

Grant and Program Allocation Recommendations

Date: November 6, 2024
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 approval of four grants with a combined value of \$578,845 and the allocation of \$244,388 over three months (Q1 2025) to support TAF programs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. Approve the following grants to be funded from the endowments indicated:
 - a. \$318,970 over 24 months (*from the Toronto, Ontario and Canada endowments*) to Canadian Environmental Law Association to help ensure that an equitable framework is utilized in designing and implementing the City of Toronto's Building Emissions Performance Standards.
 - b. \$109,500 over 18 months (*from the Toronto, Ontario and Canada endowments*) to Toronto Environmental Alliance to help ensure that effective and equitable Building Emissions Performance Standards are approved by Toronto City Council.

- c. \$100,375 over 12 months (*from the Toronto and Canada endowments only*) to MaRS Discovery District to quantify the local and system-level impacts of data centre expansion in terms of power, energy, and emissions, and explore potential solutions to reduce those impacts both for new and existing facilities, subject to the following conditions:
 - i. TAF funding be contingent on MaRS securing at least \$100,375 in additional funding from external sources.
 - ii. Confirmed participation on the Advisory Committee of at least one local distribution company from the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area whose service territory is expected to see major data centre growth.
 - d. \$50,000 over 12 months (*from the Toronto, Ontario and Canada endowments*) to Town of East Gwillimbury to undertake a full update of East Gwillimbury's Thinking Green Development Standards that aligns with other municipalities while supporting local development.
- 2. Decline two grant requests with a total value of \$583,266. These are summarized in Confidential Attachment 1.
- 3. Approve the allocation of \$244,388 over three months (Q1 2025) to support TAF programs as outlined below and to be funded from Canada, Ontario, and Toronto endowments except where otherwise indicated:
 - a. Accelerating EV uptake: \$18,750 to expand the availability of affordable public EV charging.
 - b. Accelerating Net-Zero Ready New Construction: \$25,000 to progressively strengthen codes & standards across the GTHA and advance supportive policy frameworks to ensure all new construction is net-zero ready by 2030.
 - c. Accelerating Net-Zero Electricity: \$42,500 to scale adoption of local energy solutions and clean electricity supply in support of the GTHA's Transition to a net-zero grid.
 - d. Retrofit Accelerator: \$63,625 to build the market for deep retrofits by collaborating with leading building operators and leading industry solutions providers to deliver deeper retrofits faster and more cost effectively.
 - e. Impact Investing: \$21,250 to support prudent investments in impact-first projects/companies that are aligned with focus area initiatives, strategic directions and maintain management and compliance of TAF's investment portfolio.
 - f. Climate Policy: \$12,500 (from Canada and Toronto endowments only) to be an effective and influential advocate for urban climate policy with all three levels of government in an election year with potential legal threats to core policy mechanisms (GDS).
 - g. Grants: \$8,375 to build the internal and community capacity needed to support effective design and delivery of TAF-funded initiatives.

- h. Research and Innovation: \$14,000 to deliver critical insights and evaluation to support advancement of climate priorities; provide research leadership and support to TAF teams.
 - i. Communications and Campaigns: \$9,000 to increase TAF's overall audience reach while maintaining our high engagement levels towards all focus area priorities.
 - j. Program Development: \$2,500 to identify new insights and opportunities for TAF programming.
 - k. Program Support: \$26,888 to ensure programs have sufficient operational and admin resources for delivery.
4. 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 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.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

If the recommended grants are approved, \$403,976 would come out of TAF's 2024 grants budget and \$174,869 would come out of the 2025 budget. This would leave \$167,100 remaining in the 2024 grants budget.

Grants Program Budget	2024
Total available	\$1,507,118
Grant allocations committed to date	\$936,042
Currently available	\$571,076
Recommended allocations from the September 2024 intake	\$403,976
Remaining balance	\$167,100

If the recommended Q1 2025 TAF program allocation is approved, \$244,388 would come out of TAF's 2025 budget.

There are no internal allocations from the 2024 budget in this intake. In February 2024 TAF's Board of Directors approved \$946,000 to support the execution of internal programming in 2024. The balance of \$69,600 in the program budget, intended to support emerging opportunities for the year, has not been spent to date and will remain in TAF's endowment.

DECISION HISTORY

Members of the Grants and Programs Committee met on October 31, 2024, to discuss six grant applications. Their recommendations are described in the next section and a summary of declined applications is provided in Confidential Attachment 1.

COMMENTS

Grant Recommendations

A summary of the grants recommended for approval by the Grants and Programs Committee is presented below.

