208

gmf@fcm.ca

www.fcm.ca/gmf

20. Highway 16 Community Transportation Grant Program

Category: Transportation

Description

Funding is offered for vehicle procurement and/or operating costs for services that enhance community transportation on Highway 16.

Eligibility

Local governments, First Nations, non profits, and community organizations partnered with a community.

Funding Available

Up to 70% of vehicle price or estimated operating expense of transportation service.

\$800,000 of program funding is available over three years.

Application deadline for this year is October 28, 2016.

Contact

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
250-387-3198

CTGP@gov.bc.ca

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/funding-engagement-permits/funding-grants/highway-16-funding>

21. Infrastructure Planning Grant Program			Category: All
Description This program offers funding to support the development of sustainable community infrastructure, including evaluating the technical, environmental and/or economic viability of municipal infrastructure projects as well as developing long term plans such as community energy plans, storm water management plans and water plans.			
Eligibility Local governments	Funding Available Up to \$10,000. Grants over \$5,000 must have matching funds. Continuous intake with review rounds in the spring and fall.	Contact Ministry of Community, Sport & Cultural Development 250-387-4060 infra@gov.bc.ca http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/infra/infrastructure_grants/infrast_ructure_planning_grant.htm	

22. Innovative Clean Energy Fund			Category: All
Description The Innovative Clean Energy Fund provides funding to develop pre-commercialization technologies for the production and transmission of clean and renewable energy, although current funding is supporting the completion of 2008-14 projects. The present fund spending plan also supports the Clean Energy Vehicle Program (see above) and public sector energy partnerships (e.g. Community Energy Leadership Program) among others. The Community Energy Leadership Program helps local governments and First Nation communities with investments in innovative energy efficiency projects for community owned buildings/infrastructure (e.g. retrofits to particular standards or net zero energy ready buildings) as well as small scale, community owned energy facilities using clean sources such as biomass, solar, geothermal heat, ocean or wind.			
Eligibility Local governments (and First Nations for CELP).	Funding Available Up to \$500,000 is available for projects in the 2016/17 provincial budget and \$550,00 in 2017/18 for CELP. The third funding call for CELP recently closed. Please refer to the government website for future calls for expressions of interest and applications.	Contact Ministry of Energy and Mines Will.Yeh@gov.bc.ca (general info on ICE Fund) CELP@gov.bc.ca (CELP program) http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/electricity-alternative-energy/innovative-clean-energy-solutions/innovative-clean-energy-ice-fund	

23. New Building Canada Fund - Small Communities Fund

Category: All

Description

The Province of BC and federal government jointly allot funds for infrastructure projects in smaller communities through this program to foster economic growth and a clean environment. The following types of infrastructure categories are funded: green energy, solid waste, wastewater, drinking water, brownfield redevelopment, disaster mitigation, internet connectivity/broadband, innovation, highways and major roads, local airports, public transportation, short sea shipping, and short line rail.

Eligibility

Local governments and First Nations with population under 100,000. Projects must be authorized by council or board. Private sector organizations are eligible with local government support.

Funding Available

Up to two-thirds of eligible project costs are jointly funded by the provincial and federal governments (one third each). The second intake of applications closed in April 2016. Refer to the website for an announcement on the third intake. The 10 year program operates until 2024.

Contact

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
250-387-4060 or infra@gov.bc.ca for waste, green energy and water projects
250-952-0675 or infrastructure@gov.bc.ca for all other project categories listed above
<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/funding-engagement-permits/funding-grants/small-communities-fund>

24. Power Smart – Business Energy Saving Incentives

Category: Buildings

Description

Financial incentives are available to replace inefficient products with energy-efficient technologies. They are offered for lighting (including controls and sensors), heating, ventilation, air conditioning (HVAC), refrigeration, and ice rink upgrades. The amount of the incentive depends on a number of factors including hours of operation, energy savings, project costs, payback period and more.

Eligibility

Commercial customers, small industrial sites and residential stratas.

Funding Available

Varies by product. On average, incentives fund 35% of costs. Applications are no longer accepted for fiscal year ending March 2017. Incentives will be available again in fiscal year 2018.

