

Introducing the Climate Action Program

The Climate Action Program is a three-year initiative that provides funding and support to develop local and regional climate action projects in the following focus areas:

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions: low carbon transportation, organic waste diversion, community emissions plan implementation, and other projects that will result in significant and measurable reductions to greenhouse gas emissions.

Climate change adaptation: community wildfire and flood risk reduction, community water supply and demand actions, community climate adaptation plan implementation and other projects that will tangibly support communities to adapt to a changing climate.

The Climate Action Program was developed by the Trust to support communities in the Basin to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. It is designed to advance the climate resilience goal identified in the Trust's Environment Strategic Plan and build on the Trust's earlier climate change initiatives: Communities Adapting to Climate Change Initiative and Carbon Neutral Kootenays. The Climate Action Program is a Columbia Basin Trust initiative delivered by a consulting team, the Climate Action Team.

The Trust has allocated \$500,000 to support community-based climate action projects during the 2017/18 fiscal year.

As a core part of the program, the Trust will host community climate action meetings across the Basin to help community representatives understand the local implications of climate change, and to identify, prioritize and initiate local climate action projects.

The benefits of participating in a community climate action meeting include:

- receiving up-to-date information about climate science, projected implications of climate change for your community and effective approaches for reducing emissions and adapting to climate impacts;
- fostering conversations about opportunities for action on climate adaptation and greenhouse gas reduction in your community and region;
- strengthening community networks and collaboration in support of climate action; and
- identifying climate action projects that can be implemented in your community.

Funding for climate action projects is available following community climate action meetings. The Trust will review project ideas generated at each community meeting to identify those that are a fit for funding through the Climate Action Program. Project proponents are then invited to submit an application. Various funding mechanisms may be used, ranging from grants to financing, as deemed appropriate by the Trust on a project-by-project basis.

The Trust will consider the following criteria when reviewing funding applications:

- Does the project advance climate adaptation and/or greenhouse gas reductions?
- Does the project fall within one of the Climate Action Program focus areas?
- Has other funding been secured for the project?
- Is there community support for the project?

Eligible organizations include local government and First Nation communities, registered non-profits, businesses and industry.

For more information or to discuss a climate action project idea:

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