

Granting Recommendations from Grants & Special Projects Committee

Date:	December 1, 2010
To:	Toronto Atmospheric Fund Board of Directors
From:	Ben Marans, Manager, Grants & Special Projects

SUMMARY

The TAF Grants & Special Projects Committee met on Monday, November 8, 2010 to discuss the 15 grant proposals submitted on October 15, 2010 and to make recommendations for funding. The Committee has recommended new funding commitments of \$397,300 towards community projects (\$347,300 in 2010, \$50,000 in 2011) and \$25,000 towards City projects.

The Committee also discussed four program funding allocations presented by TAF staff with a total of \$153,450 allocated from the 2010 program funding budget.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The TAF Grants & Special Projects Committee recommends that the TAF Board of Directors approve the following grant allocations:

1. City of Toronto, Economic Development & Culture - Roadmap for eco-business zones in Toronto
Requested \$15,000 over seven months

Economic Development & Culture is proposing the development of targeted emission reduction programs for the business sector by evaluating and replicating the successes of the Partners in Project Green Pearson Eco-Business Zone project. Activities include the development of a deployment plan, identification of replicable components from the Pearson project and establishment of baseline metrics and criteria for bringing the Eco-Business Zone program to a selection of Toronto's remaining 33 business parks.

Recommend funding \$15,000 over seven months on condition that Economic Development and Culture consult with Toronto Hydro and Enbridge Gas regarding the relevance of their respective conservation demand management programs and make both the Clean Air Partnership and Green Enterprise Ontario aware of the initiative.

2. City of Toronto, Economic Development & Culture - Toronto Green Innovation Partnership
Requested \$10,000 over one year

Economic Development & Culture is proposing the development and management of a municipal innovation network within the City of Toronto that would identify key innovators

and provide them with the space to share ideas and experiences. This network will help to develop and incubate innovative projects being advanced and supported by the City of Toronto and is complementary to TAF's new focus on social innovation.

Recommend funding \$10,000 over one year on the condition that TAF be given an advisory role in the project.

3. Centre for Social Innovation - Community bonds: empowering community finance
Requested \$57,300 over 4 months

The Centre for Social Innovation is proposing an outreach strategy to educate the MASH sector in Toronto on the use of community bonds to help finance building purchases and energy efficiency retrofits. CSI has used this innovative financing tool to raise capital for the CSI Annex project by engaging the community-at-large with an opportunity to support a local non-profit while at the same time earn revenue from their financial investment.

Recommend funding \$57,300 over four months on condition that the Centre for Social Innovation expands the workplan to incorporate the following deliverables:

- i. **Detailed information on the scale-up opportunities within Toronto, including a barriers analysis and the potential market uptake within the non-profit sector for energy efficiency projects;**
 - ii. **Identification and mentoring of at least one partner in Toronto in the use of community bonds; and**
 - iii. **Plans for achieving the necessary policy reforms to advance and expand the use of community bonds.**
4. Community Power Fund - Community Power Capital: Phase I implementation
Requested \$100,000 over six months

The Community Power Fund is seeking financial support towards the development of CP Capital, a new fund that would help provide needed capital in a timely fashion for community power projects registered under the province's feed-in tariff (FIT) program. Recognizing the limited capacity of community power co-operatives to raise large sums of money to finance their projects, CP Fund is developing a resource that would allow non-community investors to provide interim funding with a return commensurate with the risk as a placeholder while the community-based co-ops raise funds from the public through their share offerings.

Recommend funding up to \$75,000 over six months subject to appropriate milestones/ deliverables as determined in consultation with TAF staff.

5. Daily Bread Food Bank - Daylight harvesting pilot
Requested \$40,452 over 15 months

The Daily Bread Food Bank is proposing a technology pilot whereby they would install a GPS skylight technology at their warehouse that would track and provide maximum daylight for lighting the workspace. Through a monitoring and evaluation plan and the development of a business case, Daily Bread hopes to demonstrate the emission reduction opportunities with this technology that has yet to be adopted in Toronto.

Recommend funding be declined as the Committee felt that the emission reduction opportunities associated with this project were limited. It was suggested that TAF staff redirect the Daily Bread Food Bank to Toronto Hydro and/or the Ontario Power Authority for consideration.

6. EC3 Initiative - Electric vehicle solar canopy project
Requested \$80,000 over two years

EC3 Initiative is proposing a phased project that would see the design, development and piloting of a made-in-Canada solar EV canopy, combining grid-tied solar PV panels with EV charge stations. These stations would ultimately be featured in public and private locations across the Greater Toronto Area as a means of supporting EV deployment through access to available charging infrastructure.

