

Markham Environmental Sustainability Fund Guidelines

What is the Markham Environmental Sustainability Fund (MESF)?

The MESF is a municipal program that provides funding for innovative, environmental initiatives that contribute to the sustainability, health and protection of Markham's natural environment. The fund provides financial resources for projects within Markham that deliver demonstrable, widespread, environmental benefits to the Markham community.

Who can apply?

Eligible organizations include: other levels of government, public agencies, school boards and Markham Community Groups including: Markham-based community ratepayer associations and local organizations, such as conservation groups, Scouts, etc.

Multi-jurisdictional groups, such as NGOs, or other organizations may be considered if there are clearly demonstrable benefits in the City of Markham, conditional on such groups working with a local Markham community group.

A maximum of 3 schools may receive funding per funding cycle, to a maximum of \$5,000 each. Schools must be "Zero Waste" Schools (have an organic waste program) to be eligible starting in 2013.

Individuals and "for profit" organizations are not eligible. Any project that results in a direct financial private benefit to the fund recipient is not eligible.

What are the MESF requirements?

Projects are required to meet at least one, if not more of the following objectives:

- A leading environmental innovation (i.e. pilot project) that can be showcased by the City of Markham;
- Promote education, understanding and participation in environmental sustainability in the City of Markham; and,
- Support Markham's environmental policies and strategic plans ie Building Markham's Future Together (BMFT)
- Enhance the health, resilience and sustainability of our ecosystem and natural environment

Note: Applications that do not meet any of these criteria will not be considered.

What are the project guidelines?

- Projects must be within the City of Markham and initiated by members of the City of Markham Community, or City of Markham Community Groups;
- Applicants can request a maximum of \$10,000 from the MESF per project per year;
- Applicants may only apply once a year, for projects that will be completed within that same one-year time frame (12 months from issuance of cheque);
- Only materials and equipment costs are eligible for funding from the MESF; consulting services are not eligible
- Project must demonstrate measurable results;
- Project must be demonstrable, widespread and lasting environmental benefits for the Markham community;

- Groups that received funding for projects which have not been completed and reported on, are not eligible for future funding; and
- Funding will not be granted where projects have been commenced.

What are some suggested projects?

- Clean air awareness activities and initiatives
- Climate change and carbon reduction initiatives
- Downspout disconnection/rain barrel program
- Energy efficiency initiatives (pilot projects)
- Environmental and natural gardening promotion and information
- Green roof promotion and implementation
- Natural features study update/implementation
- Water conservation/efficiency initiatives and promotion
- Wildlife habitat restoration/naturalization activities

How do I apply?

Markham Environmental Sustainability Fund Application and deadline can be found at markham.ca/SustainabilityGrant and submit to sustainabilitygrant@markham.ca

What is the approval process?

The MESF staff committee will review, discuss, and score all applications for each funding year and make recommendations to Council for approval. Recommendations, including grant amount and conditions are assessed based on:

Impact

How well does the proposal identify a need, propose a solution and clearly state the hypothesis in terms of levers of change and potential to measurably advance one or more of Markham's sustainability goals?

Realistic

Does the proposal offer a realistic plan for achieving its goals and objectives? Are the costs and timeframe reasonable?

Community Engagement

Does the project involve those affected by the proposed work and increase the skills and assets of Markham residents, where possible?

Community Benefit

Is the project inclusive and has the capacity to benefit all City of Markham residents?

Learning & Knowledge Transfer

Is there a plan and willingness to share findings and lessons with neighborhood organizations and members

In addition,

- They will determine if all described objectives and criteria have been met.
- They may request the applicant to present their proposal.
- They will determine how projects should be funded (in a single payment or in phases).
- They will notify all applicants of the funding decision in writing
- A letter of acknowledgement will be sent upon receipt of an application. All applicants will be notified of the funding decision in writing.

What happens after the project is completed?

Upon completion of the project and no later than 12 months from delivery of the funding, you are required to submit your project report.

Project Report must include:

- Accurate accounting documenting how funding was spent
- Original copies of paid invoices
- Photographs and videos for review and promotion of the project
- Completed Photo consent & release form
- Evaluation/description of the success/any shortfalls of the project

Who do I contact for more information?

We are happy to answer any questions you may have about your project.

Please contact us at sustainabilitygrant@markham.ca