

Grant and Program Recommendations

Date: July 4, 2025
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 three grants with a combined value of \$266,650.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. Approve reallocation of \$100,000 previously allocated to TAF's 2025 program budget to the 2025 grants budget.
2. Approve the following grants to be funded from the proceeds of the endowments indicated:
 - a. \$50,000 over 18 months (*from the Toronto and Canada endowments*) to TREC SolarShare Co-operative (No.1) Inc. ("SolarShare") to engage stakeholders (e.g., co-op members, partner renewable energy cooperatives, government, and electricity experts) to complete market research and development of community virtual net metering business models, and to advocate for regulatory changes that enable community virtual net metering.

- b. \$150,000 over 16 months (*from the Toronto and Canada endowments*) to Business Renewables Centre – Canada to conduct a regulatory review of Ontario's renewable energy policies and regulations in consultation with Ontario's major renewable energy developers, followed by advocacy by working groups of developers and corporate energy buyers to address barriers to corporate purchase and adoption of renewable energy. The Funding recommendation is subject to the following condition;
 - i. Explore social contracting, workforce development and community benefits as part of stakeholder engagement and recommended strategies.
 - c. \$66,650 over 6 months to Alectra Utilities (*from the Toronto and Canada endowments*) to conduct a study exploring how utilities can modify the distribution component of their rate structures to create an attractive environment for EV charging investments, encouraging both public fast charging stations and commercial fleet conversions.
3. Decline three grant requests with a total value of \$427,820. This is summarized in Confidential Attachment 1.
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, \$192,650 would come out of TAF's 2025 grants budget leaving \$669,969, and \$74,000 would come out of the 2026 budget.

Grants Budget	2025
Total available	\$1,527,100
Grants committed to date	\$664,481
Currently available	\$862,619
Grants recommended from the May 2025 intake	\$192,650
Balance	\$669,969

In addition, a \$100,000 reallocation is proposed from the internal program budget to the grants budget. If approved, this amount would be added to the balance shown above.

DECISION HISTORY

Members of the Grants and Programs Committee met on June 26, 2025, to consider six grant applications.

On February 18, 2025, the Board of Directors approved an allocation of \$733,162 to support program delivery. This amount was in addition to a previous approval on \$244,399 in November 2024 (<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.TA9.8>).

COMMENTS

Program Allocation Recommendation

The Grants and Programs Committee considered a request from staff to reallocate \$100,000 from the 2025 program budget to the 2025 grants budget for use in the final grants round. TAF staff provided a mid-year progress update to the committee on planned activities and expenditures to date. Given the projected underspend, staff asked to have these funds reallocated to supplement funds available for the final grant intake of 2025.

The Board previously approved the 2025 program budget amount of \$977,550 to enable implementation of TAF's 2025 Annual Plan. This allocation is for expenses associated with project implementation (such as legal and other professional services, communications tools or conference attendance, equipment) but not salary expenses which are a separate line item in TAF's operating budget. Both categories are also supported by external funds raised by the organization.

Grant Recommendations

A summary of the three grants recommended for approval by the Grants and Programs Committee is presented below. A summary of declined applications is provided in Confidential Attachment 1.

TREC SolarShare Co-operative (No.1) Inc. ("SolarShare")

Building Capacity and Opportunity for Community Renewable Energy

\$50,000 over 18 months

Applicant's address: 192 Spadina Avenue, Suite 429, Toronto ON, M5T 2C2

Location of proposed activities: Ontario (primarily GTHA)

The project aims to engage stakeholders (e.g., co-op members, partner renewable energy cooperatives, government, and electricity experts) to complete market research and development of community virtual net metering business models, and to advocate for regulatory changes that enable community virtual net metering. Key deliverables to be completed during this grant include:

- Establishment of a coalition of Ontario renewable energy co-operatives, municipalities, land trusts and Indigenous community organizations.
- Communication materials (e.g., stories, talking points, feedback, videos, brochures, papers, petitions, etc.) for community organizations to engage with key government and regulatory decision-makers to implement community energy policy, focusing on the resulting employment and economic benefits to Ontarians.
- Communications tools (e.g., websites, webinars, videos, brochures, papers, social media content, petitions, etc.) to engage residents, organizations and co-op members to educate, support and build business strategies and plans for the development, financing and operation of community renewable energy projects.
- Creation of a business strategy for each community organization type (e.g. cooperatives).
- Knowledge dissemination to communicate the benefits of local, community owned and controlled energy resources to the public.

Business Renewables Centre – Canada (BRC-C) (an initiative of the Pembina Institute)

Clearing the Path: Accelerating Renewable Energy Development in the GTHA

\$150,000 over 16 months

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

Location of proposed activities: Ontario

The project aims to conduct a comprehensive regulatory review of Ontario's renewable energy policies and regulations in consultation with Ontario's major renewable energy developers, followed by advocacy by working groups of developers and corporate energy buyers to address barriers to corporate purchase and adoption of renewable energy. Key deliverables to be completed during this grant include:

- Stakeholder engagement with developers and Indigenous Clean Energy to identify and prioritize regulatory barriers ranked by their impact on renewable energy development.
- Establishment of working groups of developers and corporate energy buyers to inform the development of a roadmap for regulatory reform to address the barriers.
- Engagement with Ontario's electricity system actors leveraging the project working groups to build support for identified regulatory reforms.
- Advocacy materials including briefing notes and letters from key stakeholders to disseminate findings to the Ontario Energy Board and relevant government ministries
- Knowledge dissemination materials to share findings with general audiences and gain support for renewable energy development.

Alectra Utilities ("Alectra")

Performance-based demand charge rate for public and fleet EV Charging

\$66,650 over 5.5 months

Applicant's address: 161 Cityview Blvd, Vaughan, ON L4H 0A9

Location of proposed activities: Vaughan, Mississauga, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

The project aims to conduct a study exploring how utilities can modify the distribution component of their rate structures to create an attractive environment for EV charging investments, encouraging both public fast charging stations and commercial fleet conversions. Key deliverables to be completed during this grant include:

- Stakeholder consultations to gather input on charging needs, cost barriers, and preferences.
- Summary of leading practices and lessons from other jurisdictions based on a literature review of EV charging rate design best practices & smart charging programs.
- Workshops/webinars with other GTHA Local Distribution Companies (LDCs) to share early findings and align on replicable approaches.
- Modelling of alternative rate structures (e.g., low-load factor, performance-based demand charges, time-varying rates) using utility load profiles and pricing data to develop a rate design that reflects the needs of target customers (i.e., commercial EV fleets, public EV charging providers), as well as other key players like the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) and Ontario Energy Board (OEB).
- Final report summarizing methodology, findings, actionable insights and policy recommendations.
- Knowledge dissemination activities, including:
 - Presentation of findings to OEB staff and GTHA utilities (e.g., Toronto Hydro, Hydro One, Elexicon, etc.)
 - Practical implementation guide to support replication by other LDCs.
 - Participation in relevant industry forums or working groups to advance regulatory discussions (e.g., EDA webinar).

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Sadia Khan,
Senior Grants Manager

ATTACHMENTS

Confidential Attachment 1 – Summary of declined grant requests