Contact

BC Hydro
604-522-4713 in the Lower Mainland
1-866-522-4713 elsewhere in BC or your Key Account Manager
<https://www.bchydro.com/powersmart/business/programs/express.html>

25. Power Smart – Commercial New Construction Program

Category: Buildings

Description

This BC Hydro program provides financial and technical assistance to building owners and developers for the construction of energy efficient buildings. BC Hydro helps to determine energy saving strategies and assess various design and cost options. The program supports the entire building design of large buildings that are early in the design process. Commercial, institutional and multi-unit residential new developments, or major building retrofits qualify. The buildings should have the potential to save a minimum of 50,000 kWh per annum.

Eligibility

See above description. Applies to customers in the BC Hydro service territory.

Funding Available

Sign up to learn more about funding opportunities on BC Hydro's website.

Contact

BC Hydro
604-522-4713 in the Lower Mainland
1-866-522-4713 elsewhere in BC or your Key Account Manager
<https://www.bchydro.com/powersmart/business/programs/new-construction.html>

26. Power Smart - Sustainable Communities Program – Certified Energy Manager			Category: All
Description The Sustainable Communities Program helps local governments to enhance energy efficiency and lower greenhouse gas emissions in their communities. Funding is available for a designated Community Energy Manager for local governments. A CEM assists with implementing community energy and emission plans, developing and instituting policy on energy conservation and efficiency, and promoting BC Hydro programs and incentives.			
Eligibility Local governments within the BC Hydro service area with more than 75,000 residents OR a population above 20,000 with a council approved CEEP and leadership in demand side electricity management.	Funding Available Up to 50% of salary for a CEM or a maximum of \$50,000 per year for a CEM for two years.	Contact BC Hydro 1-866-522-4713 of your Key Account Manager https://www.bchydro.com/powersmart/business/programs/sustainable-communities/cemp.html	

27. Power Smart - Sustainable Communities Program – Community Energy & Emissions Planning			Category: All
Description The Sustainable Communities Program supports local governments to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and augment their energy efficiency measures. Financial support is available to create a Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP). This long term plan helps communities to determine energy goals, forecast community energy supply and demand, and establish policies and initiatives to meet them.			
Eligibility Local governments within the BC Hydro service area with more than 75,000 residents.	Funding Available Up to 50% of costs or a maximum of \$60,000.	Contact BC Hydro 1-866-522-4713 of your Key Account Manager https://www.bchydro.com/powersmart/business/programs/sustainable-communities/ceep.html	

28. QuickStart – Community Energy and Emissions Planning			Category: All
Description QuickStart helps smaller local governments achieve community level greenhouse gas reduction and energy conservation targets through the creation of a Community Energy and Emissions Plan or CEEP. The QuickStart process includes pre workshop reading and a 1 hour webinar, a 1.5 day workshop to develop the CEEP, and implementation of the CEEP following Council approval. Detailed community data is provided to BC Hydro in advance of the workshop to assist with developing the CEEP.			
Eligibility Local governments within the BC Hydro service area with less than 75,000 residents.	Funding Available Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.	Contact BC Hydro and Community Energy Association 1-866-522-4713 or 604-628-7076 https://www.bchydro.com/powersmart/business/programs/sustainable-communities/ceep/quickstart.html	

29. REFBC General Grant			Category: Buildings and Infrastructure
Description This program provides funding for human resource needs on projects including project management, communications, educational material, and community consultation among others. To qualify, projects should fall within one of five program areas: sustainable land use, build environment sustainability, freshwater sustainability, sustainable food systems, or professional excellence in real estate. In addition, projects should meet REFBC's legislated mandate and mission as well as certain criteria such as leadership and innovation in a particular field, partnership and collaboration with other groups, scalability and replicability to other BC communities, and longevity of the project.			
Eligibility Local governments, First Nations, charitable organizations, and professional associations.	Funding Available Up to 50% of cash portion of project budget or 33% of total budget including in kind donations (whichever is less). Two application intakes per year with the next one in March 2017.	Contact Real Estate Foundation of BC 604-343-2626 nick@refbc.com http://www.refbc.com/grants	

