

Grant Allocation Recommendations

Date: April 12, 2024
To: Board of Directors of the Toronto Atmospheric Fund
From: Senior Grants Manager

SUMMARY

This report recommends approval of three grants with a combined value of \$353,643.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Senior Grants Manager recommends that the Board of Directors of the Toronto Atmospheric Fund approve the following grants to be funded from the endowments indicated:
 - a. \$138,000 over 24 months (*from the Canada and Toronto endowments only*) to the Transition Accelerator to support research, engagement and policy advancement to decarbonize buildings through the adoption of thermal energy networks, subject to the following conditions:
 - i. Development and implementation of:
 - a) A plan to engage key stakeholders and municipal, provincial and federal decision-makers in the planned research and policy development activities.
 - b) A knowledge mobilization strategy early in the project to raise awareness of the policy challenges limiting the advancement of thermal energy networks and specific recommendations for addressing them.
 - ii. Submission of an updated strategy and workplan to strengthen the project's commitment to promoting equitable outcomes through engagement of equity deserving groups and integration of their perspectives into the project deliverables, including an exploration of opportunities for Community Benefits Agreements related to the development of thermal energy networks.
 - iii. Written confirmation that adequate funding from other sources has been secured to implement the project as presented in the Proposal and to fulfil the conditions above.

- b. \$105,000 over 12 months (*from the Canada and Toronto endowments only*) to the Pembina Institute to support research and engagement activities to secure a strong federal policy framework to transition Canada’s medium and heavy-duty vehicle fleet to zero emission by 2040. (Funded from the Canada and Toronto endowments only).
- c. \$110,643 over 18 months (*from the Canada and Ontario endowments only*) to Bay Area Climate Change Council to engage local stakeholders and advance green development standards in the cities of Hamilton and Burlington. (Funded from the Canada and Ontario endowments only).

FINANCIAL IMPACT

If the recommended grants are approved, \$241,969 would come out of TAF’s 2024 grants budget and \$111,674 would come out of the 2025 budget. This would leave \$556,076 remaining in the 2024 grants budget.

Grants Program Budget	2024
Total available	\$1,507,118
Grant allocations committed to date	\$709,073
Currently available	\$798,045
Recommended allocations from the February 2024 intake	\$241,969
Remaining balance	\$556,076

DECISION HISTORY

Members of the Grants and Programs Committee met on April 4, 2024 to discuss three grant applications. Their recommendations are described in the next section.

COMMENTS

All proposals received were recommended for funding by the Grants and Programs Committee, and no other grant applications were considered. A summary of the grants recommended by the Committee for Board approval is presented below.

**Transition Accelerator (Building Decarbonization Alliance Initiative)
Developing Thermal Network Impact Potential and Advancing Regulatory
Prototypes**

\$138,000 over 24 months

Applicant's address: 225 Superior Avenue SW, Calgary, AB, T3C 2J1

Location of proposed activities: Toronto, Oakville, and Hamilton

The objectives of this project are to research the economic and environmental benefits of neighbourhood scale building decarbonization through thermal energy networks (TENs), to identify best practices through case studies demonstrating the impact of these networks, to engage stakeholders to define priority actions and feasible approaches required to advance the uptake of TENs, and to recommend decision support tools and policies that can be adopted by municipalities, local utilities, and provincial governments. Key deliverables that will be completed during this grant include:

- Research on the role of TENs in decarbonizing buildings shared with relevant stakeholders.
- Research and analysis on the performance of TENs including costs, energy demand and GHG impact.
- Engagement with municipal and provincial stakeholders on specific policies and decision-support tools to advance adoption of TENs.

Pembina Institute for Appropriate Development

The last mile: Coalition building and federal engagement to finalize a medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicle mandate.

\$105,000 over 12 months

Applicant's address: 33 Bloor Street East, 5th Floor, Toronto, ON, M4W 3H1

Location of proposed activities: GTHA

The objective of this project is to engage stakeholders such as public health groups, fleet operators, and government decision-makers to build support for a strong national policy framework to ensure the transition to zero emission medium and heavy-duty vehicles (MHDVs) by 2040. Pembina's previous TAF grant identified the most effective policies to decarbonize Canada's MHDV sector. With the federal Electric Vehicle Availability Standard for passenger vehicles announced in December 2023, the government is now focusing on this vehicle segment. Pembina will convene and steward a broad coalition of stakeholders to engage the federal government for a strong federal policy. The applicant will achieve this by:

- Undertaking research and knowledge dissemination demonstrating the health and economic benefits of MHDVs.
- Engaging the federal government to ensure a strong MHDV policy framework is introduced.
- Engaging ENGOs, health focused groups and industry champions to build and demonstrate support for the implementation of a strong MHDV policy framework.

Bay Area Climate Change Council**Green Development Standards in the Hamilton-Burlington Bay Area**

\$110,643 over 18 months

Applicant's address: 135 Fennell Avenue W, Hamilton, ON, L9C 0E5

Location of proposed activities: Hamilton and Burlington

This project aims to promote the benefits of low carbon construction and engage local communities to build support for implementing local Green Development Standards (GDS) in Burlington and Hamilton. The advancement of this policy framework will ensure that all new construction in these cities is net-zero ready by 2030 and aligned with their existing climate commitments. The applicant will achieve this by:

- Engaging local community groups to develop and present policy recommendations to the City Councils of Burlington and Hamilton.
- Advancing dialogue with municipal staff and developers in both cities to mobilize knowledge on zero carbon buildings and propose solutions to address implementation barriers.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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