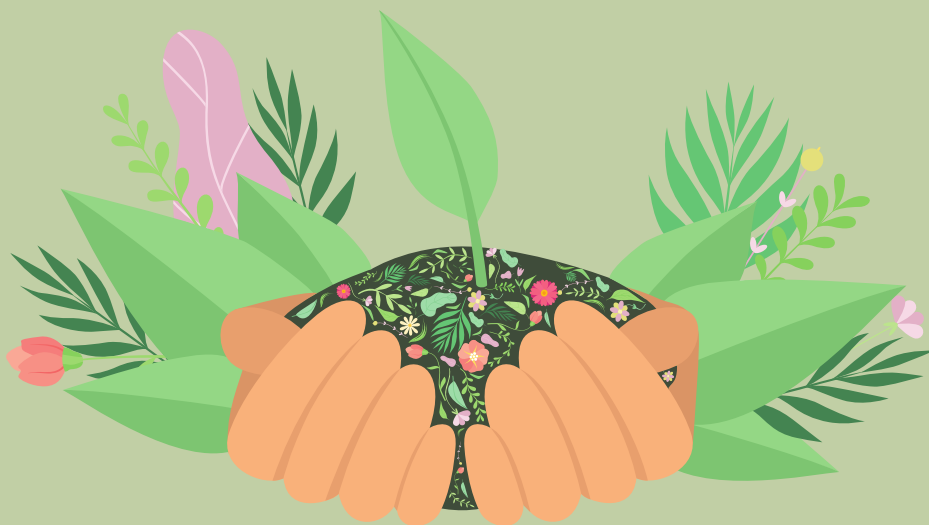




Foundation of Greater Montréal

# COLLECTIVE FUND FOR CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION

Community-centered approaches to environmental justice



2025-2026

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# 1

# Vision

The environmental crisis is no longer a distant event we can avoid; it is a pressing reality that is intertwined with social, economic, and political crises, necessitating complex and bold solutions. While the crisis is widespread, we must avoid normalizing it, as this undermines our ability to respond effectively.



During community consultations held in the fall of 2024, we heard that even amid severe and complex challenges, hopeful solutions can emerge when communities unite, build their collective power, and envision a more connected and ecologically responsible future. Achieving this vision requires mobilizing a diverse range of stakeholders, including those who may not typically identify with the environmental movement.

**The Collective Fund for Climate and Ecological Transition is intended for organizations and collectives focused on environmental justice issues at the community level and committed to equity and collaboration, irrespective of their primary mission or organizational structure.**

# 2

# Objectives

Support the resilience, agency, and transformative capacity of communities in the face of climate change and in pursuit of environmental justice. By this, we mean the ability and willingness of communities, movements, and institutions to make choices based on the common good, prioritize the needs of populations most vulnerable to climate change, act now in a way that will benefit future generations, and create narratives and solutions beyond existing systems.

**We strongly believe that the most effective and enduring responses to the environmental and social challenges of our time are created by and with people and are rooted in the relationship between people and place.**

The Fund is intended to support:

- Existing initiatives tested in communities
- Emergent initiatives and new collaborations focused on community wellbeing.



# 3

# Funding Streams

There are two available funding streams, and you can apply to either one based on which aligns best with your mission and vision for change. We acknowledge that these options are closely related, and some organizations may find themselves situated at the intersection of both.

The examples of initiatives listed below are not exhaustive. These examples are meant to serve as a guide to help you better understand the funding streams and different possibilities offered therein.

## 1. The Power of Communities

Initiatives aimed at empowering communities and fostering solidarity, equipping communities to adapt to climate change, mobilize in emergencies, advocate for environmental justice, and engage in the socio-cultural transformation necessary for collective survival and wellbeing.

### **This may look like:**

Accessible and inclusive gathering spaces that allow people to take ownership and develop understanding of environmental issues, co-create solutions, and strengthen community connections to foster action

*Forums, citizen assemblies, committees and gatherings created to discuss and coordinate community-led action on environmental issues.*

*Community-led initiatives aimed at restoring natural areas or rehabilitating community-owned spaces.*

Environmental education and awareness-raising aimed at the general public and community members, providing people with the tools and resources necessary to take action within their contexts

*Climate and environmental literacy programs.*

*Environmental literacy tools for communities and populations particularly affected by climate change (people living with disabilities, elders, youth, etc.)*

# 4

# Funding Streams

Collaborations and equitable partnerships between policymakers, institutions, environmental experts, frontline organizations, and community members, aimed at effectively addressing the needs and expertise of communities in adapting to climate change

*Enhancing community access to democratic decision-making processes.*

*Collaboration between experts and community members to identify and understand issues, and to work together to develop solutions that leverage expertise and lived experience.*

Building the capacity of community stakeholders to take meaningful and sustainable action in support of environmental justice

*Incubators, mentorship and support programs for environmental grassroots groups.*

*Development of shared knowledge, tools and approaches that can benefit different groups and initiatives.*

Rights-based advocacy and campaigning aimed at changing existing policies for the benefit of prioritized communities

*Indigenous land and water defence.*

*Community-driven efforts to safeguard or restore natural heritage in local areas.*

*Awareness raising around the issues of environmental racism.*

# 5

# Funding Streams

## 2. The Power of Narratives

Initiatives aimed at bringing people together, restoring hope, creating narratives for the future, and facilitating the emergence of alternative solutions to existing systems with a vision of a more connected, caring, and ecologically responsible society.

