

2021 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

“Supporting Community-based Recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic”

The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) is accepting applications for projects to fund under the North American Partnership for Environmental Community Action (NAPECA). Proposals are due by 21 January 2022 and projects will start in April 2022.

What is NAPECA?

The CEC established NAPECA to engage and partner with local and Indigenous communities, academia, and non-governmental organizations in Canada, Mexico and the United States to promote a shared responsibility and stewardship for the environment. The CEC encourages innovation and flexibility, promoting model environmental initiatives that will help build long-term partnerships to improve environmental conditions at the community level.

For this grant cycle, the CEC is calling for proposals from organizations to support environmental initiatives that will help North American communities implement solutions and strengthen their capacities to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The pandemic has had major environmental, health, and social impacts on communities. Public health and climate change experts, organizations, and community groups acknowledge that social and economic recovery from the pandemic must be based on solutions that ensure both a sustainable environment and sustainable livelihood for their communities.¹ The CEC’s NAPECA grant program aims to support an equitable, clean, and sustainable recovery in North America by helping communities, particularly the most vulnerable populations, such as some Indigenous Peoples and marginalized groups, build back better² and become more resilient to future threats.³

Eligible projects could address topics, such as managing discarded personal protective equipment and other pandemic-related waste, reducing habitat loss to conserve biodiversity, improving air quality, improving community support networks for times of crisis, implementing nature-based

¹ Wyns, A., Maiero, M., Egorova, A., & Campbell-Lendrum, D. (2021). COP26 Special report on climate change and health. World Health Organization. Retrieved 18 October 2021, from <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/cop26-special-report>

² <https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/building-back-better-a-sustainable-resilient-recovery-after-covid-19-52b869f5/>

³ <https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/environmental-health-and-strengthening-resilience-to-pandemics-73784e04/>

solutions to increase community resilience, ensuring sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems through traditional knowledge, strengthening climate action to achieve a low-carbon emission economy (considering scientific, technical and traditional knowledge), and supporting green economic activities in vulnerable communities. Priority will be given to long-term environmental solutions that demonstrate a direct impact on communities, their well-being, their territories and capacity to address challenges exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Project types can include, but are not limited to: capacity building, pilot projects, transfer of innovative technologies, conducting outreach or education, sharing best practices, training environmental and community leaders, engaging youth in environmental activities, and reducing risks to the environment.

NAPECA grant selection criteria

The NAPECA grant program will support projects that:

1. Focus on implementing measures that will enhance the environment and seek community participation in COVID-19 pandemic recovery actions in an equitable, sustainable, and innovative way;
2. Include an integral implementation plan that identifies actors, actions, beneficiaries, goals, measurable objectives and results;
3. Achieve tangible and measurable positive environmental results, whether such results benefit species, ecosystems, sustainable development, or community preparedness/resilience. Results must be suitable for reporting within the timeframe of NAPECA support;
4. May be replicable and/or scalable in other communities or regions;
5. Create formal or informal partnerships or collaborations among relevant stakeholders, such as the different levels of government, local or Indigenous communities, academia, non-governmental organizations, youth organizations, and the private sector within the North American region;
6. Leverage other resources (human, material, or financial) to achieve greater impact, replicability, and sustainability of the project and its results; and
7. Are presented on time and through the established process.

Examples of recent NAPECA projects can be found at: <<http://www.cec.org/napeca>>.

Who should apply?

Eligible applicants are entities which are incorporated as non-profit organizations in Canada, Mexico or the United States. Examples of eligible applicants include non-profit and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), environmental groups, community-based associations, academic institutions, tribal nations, and Indigenous Peoples and communities. Applicants must be located in Canada, Mexico, or the United States.

NAPECA does not support businesses, private individuals, or municipal, provincial/state, territorial and federal governments. However, proposals from qualified organizations partnering with the private sector or local government entities are eligible. Additionally, NAPECA grants cannot be used to support potential applicants who are currently receiving or applying for funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada for their proposed projects.

The CEC cannot accept applications from an applicant whose employee or officer is, or an immediate family⁴ member of the employee or officer is:

- An official from any of the Parties to the Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (ECA) (i.e., the Government of Canada, the Government of the United States of America, or the Government of the United Mexican States), or who served in that position within the past year;
- An official of the CEC Secretariat or who served in that position within the past year;
- A present or past member (within the past year) of the CEC Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC); or
- A present or past member (within the past year) of the domestic advisory committees.

