

Grants and Program Allocation Recommendations

Date: June 29, 2023
To: Board of Directors of the Toronto Atmospheric Fund
From: Senior Grants Manager

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

The attachment to this report contains financial information supplied in confidence to the Toronto Atmospheric Fund which, if disclosed, could reasonably be expected to prejudice significantly the competitive position or interfere significantly with the contractual or other negotiations of a person, group of persons, or organization.

SUMMARY

This report recommends three grants with a combined value of \$437,274 for Board approval.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Senior Grants Manager recommends that the Board of Directors of the Toronto Atmospheric Fund:

1. Approve the following grants to be funded jointly from the Canada, Ontario, and Toronto endowments except where otherwise indicated:
 - a. \$150,000 over 18 months to Indigenous Clean Energy Social Enterprises to support the capacity building of an indigenous housing provider in the GTHA and enable them to complete deep retrofits across their portfolio of buildings.
 - b. \$212,274 over 24 months to the Ontario Public Health Association to promote research and engagement enabling policy implementation to advance building energy retrofits and improving human health by reducing the impact of indoor heat. Funded from the Canada and Toronto endowments only.
 - c. \$75,000 over 12 months to Pollution Probe to promote research identifying renewable energy options and model pathways for achieving a net-zero electricity grid by 2035. Funded from the Canada and Toronto endowments only.
2. Decline three grant requests with a total value of \$487,185. These are summarized in Confidential Attachment 1.

- Direct that the confidential information contained in Confidential Attachment 1 remain confidential in its entirety, as it contains financial information supplied in confidence to the Toronto Atmospheric Fund, which, if disclosed, could reasonably be expected to significantly prejudice the competitive position or interfere significantly with the contractual or other negotiations of a person, group of persons, or organization.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

If the recommended grants are approved, \$352,296 would come out of TAF's 2023 grants budget and \$84,978 would come out of the 2024 budget. This would leave \$624,042 remaining in the 2023 grants budget.

Grants Program Budget	2023
Total available	\$1,861,423
Grant allocations committed to date	\$885,085
Currently available	\$976,338
Recommended allocations from the May 2023 intake	\$352,296
Remaining balance	\$624,042

There are no internal allocations from the 2023 budget in this intake. In October 2022 the Grants Committee approved \$1,033,000 to support the execution of internal programming in 2023. A balance of \$67,000 is available in the internal program budget to support emerging opportunities during the year.

DECISION HISTORY

Members of the Grants and Programs Committee met on June 22, 2023 to discuss six grant applications. As there was no quorum, their advice and subsequent consultations has informed the staff recommendations in this report.

COMMENTS

A summary of the grants recommended for approval by TAF staff, supported by the Chair of the Grants and Programs Committee is presented below.

Indigenous Clean Energy Social Enterprises – Bringing it Home Project Accelerator

\$150,000 over 18 months

Applicant's address: 434 Queen St. Suite 500, Ottawa, ON, K1R 7V7

Location of proposed activities: GTHA

The objective of this project is to support the participation of an indigenous housing provider in Indigenous Clean Energy's retrofit accelerator program. The program will support capacity building capacity of the organization through webinars, in-person training, and expert mentorship. At the end of the grant, the organization will have a project implementation plan to reduce energy consumption by 50% (including possibly fuel switching from natural gas) across their defined housing portfolio (ideally 100 or more units). Key deliverables that will be completed during this grant include:

- Training of project participant in energy efficiency project development.
- A retrofit project feasibility and implementation plan

Ontario Public Health Association - Addressing Heat-Health, Indoor Risk Factors & Building Retrofit Solutions

\$212,274 over 24 months

Applicant's address: 57 Marion Avenue North, Hamilton ON, L8S 4G2

Location of proposed activities: GTHA

The project aims to research the impact of heat pump retrofits on indoor air temperatures and use the findings to build policy support for heat pumps as an effective technology solution for improving human health and reducing GHG emissions in buildings. Project activities will include a case study that will examine energy-use data from a subset of social housing, and analyze comparative housing retrofit data on heat-health risk factors, indoor environmental conditions, energy use, and GHG emissions. The findings and recommendations will be shared with relevant municipal and regional policy actors equipping them with evidence and knowledge about the impact of building energy retrofits on reducing indoor heat while reducing GHG emissions and help advance policies and initiatives supporting retrofits at scale. Key deliverables that will be completed during this grant include:

- Raising stakeholder awareness to advance equitable energy efficient heat alleviating strategies and policies to protect at-risk populations from indoor overheating.
- Research and knowledge products promoting the efficacy of heat pump retrofits to maintain safe indoor air temperatures.
- Engaging municipal and regional policy actors on advancing building energy retrofits for reducing indoor heat.

Pollution Probe - Pathways to affordable reliability in a net-zero electricity system in Ontario

\$75,000 over 12 months

Applicant's address: 130 Queens Quay East, Suite 902, Toronto, Ontario M5A 0P6T

Location of proposed activities: GTHA

The objective of this project is to research and model clean energy-based pathways required to achieve a net-zero grid in Ontario by 2035. Given the expected increase in electricity demand, natural gas fired generation is seen as a solution for maintaining reliability in the grid (mainly due to ability to quickly ramp up and down and provide energy over long durations). However, the increased use of natural gas is a major obstacle for achieving net zero goals. The project aims to engage stakeholders to identify priority actions and feasible approaches required to meet this objective in a timely and cost-effective manner. The applicant will achieve this by:

- Undertaking research and knowledge dissemination demonstrating that net-zero resources can offer a reliable supply to the grid at a cost comparable to current plans.
- Conducting stakeholder engagement to identify reliability options for a net-zero grid.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Confidential Attachment 1 – Summary of declined grant requests