30. Regional Economic Trust – Columbia Basin Trust			Category: All
Description The Columbia Basin Trust offers a variety of funding programs, three of which are most pertinent for environmental and infrastructure initiatives. The Community Development Program provides financial and staff support to community projects that strengthen social, economic and environmental well-being. Environment Grants specifically fund initiatives that improve the environmental well being of the community. Projects should address one of four goal areas: ecosystems, water, climate change (adapt to climate change impacts or reduce greenhouse gas emissions), or environmental education. Meanwhile, Recreation Infrastructure Grants assist with building or upgrading recreation infrastructure such as sport and recreation facilities, trails and greenways, and capital projects that foster active transportation (e.g. bike lanes).			
Eligibility Local governments, First Nations, and non profit organization within the Columbia River watershed. School districts are also eligible for Recreation Infrastructure Grants, while businesses also qualify for Environment Grants.	Funding Available Funding varies by project. Continuous intake of applications for Community Development Program. Spring and fall application intakes for Environment Grants. Late winter and summer intakes for Recreation Infrastructure Grants.	Contact Columbia Basin Trust 1-800-505-8998 info@cbt.org or recgrants@cbt.org www.ourtrust.org/funding-support/funding-support-programs	

31. Regional Economic Trust - Island Coastal Economic Trust			Category: All
Description <p>The Island Coastal Economic Trust offers two funding programs: the Economic Infrastructure Program and Economic Development Readiness Program. The former program supports economic diversification investment to stimulate sustainable economic growth. Projects should show regional impact, long term sustainability, collaboration with other organizations/governments, alignment with development plans, and additional economic benefits and development. The Economic Development Readiness Program supports the development of economic strategies and tools to attract economic investment. Both funds aim to increase economic growth in key sectors including forestry, transportation, tourism, mining, small business, economic development, energy, and agriculture and aquaculture sectors.</p>			
Eligibility <p>Local governments, First Nations, and non-profits within the North Island/Sunshine Coast & Central South Island Regions.</p>	Funding Available <p>The Economic Infrastructure Program covers up to \$400,000 per applicant. Additional matching funding is required, ideally a 1:3 matching ratio. The final deadlines for 2016 were early October.</p> <p>The Economic Readiness Program funds up to \$30,000 per year. Participants must also contribute 50% in cash. There is a continuous intake.</p>	Contact <p>Island Coastal Economic Trust 250-871-7797 ext. 227 or 230 info@islandcoastaltrust.ca http://www.islandcoastaltrust.ca/programs</p>	

32. Regional Economic Trust - Northern Development Initiative Trust			Category: All
Description <p>The Northern Development Initiative Trust offers a variety of funding opportunities for community infrastructure to foster economic development. Grants and loans support economic diversification infrastructure, feasibility studies for capital infrastructure investment, community hall and recreational facility sustainability and capacity upgrades, marketing initiatives, and economic development capacity building. Matching grants are also available for grants from community foundations for projects.</p>			
Eligibility <p>Local governments, First Nations and non-profit organizations within central and northern BC.</p>	Funding Available <p>Up to 70% of a total project budget or \$250,000 for the Economic Diversification Infrastructure Program.</p> <p>Up to 50% of the project budget or \$10,000 for the Capital Investment Analysis Program.</p> <p>Up to 70% of the total project budget or \$30,000 for Community Hall and Recreation Facilities.</p> <p>Up to 29% or \$20,000 for marketing initiatives.</p> <p>Up to 100% or \$50,000 of total costs for economic capacity building projects, of which a minimum of \$5,000 must fund collaborative projects with another local government or First Nation.</p> <p>Quarterly intake of applications for above programs except the capacity building program which has an annual intake in November.</p>	Contact <p>Northern Development Initiative Trust 250-561-2525 info@northerndevelopment.bc.ca http://www.northerndevelopment.bc.ca/funding-programs/community-development/</p>	