### This may look like:

Initiatives that encourage critical reflection and collaborative experimentation, while fostering the emergence of alternative narratives and supporting community-led innovation

*Participatory design initiatives that promote the co-creation of solutions for adapting to climate change, urban planning, etc.*

*Alternative bookstores and libraries.*

*Initiatives that aim to highlight the convergence of struggles for environmental and social justice, while proposing solutions that address the intersection of these issues.*

Community spaces and structures that enable individuals to cultivate and practice cultures of solidarity, mutual care, collective responsibility, and sustainable connections to the living world

*Solidarity initiatives with Indigenous land and water defenders.*

*Neighbourhood mutual aid and resource sharing groups that integrate principles of ecological sustainability.*

Community-centered cultural and artistic projects and venues that leverage creativity to strengthen community ties and promote environmental justice

*Art collectives engaged in environmental justice work.*

*Community art or grassroots initiatives using art (theater, music, visual arts, etc.) as a medium to raise awareness and mobilize for environmental justice.*

# 6

# Funding Streams

Initiatives aimed at protecting, revitalizing, and sharing ecological knowledge, which includes traditional, intercultural, and intergenerational knowledge

Sharing and promoting Indigenous Knowledge within and outside of Indigenous communities.

Workshops, events and spaces for tools and knowledge sharing around ecological living (repair and DIY workshops, etc.)

Community-led research and education that focuses on generating, disseminating, and promoting knowledge that is owned by the communities, as well as enhancing community literacy regarding the impact of the environmental crisis

*Participatory action research*

*Zines*



# 7

# Eligibility

**To be eligible for funding, organizations, groups or collectives must exist for a charitable purpose and carry out activities for the public benefit. This means:**

- Registered charities duly registered under the Canada Revenue Agency (qualified donees).
- Community service organizations, non-profits, grassroots organizations, advocacy groups, coalitions, movements and other collectives without charitable registration number (non-qualified donees), irrespective of their organizational structure.
- An applicant without a charity number registered with the Canada Revenue Agency (non-qualified donee) must partner with a registered charity who will ensure direction and control of funding.

## **Accessibility**

- The Fund accepts applications from organizations, groups and collectives whose priorities align with the objectives and funding streams of the Fund, regardless of whether they identify as environmental organizations.
- This Fund is intentionally accessible to organizations, collectives and groups facing systemic barriers in obtaining funding, including organizations without core funding, without a charity number, and emerging groups.



# 8

# Justice Equity Diversity and Inclusion

- In alignment with the JEDI approach (justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion), priority will be given to initiatives designed to enhance the quality of life for historically marginalized populations identified by the FGM's Granting Strategy, including **Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC), LGBTQ2S+ people, women and girls, and people with disabilities.**
- However, we recognize that these communities are not representative of all populations disproportionately affected by environmental issues and inequities. Initiatives serving other communities will also be considered.
- We recognize that many individuals and communities are at the intersection of various identities and forms of oppression that shape their experience of climate change and contribute to their vulnerability to environmental risks. We will give special consideration to initiatives that seek to build alliances and amplify the voices of the most marginalized in our society.

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# Funding Conditions

## FUNDING

- The 2025-2026 Collective Fund for Climate and Ecological Transition has a total budget of \$800,000, which will be allocated between direct support for selected initiatives and capacity-building (strengthening skills and networks)
- The Fund offers two levels of funding:
  - Seed Grants - \$15,000 per year for two years
  - Implementation Grants - \$30,000 per year for two years

## ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

- The Fund offers flexible funding with respect of the self-determination of organizations and collectives, and recognition of their expertise in determining their priority needs.
- Funding may cover core activities and expenses of the organization, a specific project or initiative, expenses related to collaboration, coalition-building and mobilization, accessibility measures and other relevant expenses.

## INELIGIBLE EXPENSES

- Due to budgetary constraints and the non-recurring nature of the funding, the grants cannot cover fundraising campaigns, construction costs or infrastructure projects that exceed the Fund's capacity, as well as previously incurred expenses, or debts.
- The funding cannot be used for activities that support or oppose, directly or indirectly, any political party or candidate to any public office.

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# Funding Conditions

## CAPACITY BUILDING

- In addition to the funding provided, the Fund will offer optional structured support aimed at strengthening skills and networks, and facilitating peer-to-peer knowledge exchange.
- By applying to the Fund, you demonstrate a level of interest in being part of the peer cohort.
- Grant seekers will receive more information about the capacity building program at the second stage of the Fund (in-depth conversations with the team).



