
2025 Assistance to Community Groups – Cash Grant – Environment Category

ISSUE

This is an annual report highlighting proposed program funding allocations for the current year and project summaries from the previous year. The Environmental Grant supports community groups to carry out environmental initiatives, as directed by Council Policy C03-018, Assistance to Community Groups.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services approve the funding allocations for the 2025 Assistance to Community Groups – Cash Grant – Environment Category.

BACKGROUND

At its meeting held on April 3, 2024, the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services, approved the [2024 Assistance to Community Groups – Cash Grants – Environmental Component](#) report outlining the results of the 2023 funded projects and the funding recommendations for the 2024 competition.

Funding for the Environmental Grant is directed by Council Policy C03-018. Increases to the Environmental Grant are approved by City Council during the business plan and budget process. In 2025, the available funding is \$61,000.

Previous funding available and amount asked for through applications received for the Environmental Grant are summarized in the table below:

Year	Amount Available for Applicants	Amount Requested by Applicants	Combined Total Applicant Project Budget
2025	\$61,000	\$84,954	\$413,159
2024	\$61,000	\$123,153	\$470,281
2023	\$59,000	\$132,738	\$274,284
2022	\$59,000	\$79,065	\$252,284
2021	\$54,000	\$79,749	\$200,083
2020	\$44,000	\$94,402	\$538,770

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

This report outlines the results of the projects funded through the 2024 Environmental Grant, as well as the recommended funding allocation of the 2025 Environmental Grant.

Fifteen projects were awarded funding in 2024, resulting in a variety of positive environmental outcomes addressing aspects of climate change mitigation, solid waste diversion, green infrastructure enhancement, and access to recreation and cultural activities. Two of these projects require an extension which has been approved. Appendix 1 summarizes the projects funded in 2024 and identifies those that are still in-progress.

Fourteen applications were received in 2025, with a combined request for funding of \$84,954. \$49,500 of the available \$61,000 is recommended to fund ten applications. Appendix 2 summarizes the funding allocation for 2025.

Four applications are not recommended to receive funding due to being previously funded applicants' requests, not meeting eligibility criteria, or scoring lower on environmental grant criteria.

\$11,500 of the available \$15,000 dedicated to water conservation is not recommended to be allocated due to insufficient applications focusing on water conservation. The remaining funds will be utilized to conduct a comprehensive review of the program and develop a marketing strategy aimed at educating and inspiring future applicants about projects they can undertake to conserve water.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The allocation for Assistance to Community Groups – Cash Grant – Environment Category will utilize \$49,500 available from the following 2025 operating and capital budgets.

- Cost Centre – 100067 – Community Initiative Program - \$10,000
- Cost Centre 100413 – Green Network Program - \$10,000
- Cost Centre 100302 – Environmental Awareness - \$6,000
- Capital Project No. P.02197 – Water Conservation Initiative - \$3,500
- Capital Project No. P.01964 – Waste Reduction Initiatives - \$10,000
- Capital Project No. P.02468 – Active Transportation Plan Implementation - \$10,000

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The projects recommended for allocation of the cash grant, collectively meet the objectives of the program which are:

- Protection of the environment;
- Conservation of natural resources;
- Environmental communications, research, and education;
- Waste diversion; and
- Green network protection and enhancement.

The projects chosen, support the categories prioritized for funding in 2025, including initiatives that:

- Increase awareness and protection of our green network;

- Reduce the amount of waste going to landfills;
- Encourage active transportation;
- Provide stewardship and education;
- Focus on strategy to conserve water resources; and
- Provide learning opportunities that support the City of Saskatoon’s environmental goals.

The overall impacts on greenhouse gas emissions, water conservation, and waste diversion resulting from these projects have not been quantified at this time.

There are no policy, privacy or CPTED implications or considerations.

NEXT STEPS

The results achieved through the 2025 Environmental Grant will be reported with the recommendations of award for the 2026 Environmental Grant, in the second quarter of 2026.

A review of Assistance to Community Groups – Cash Grant – Environment Category is planned to take place in 2025 to assess the role of grants in implementing the Environmental Leadership section in the Strategic Plan, including the Low Emissions Community Plan, Green Pathways, the Water Conservation Strategy, the Renewable Energy Strategy, and the Solid Waste Reduction and Diversion Plan. This review will include a jurisdictional scan, and analysis of opportunities to expand the grant program to other sectors. Any recommendations for changes to the program and/or policy will be brought to City Council for approval.

APPENDICES

1. Projects Funded 2024
2. Grant Applications 2025

Report Approval

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