33. Regional Economic Trust - Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust			Category: All
Description The Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust financially supports investments with loans and grants for economic development projects in the following sectors: agriculture, economic development, energy, forestry, mining, pine beetle recovery, small business, tourism, and transportation. Economic initiatives should encourage greater commercial activity, create or preserve jobs, diversify the economy, contribute to community economic sustainability, and have regional impact.			
Eligibility Local governments, First Nations and non-profits organizations and industry associations within the Thompson-Okanagan and Columbia-Kootenay regions.	Funding Available Grants fund up to \$25,000 or 25% of total project budget per applicant. Loan and equity programs provide up to \$1,000,000 or 50% of a total project budget. Applications are accepted on an on-going basis each year until all funds are committed.	Contact Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust 250-545-6829 admin@sidit-bc.ca http://www.sidit-bc.ca/	
34. TD Friends of the Environment Foundation Grant			Category: Infrastructure
Description The foundation supports the protection of the environment and green communities. The focus of the grants vary slightly each year. For 2017, funding is allocated to projects involving the revitalization and stewardship of public green spaces.			
Eligibility Local governments, First Nations and registered charities.	Funding Available Funding requests are needs based. Thus, there are no minimum or maximum amounts awarded. The deadline for an Expression of Interest for 2017 has now passed. Please refer to the website for future funding opportunities.	Contact TD Friends of the Environment Foundation lillian.truong@td.com https://fef.td.com/funding/	
35. Western Diversification Program			Category: Infrastructure and Transportation
Description This program funds projects related to community economic development and policy, innovation, and business development. Key focus areas include enhancing community and transportation infrastructure, building community capacity in economic development, creating value-added production in resource sectors, and fostering community innovation.			
Eligibility Municipal governments, First Nations, industry associations and economic development organizations, post secondary institutions, provincial government depts./agencies, federal crown corporations.	Funding Available The second application intake has closed. Refer to website for future calls for proposals, which will include further information on the level of project funding.	Contact Western Economic Diversification Canada 1-888-338-9378 wd.ab-ab.deo@canada.ca http://www.wd.gc.ca/eng/242.asp	



Steps to a Winning Grant Application

Preparing an Application

1. Review Community Energy Association's ***Funding your Community Energy and Climate Change Initiatives*** or other funding guides to determine if programs are available to support your project.
2. Ensure a good fit. Check your project's goals and objectives against those of the funding program. Review evaluation criteria and ensure that your proposal responds directly to each, or as many as possible.
3. Contact funding agency. Describe your project and ask:
 - Does this project meet the funding program's goals and objectives?
 - What are key elements of past successful applications?
 - What are evaluation criteria (if not listed on form)?
 - Can supporting material (such as letters of support) be submitted after the closing date?
 - Are previous applications available for review?
 - Is Council or Board endorsement of the application required?
4. Create a timeline for application preparation and an application package checklist, including:
 - Obtaining executive committee, Council or Board endorsement, if required
 - Identifying and/or obtaining supporting funding
 - Identifying possible partners and reaching agreements
 - Writing the proposal and ensuring senior management review and final edits
 - Securing letters of support
 - Developing a budget
 - Copying and filing
 - Submission deadline, format and method of delivery (postmarked document, email, etc.)
5. Review application package checklist and ensure that all requirements have been met.
6. Submit proposal on time in the required format.

Application Content

1. Follow the recommended format of proposal.
2. Focus on key elements and ensure that you clearly address evaluation criteria. Include everything you think is important, but be succinct – longer is not better.
3. List resources your agency has committed or will commit to ensure success of project.
4. Identify partners and note how you will work with them to ensure success.
5. Describe any planned community engagement processes, if required. Consider using innovative approaches.
6. Facts and figures are helpful. If possible, calculate or estimate magnitude of benefits of the project.
7. A budget can be either calculated or estimated but it should not necessarily reflect the maximum amount of funding available, unless you can justify it. Provide a reasonable level of detail for costs, itemize matching funds, and mention in-kind contributions, if any.

Funding your Community Energy and Climate Change Initiatives can be found at <http://communityenergy.bc.ca/publications/>

Check out the ***BC Climate Action Toolkit*** for guidance and case studies at: <http://toolkit.bc.ca/>

For more information on Federation of Canadian Municipalities' ***The Partners for Climate Protection (PCP)*** program, go to <http://www.fcm.ca/home/programs/partners-for-climate-protection.htm>

Produced by the Community Energy Association, a charitable organization assisting BC local governments to promote energy efficiency and alternative energy through community energy planning and project implementation. For contact information and many more local government resources please visit: www.communityenergy.bc.ca or call us at 604-628-7076.