# 11

# Key Dates

- **January 15, 2025:** Applications open via a simplified online form
- **January 29 at noon and February 13 at noon:** Online Q&A Sessions with the FGM team
- **February 21, 2025, at 4 PM:** Applications closed
- **February 24 to March 14, 2025:** Stage One applications review. The applicants who will not progress to Stage Two will be notified by the FGM team.
- **March 24 to May 2, 2025:** Selected applicants will be invited to complete Stage Two application via an in-depth conversation with the FGM team.
- **May to June 2025:** Review of the Stage Two applications and grant recommendations by the Fund's Advisory Committee.
- **End of June 2025:** Announcement of the results of the 2025 Collective Fund for Climate and Ecological Transition 2025.
- **June 2026 and June 2027:** Follow-up conversations with the Fund grantees.

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# How to Apply

## PREPARATION

- Get familiar with the Application Guide and the [Application Form](#). The Application Form is also available in PDF format for consultation purposes.
- Attend one of our online Q&R sessions. No registration required.

**January 29, 2025, at 12 PM**

**February 13, 2025, at 12 PM**

## STAGE ONE

- Submit your Stage One application via online Form between January 15 and February 21, 2025.
- If your application is selected to advance to Stage Two, the FGM team will get in touch with you via email at the end of March 2025.

## STAGE TWO

- To alleviate the administrative burden and mental load on organizations, Stage Two applications will be conducted orally through an in-depth conversation with the FGM team.
- After the conversation, the FGM team will prepare the grant application and send it to the applicant for approval.
- In accordance with the principles of Trust-Based Philanthropy and to ensure equal opportunities for all grant applicants, we do not require any other supporting documents at this stage.

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# How to Apply

## FINAL SELECTION

- Stage Two applications will be reviewed by the Fund's Advisory Committee according to the criteria that will be shared with the grant applicants in advance.
- The grantees of the Fund will be announced at the end of June 2025.
- All organizations and groups who participated in the Stage Two will receive personalized feedback on their application.



# 14

# Selection Process

- The selection of the Stage One applications will be done by the FGM team in collaboration with the Advisory Committee according to the following criteria:
- The relevance of the initiative or the mission of the organization or collective in relation to the funding streams and principles of the Fund.
- The geographic scope of the initiative or organization with the goal of representation of diverse neighbourhoods of Montreal and areas outside of the Island of Montreal (Laval, North Shore and South Shore).
- The populations that will benefit from the initiative or the organization's activities, in line with the previously mentioned JEDI principles.
- The level of community involvement in the initiative or how the needs of the most impacted communities will be addressed.
- The commitment to collaboration with other stakeholders.

## FUND PRINCIPLES

- In reviewing applications and selecting grantees, the team and Advisory Committee will be guided by the following principles:
  - Prioritize historically marginalized groups and other populations disproportionately affected by the effects of the climate change and environmental inequities through equity-centered and intersectional lens.
  - Foster a decolonial mindset by promoting ways of thinking and acting that enhance our connection with the living world. Address the inequalities and divisions stemming from colonialism, and acknowledge the relationship between Indigenous sovereignty and the protection of the Earth.
  - Mitigate the effects of the competition-based philanthropic model: reduce barriers to funding and select grantees based on complementarity and the potential for mutual learning and enrichment.
  - Foster relationship building and solidarity between communities and organizations.



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# Selection Process

## WHO WE WANT TO SUPPORT

Through this selection process, we aim to support and partner with organizations or collectives that represent three types of initiatives:

- **Change-makers:** These are organizations, collectives, movements, groups, and coalitions that embody a vision for change. They are deeply rooted in the communities they serve, represent the collective interests of those communities—including marginalized groups—and remain accountable to their community members.
- **Connectors and Supporters:** These organizations, coalitions, groups, and networks have a mission to assist communities in achieving their vision for change. They do this by facilitating connections between communities and decision-makers, providing resources, promoting the production and dissemination of knowledge, and enhancing the capacity for action and resilience among community groups.
- **Catalysts:** These organizations, collectives, movements, and groups possess the ability to create and promote positive, unifying narratives. They mobilize knowledge and inspire a desire for change within the community.



Foundation of Greater Montréal

**BETWEEN JANUARY 15 AND**  
**FEBRUARY 21, 2025, APPLY**  
**TO THE COLLECTIVE FUND**  
**FOR CLIMATE AND**  
**ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION**



## Contact

If you need accommodations to participate in this Call for Projects, please contact Vira Kovalova at [vira.kovalova@fgmtl.org](mailto:vira.kovalova@fgmtl.org) or 514 866-0808 ext. 126 or Sarah Ouagueni at [sarah.ouagueni@fgmtl.org](mailto:sarah.ouagueni@fgmtl.org) or 514 866-0808 ext. 121.