Canadian Environmental Law Association – Embedding Equity into Building and Emission Performance Standards in Toronto and GTHA

\$318,970 over 24 months

Applicant's address: 55 University Avenue, Suite 1500, Toronto, ON M5J 2H7

Location of proposed activities: Toronto primarily plus some broader GTHA

The project aims to ensure that an equitable framework is utilized in designing and implementing the City of Toronto's Emissions Performance Standards (EPS) to help ensure that vulnerable communities are not adversely impacted, thereby promoting widespread acceptance and compliance. The applicant will achieve this by:

- Targeted consultations and focus groups to understand the needs, priorities, and concerns of equity seeking groups regarding EPS.
- Developing materials to support understanding of best practices, public health and societal benefits, and mitigation of key equity concerns related to EPS
- Building a toolkit for city planners, policymakers and stakeholders to support practical application in advancing equitable EPS.
- Mobilization of toolkit through targeted workshops and webinars for GTHA municipalities and community stakeholders to ensure that other municipalities can draw from Toronto's model.

Toronto Environmental Alliance – Building Support for Effective and Equitable Building Standards in Toronto and the GTHA

\$109,500 over 18 months

Applicant's address: 192 Spadina Avenue, Unit 512, Toronto, ON M5T 2C2

Location of proposed activities: Toronto primarily plus some broader GTHA

The project aims to ensure that Toronto City Council approves effective and equitable Building Emissions Performance Standards (BEPS) – a critical pathway to reduce significant emissions from existing buildings in Toronto and leading the way for other GTHA municipalities to follow suit. The applicant will achieve this by:

- Building durable support for BEPS through carefully planned engagement with key members of City Council and the public.
- Providing community deputation training session to help ensure that feedback from community sector stakeholders is meaningfully reflected in the final policy.

- Mounting a public campaign to build support for BEPS including development of information and communication collateral.
- Delivering webinars and other information sharing sessions with networks in other GTHA municipalities.

MaRS Discovery District – Future of Data Centres in the GTHA

\$100,375 over 12 months

Applicant's address: 101 College Street, Suite 100, Toronto, ON M5G 1L7

Location of proposed activities: Toronto and GTHA

In the context of rapid AI infrastructure development in the GTHA, this project brings together a cross-section of industry stakeholders to quantify the local and system-level impacts of data centre expansion in terms of power, energy, and emissions, and explore potential solutions to reduce those impacts both for new and existing facilities. Key activities that will be completed during this grant include:

- Research expected impacts of data centre growth and identify challenges and opportunities to scale solutions to reduce emissions.
- Develop models outlining different emissions scenarios and validate these with digital infrastructure, construction, and energy stakeholders.
- Feasibility analysis for a demonstration project in the GTHA.
- Public-facing report summarizing key recommendations and next steps, followed by targeted meetings to present findings to government and industry groups.

Township of East Gwillimbury – Thinking Green Development Standards Update

\$50,000 over 12 months

Applicant's address: 1900 Leslie Street, Sharon, ON L0G 1V0

Location of proposed activities: Town of East Gwillimbury

The proponent is seeking TAF funding to undertake a full update of East Gwillimbury's Thinking Green Development Standards and incorporate standards that will enable the Town to move towards achieving net zero targets, align TGDS metrics and process with the leading practices observed in other Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) municipalities, and incorporate new technological advancements in the development sector. The applicant will achieve this by:

- Updating the TGDS process with a mandatory tiered approach that aligns with best practices across municipalities in the region.
- Updating mandatory tiered metrics to include a pathway to net zero and account for embodied carbon.
- Refreshed TGDS guidebook that reflects metrics and targets in a clear, concise, and user-friendly manner.

Program Allocation Recommendation

TAF 2025 Internal Programs

\$244,388 over three months (Q1 2025)

The Grants and Programs Committee considered a request from staff for \$977,550 to support TAF programs in 2025. The Committee recommendation is to approve up to

25% of the total 2025 program budget for spending by Focus Area and functional teams in Q1 on ongoing activities and projected new activities. This is aligned with the internal programs budget presented for Board approval in item TA8.7. A separate request for Board approval for the balance of the funds for the year will be presented at the February 2025 Board meeting, alongside the 2025 Annual Plan.

CONTACT

Sadia Khan, Senior Grants Manager, skhan@taf.ca

SIGNATURE

Sadia Khan,
Senior Grants Manager

ATTACHMENTS

Confidential Attachment 1 – Summary of declined grant requests