



TOWN OF
HALTON HILLS
Working Together Working for You!

REPORT

TO: Mayor Bonnette and Members of Council

FROM: Jennifer Spence, Climate Change Outreach Coordinator

DATE: July 4, 2022

REPORT NO.: ADMIN 2022-0028

SUBJECT: 2022 Climate Change Investment Fund Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. ADMIN- 2022-0028 dated July 4, 2022, regarding the 2022 Climate Change Investment Fund, be received;

AND FURTHER THAT funding for the 2022 Climate Change Investment Fund, be approved and disbursed providing any additional information that may be required is submitted by the applicants.

KEY POINTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- This is the second year of the Climate Change Investment Fund (CCIF)
- The maximum amount available per application is \$2,000.00
- The total amount of funding available in 2022 is \$15,000.00
- Funding in-take is once per year
- Projects are evaluated using the Climate Change Investment Fund Criteria
- Applicants are encouraged to discuss projects with Town staff prior to applying

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

The intention of the CCIF is to provide 'seed' funding to support practical, community-based initiatives relating to climate change mitigation and adaptation actions. The focus of the CCIF is to incentivize community groups to take actions to reduce carbon

emissions through mitigation and adaptation measures that align with the Town's current climate change initiatives. For example, air quality, energy conservation/efficiency, environmental education, water conservation, waste reduction, green space enhancement, preserving natural assets including biodiversity and the ecosystem including tree plantings, and community gardens.

The CCIF assists community groups to take actions to support Council's climate change goals. This is the second year of the CCIF program. Each proposal is evaluated through the following steps:

- The application is checked for completeness
- A summary of the proposal is written for staff who are evaluating them
- The criteria listed in the Climate Change Investment Fund Application Guide (available on the Town's [website](#)) is used to evaluate the proposal
- The criteria have assigned points and Town staff score the proposal
- The criteria points are totalled and given an average score
- The score of each proposal is reflected in the amount of funding recommended for approval in this report
- A report is written for Council to approve disbursement of funds
- A final report from the community group is due within 14 months after receiving the funding

Status of 2021 Projects of the Climate Change Investment Fund:

Five applications were approved for funding from the first year of this initiative that was in 2021. The community groups that received funding were Butterflyway, Halton/North Peel Naturalists Club, Trees for Halton Hills, The Friends of the Old Seed House, and Willow Park Ecology Centre. The Friends of the Old Seed House Garden and Trees for Halton Hills have completed their projects and other groups are currently working on their projects. Recipients have until September 2022 to submit their final report.

2022 Climate Change Investment Fund Submissions

Three community groups applied to the 2022 CCIF before the due date of May 3, 2022. All applicants applied under the Extension of Projects category. A summary of the proposed projects is below including the climate actions these projects provide to the community of Halton Hills.

The Friends of the Old Seed House Garden

The Friends of the Old Seed House Garden (FOSH) is a community group that cares for the Dominion Gardens Park. This garden is historically significant and enjoyed by the public. FOSH is seeking funding for educational plant signage and to purchase more native pollinator plants and shrubs. Pollinator plants play a key role in the ecosystem of

our community. They attract insects, birds and small animals which help plants to pollinate and reproduce. Native pollinator plants are essential to growing food. Pollinator plants take carbon dioxide out of the air resulting in reducing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

Halton Environmental Network/Halton Food

Halton Food is under the Halton Environmental Network (HEN) umbrella and is a community-based group which focuses on taking positive climate actions in Halton. This is the second year of Halton Food's involvement in the Acton Community Garden (ACG). The ACG is a community garden that grows food and donates it to residents within the community. Halton Food is seeking funding for vegetable plants, seeds, soil, limestone screening, cedar lumber to rebuild rotting garden beds and native fruit shrubs. The ACG supports reducing climate change by growing food locally, storing carbon in the soil and plants, providing food for pollinator insects, birds, and small animals and assists in cooling and cleaning the air.

Trees for Halton Hills

Trees for Halton Hills (TfHH) is non-profit organization, and addresses climate change by supporting tree planting initiatives in Halton Hills. The goal of TfHH is to plant 65,000 trees, one for every resident of Halton Hills. TfHH is seeking funding for 150 native tree seedlings to be planted in collaboration with the Town, and community partners. This project enhances climate change actions that support a healthy environment and strengthens the overall community tree canopy by improving soil and conserving water, providing shade, slowing down stormwater runoff, storing carbon emissions and releasing oxygen into the air.

Table 1 below highlights the local groups funding request, the total value of the project and the recommended amount of funding to be disbursed to the groups.

Table 1: Recommended Funding – 2022			
Name of Organization	Amount Requested	Total Value of Projects	Funding Amount Recommended
The Friends of the Old Seed House Garden	\$2,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00
Halton Environmental Network/Halton Food (Acton Community Garden)	\$2,000.00	\$9,800.00	\$2,000.00
Trees for Halton Hills	\$2,000.00	\$3,750.00	\$2,000.00
Total	\$6,000.00	\$16,550.00	\$6,000.00

The Climate Change Investment Fund has been available to the community over the past two years. Every year staff will undertake a review of the CCIF to encourage and increase uptake of this initiative in the community. This review will ensure the funding will continue to support to the Town's climate change goals. Town staff will report back to Council with any recommendations.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This report is administrative in nature, and the actions support the Town's Strategic Plan. This report aligns to the Town's Strategic plan recognizing the value to preserve, protect and enhance our natural environment for the health benefits and enjoyment it provides to present and future generations. This report also identifies climate change and the environment as one of the Town's Strategic priorities.

RELATIONSHIP TO CLIMATE CHANGE:

This report impacts and/or helps address climate change by supporting community driven projects that implement climate change adaptation and mitigation actions. In addition to the supporting climate change actions mentioned in the project descriptions above, the actions support a healthy environment by using natural assets such as trees, plants, and soil to sequester carbon and produce clean air.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

Public engagement was used to promote the CCIF through the following channels: conversations, emails, and in-person with past recipients, information and a homepage banner on the Town's website, social media, e- newsletters, direct emails, and in-person conversations at events.

INTERNAL CONSULTATION:

Town staff who oversee other Town funding were circulated the 2022 CCIF requests to ensure there were no duplicated funding requests.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

This report will be funded through an existing approved budget source.

Reviewed and approved by,

Dharmen Dhaliah, Senior Manager Climate Change and Asset Management

Rick Cockfield, Director of Strategic Planning

Jon Rehill, Acting Chief Administrative Officer