



The Foundation of Greater Montréal's Collective Fund for Climate and Ecological Transition

The Foundation of Montréal (FGM) wishes to create a Collective Fund in order to step up the fight against climate change and stimulate the adaptation, resilience and ecological transition in Greater Montréal.

Through the Fund, FGM will pursue four strategic objectives:

- Mobilize and reinforce the capacity of the ecosystem of organizations and citizen groups active in all areas related to the ecological transition;
- Increase the funding available for initiatives that contribute to the fight against climate change and move forward the ecological transition in Greater Montréal;
- Unite Montréal's philanthropic actors behind Greater Montréal's climate- and environment-related objectives so as to enhance their reach and impact;
- Support foundational or innovative projects with a significant potential impact.

The context: Montréal mobilizes for the climate and ecological transition

All over the world, major cities have become living laboratories where solutions that will propel the future ecological transition are being found. Montréal is in the vanguard of this movement. Several ecological initiatives have sprung up here over the past few years, and a diverse ecosystem has emerged.

Still, even in this dynamic environment, funding sources continue to be scarce, fragmented or not flexible enough to allow for innovations to be scaled up throughout the region.

In 2019, the philanthropic sector mobilized to support Montréal's objectives in the fight against climate change. Several Montréal philanthropic institutions and foundations (Trottier Foundation, ECHO, Bronfman Foundation, McConnell Foundation, Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec) teamed up with the City of Montréal, the David Suzuki Foundation and C40 to develop a climate plan. Several other foundations showed an interest in this initiative, which demonstrated the potential for philanthropic sector cooperation on climate and ecological transition.

The City of Montréal and the Quebec government will soon roll out plans to fight climate change with ambitious targets to be reached by 2030. Government action is certainly key to hitting these targets, but philanthropic and community involvement will play a vital supporting role. From now until the 2030 deadline, we must rapidly deploy and coordinate our resources so as to achieve maximum impact over a very short period of time.

Components of FGM's Collective Fund for Climate and Ecological Transition:

The following components are proposed for the Collective Fund, with detailed criteria and eligibility requirements to be determined subsequently.

- Tier 1: Projects aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and fight climate change;
- Tier 2: Projects dealing with adaptation to climate change, protection of natural environments, greening and natural infrastructures;
- Tier 3: Projects aiming to increase awareness, mobilization and engagement both on a citizen and a community level;
- Tier 4: Research, data collection, reports or studies to fill gaps in this area;
- Tier 5: Foundational projects not falling under any other category.

Note that Fund partners may direct their contribution towards any of the components, or contribute unrestricted funds.

The Foundation of Greater Montréal's role

Under the impetus of new leadership, FGM plans on spearheading the fight against climate change, and towards ecological transition, in Greater Montréal. That is why it will invest \$500,000 to launch this new Collective Fund. FGM will also use its resources and its team to:

- Ensure coordination with fund partners;
- Analyze applications and carry out follow-up on projects, on the basis of criteria adopted by the Fund's steering committee;
- Ensure that an accounting – financial and non-financial – for projects selected, and for the Fund, is provided to its partners;
- Contribute along with its partners to identifying community needs, and strategic priorities.

In joining up with the Collective Fund for Climate and Ecological Transition, participating foundations will see all the advantages of being involved in collective action led by a partner that proceeds with rigour: a lowering of transaction costs and risks, and increased impact.

Fund governance

The strategic direction and the selection criteria of the Fund will be established by a steering committee, the composition of which is to be determined.

Funding goal

The Foundation of Greater Montréal will invest \$500,000 upon the creation of the fund, and seeks to gather an additional \$1.5M for a total of \$2M for 2021.

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