Recommend funding be declined as the Committee felt that the emission reduction opportunities associated with this project were limited.

7. Environmental Defence - Overcoming provincial barriers to EVs in Ontario
Requested \$100,000 over two years

Environmental Defence is proposing a multi-year policy advocacy campaign to help overcome barriers to electric vehicle (EV) development and deployment in Ontario. Recognizing that the provincial government has yet to put forth a comprehensive strategy or even a lead agency responsible for the EV portfolio, Environmental Defence will establish a consortium of key stakeholders to advocate for immediate resolution to key issues.

Recommend funding \$50,000 over one year on condition that Environmental Defence confirms all project partners, refines their communication plan based on input from these partners, submits plans for establishing internal expertise around EV issues in Ontario and directs funding to staff costs only.

8. Ontario Clean Air Alliance - Ontario's new energy efficiency strategy
Requested \$35,000 over one year

The Ontario Clean Air Alliance (OCAA) is proposing a research project in support of a campaign to have the provincial government establish a coordinated approach for advancing energy efficiency in the electricity and natural gas sectors. OCAA's plan is to present a compelling economic case for improving efficiency as well as the identification of key policies needed to support faster and deeper conservation and demand management (CDM) activities.

Recommend funding \$35,000 over one year on condition that TAF is given an advisory role for the project, a stakeholder map and advocacy campaign plan are submitted and that OCAA includes recommendations on the role for cities to play, including the City of Toronto.

9. Pembina Foundation - Commuter 2.0 concept development
Requested \$10,000 over three months

The Pembina Foundation is seeking a concept development grant to design a transportation demand management (TDM) project called 'Commuter 2.0'. This project will survey top employers in Toronto and the GTA to help identify the TDM commuter choice programs that are most likely to be taken up by participants as well as lead to significant emission reductions in the transportation sector.

Recommend funding \$10,000 over three months.

10. Pollution Probe - Business & environmental case for commercial EVs
Requested \$100,000 over two years

Pollution Probe, in partnership with Fleet Challenge Ontario and CrossChasm Technologies, is proposing the development of a comprehensive evaluation methodology and business case to assess the costs/benefits of electric vehicle adoption in commercial fleets. By collecting real-time data on both conventional vehicles and electric vehicles, the proponents hope to inform end-users as well as policymakers on the best approaches to integrating low-emission plug-ins into fleets.

Recommend funding \$100,000 over two years on condition that TAF participate as a program advisor and that all FleetWise EV300 Fleet Partners are invited to participate in this research project.

11. Ryerson University, Department of Architectural Science - EcoSpex
Requested \$100,000 over one year

In collaboration with the Blue Wilderness Management Group, Digicon Information Inc. and the Building Research Establishment (BRE) UK, the Ryerson University Department of Architectural Science is proposing the establishment of a web-based database of building products matched with comprehensive life cycle assessment values. By providing this information, it is hoped that the building and retrofit industries will reduce emissions associated with their choice of products.

Recommend funding be declined as this project does not meet TAF's current granting priorities.

12. Toronto Renewable Energy Co-operative - SolarShare Energy Co-operative Phase II
Requested \$50,000 over 10 months

Since December 2006, TAF has provided \$130,000 in grants to the Toronto Renewable Energy Co-operative (TREC) for their SolarShare project. The first grant (\$75K in December 2006) was a feasibility assessment to validate the financing model and the second grant (\$55K in December 2009) was to implement SolarShare in Toronto. The original plan was for a 250kW PV system in Toronto and this was changed to an aggregated system outside of Toronto. In light of the challenges faced in completing the last grant, TREC has returned to TAF seeking additional resources to complete the SolarShare project.

Recommend funding \$50,000 over 10 months according to benchmarks and deliverables determined in consultation with TAF staff.

13. The World on my Plate - Electric cargo bikes
Requested \$10,000 over one year

The World on my Plate is proposing a pilot test of an electric cargo bike delivery model for their food delivery program. Recognizing the potential emission reduction benefits of replacing conventional vehicles with electric alternatives, the proponent will establish a case study based on their findings and share these findings with other interested stakeholders, including the Business Improvement Areas across Toronto.

Recommend funding \$10,000 over one year on condition that TAF be given an advisory role in the project and that the World On My Plate confirms all sources of funding.

14. University of Toronto - Non-peak traffic emissions assessment
Requested \$10,000 over six months

Dr. Nurul Habib and his team at the University of Toronto Department of Civil Engineering have put forward a concept development proposal to determine the emissions impact in Toronto of non-peak travel demands (i.e. weekend travel). Based on preliminary research, Dr. Habib has concluded that the exclusive focus on peak demand travel combined with the large emissions profile of non-peak travel has created a major gap in policies and programs that can effectively reduce emissions related to personal transportation in Toronto.

Recommend funding \$10,000 over six months on condition that the final report includes recommendations for future research.

15. York University & Centennial College - Urban solar charging stations for EVs
Requested \$100,000 over two years

York University and Centennial College have submitted a joint proposal for a pilot project to install three solar PV electric vehicle charge stations. The goal of this project is to better understand system optimization for charging EVs with renewable, including grid-dependent vs. grid-independent charging, battery storage, solar PV performance and driver behaviour.

Recommend funding be declined at this time but invite the proponent to resubmit a revised proposal in collaboration with Toronto Hydro at the next grants round.

Review of 2010 program funding allocations:

1. Financial innovation: assets under management - \$40,000

This project builds on TAF's unique position as a source of capital for climate solutions and respected expertise in mandate-related finance to begin implementation of the Financial Innovation pillar of TAF's 2011-2014 strategic plan. The overall objective is to step up TAF's game in addressing a key barrier to advancing climate solutions - access to capital – and to work with our colleagues in the foundation and financial sectors to help attract and direct these funds towards climate change investments.

The Committee approved the allocation of \$40,000 but requested more specific information regarding the communications approach, to be submitted by the next Committee meeting.

2. Municipal innovation hub - \$131,500

The objective of the Municipal Innovation Hub is to proactively create opportunities for innovation by using a “silo-busting” approach that brings together municipal colleagues and external stakeholders to co-design and deliver climate programs. The complexity of the climate problem means that no one department or perspective alone can address it. Further, learning the “how” of innovation means that we have methods to get people working together effectively on problem-solving in response the many unknowns climate change may throw at us.

The Committee requested a more detailed proposal, including a budget and phasing information at the next meeting of the Committee in February 2011. Until then, the Committee approved spending up to 30% of the amount requested in support of development work.

3. Natural gas & transportation campaign R&D - \$40,000

This project aims to develop two initiatives (or campaigns) focused on game-changing approaches to reducing emissions from natural gas and transportation fuels. TAF will undertake the research, consultation, convening, partnership development, fundraising feasibility and capacity analysis necessary to establish new plans that are in keeping with the business model, strategic directions and the screening criteria emerging from the strategic planning process.

The Committee approved the allocation with the provision that TAF include the identification of potential champions to carry forward the work as part of the research effort. The Committee also requested an update in February 2011 in conjunction with the Strategic Plan for 2011-14.

4. Ontario Energy Funders - \$10,000

The goal of the Ontario Energy Funders Group (housed by the Canadian Environmental Grantmakers' Network of which TAF is a member) is to maximize the impact of philanthropic resources supporting energy conservation and renewables in Ontario by facilitating shared learning and collaboration. The proposed research will develop an overview of existing funding opportunities for energy efficiency and renewables in Ontario with the goal of identifying where there are overlaps, gaps and opportunities for collaboration. It is the shared belief of the group that such an overview would help funders better deploy limited resources to advance emission reductions in the province. Each participating funder is being asked to contribute resources towards this project.

The Committee approved an allocation of up to \$10,000.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

New funding commitments of \$347,300 in 2010, \$50,000 in 2011 for grants and new program allocations of \$153,450 in 2010.

BACKGROUND

At its meeting on Wednesday, December 9, 2009, the TAF Board of Directors approved, in principle, up to \$500,000 in new grants spending for 2010, given Committee review and final Board approval. \$350,000 was allocated towards internally funded programs.

For the 2010 grants budget, an additional \$425,000 was available due to unspent resources and rescissions from past years. Thus, the total amount available for new grants was \$925,000.

In the spring 2010 grants round, the TAF Board of Directors approved nine grant proposals with a total commitment of \$411,955 in 2010, leaving \$513,045 for new funding allocations for the fall 2010 grants round.

For program funding allocations, a total of \$185,280 was approved in June 2010 leaving \$164,720 for new program funding available in fall 2010.

The Grants & Special Projects Committee met on Monday, November 8, 2010 to discuss the grant proposals received on October 15, 2010 and to provide the preceding recommendations for both grants and program funding allocations.

CONTACT:

Ben Marans, Manager, Grants & Special Projects, TAF
Tel: (416) 393-6367
bmarans@tafund.org