The following projects and activities are not eligible for funding:

- Activities for which the local, state/provincial or federal government is responsible (e.g., construction of roads, bridges, sewage treatment plants);
- Purchase of motor vehicles, property, or land;
- Renovations;
- Pursuing legal action;
- Projects dedicated exclusively to planning;
- Projects meant only to beautify an area;
- Lobbying or advocacy;
- Annual or regular organizational events/campaigns;
- Expenses to attend general conferences; and

⁴ “Immediate family” includes spouses, parents, siblings, and children.

- Projects implemented outside the territory of the three ECA member countries.

Funding

Projects are funded for a duration of 12 (twelve) to 24 (twenty-four) months.

The CEC encourages applicants to submit proposals up to C\$165,000 and will consider additional funds (where available) for exceptional projects.

The CEC recognizes that a project can have a great impact at a low cost; therefore, no minimum grant amount has been established.

How are proposals evaluated?

Applicants should submit a proposal by the due date in the format described below. The proposal must include: an executive summary, detailed explanation of how the project proposal meets each of the NAPECA grant criteria, and a comprehensive description of how the requested funding will be expended to implement the activities and achieve the desired results.

Grant applications will be reviewed and approved or declined by the NAPECA Selection Committee, based on the NAPECA grant selection criteria detailed above.

Once a proposal is submitted, the Secretariat will not provide oral or written feedback on its evaluation.

A maximum of one application per organization per country will be considered.

Successful candidates will be required to enter into a funding agreement with the CEC before any contribution is made to their projects. Grants funds are disbursed based on progress reports and financial statements that demonstrate how the funding is being used to generate the intended results.

What are the key dates for the grants?

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| • Proposals due | 21 January 2022 (5:00 p.m. EST) |
| • Evaluation of grant applications | January to March 2022 |
| • Official grants announcement | 4 April 2022 |
| • Project implementation begins | April 2022 |
| • Projects maximum end date | 31 March 2024 |

What is the format for the proposals?

A proposal **must include the following information:**

- 1. Project lead contact information:** first name, last name, telephone, e-mail.
- 2. Organization contact information:** name, address, country, e-mail, phone, website, twitter, Facebook, etc.
- 3. Project title, Objectives and Results.** Explain how the project addresses “Supporting Community-Based Recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic”: describe the problem/issue/opportunity to be addressed, the objectives, and desired results. (Max. 500 words)
- 4. Budget requested.** Total budget requested from NAPECA and its detailed breakdown (in Canadian dollars). Use the worksheet template to provide details of the project budget. Break this information into the following categories:
 1. Salaries and benefits
 2. Equipment and supplies
 3. Travel⁵
 4. Consultant services (if applicable),
 5. Overhead (not to exceed 15 percent)⁶
 6. Other costs
- 5. Project duration.** Number of months, project starting date and project end date. (Maximum duration from April 2022 to March 2024).
- 6. Geographic location** of the project. Indicate the country or countries where the project will be implemented.
- 7. Beneficiaries.** List the community(ies) that will benefit directly from the project, the target population and number of individuals served. (Max. 200 words)
- 8. Detailed work plan.** Describe in detail the project’s objectives, expected results and the performance indicators that will be used to measure these results. Results must be measurable and must be achieved within the timeframe of NAPECA support. Also describe the main activities to be undertaken to meet the project objectives, including actors and the corresponding budgets and timelines. Use the template provided.

⁵ The CEC will not fund expenses related to travel in excess of 15 percent of the total grant amount.

⁶ The CEC will not fund expenses related to overhead and administration (such as rent, telephone, fax, and photocopies) in excess of 15 percent of the total grant amount.

9. Partnerships. Please provide the names of any other organizations involved in the project, including partners and/or beneficiaries, if applicable. Indicate in which activities partners or collaborators are involved.

10. Other funding sources and/or leverage opportunities. List other funding sources and/or leveraging opportunities. (Max. 100 words)

11. Innovation. Describe any innovative approach to be adopted in this project. (Max. 100 words)

12. Replicability/Scalability. Explain how this project could be replicated or scaled up in other North American communities. (Max. 100 words)

13. Sustainability. Explain if/how this project or its impacts could carry on successfully after the NAPECA funding and implementations are concluded. (Max. 100 words)

14. Mission of the lead organization/ institution/group/community. (Max. 50 words)

15. Applicant Organization. Please upload a certificate of non-profit status of the applicant organization.

16. Declaration of acceptance of Impartiality and Independence. Please print, sign, and upload the Declaration of Impartiality and Independence.

How to apply?

Proposals must be submitted in electronic format through the online application portal, available at <<http://www.cec.org/napeca>>. **To submit a proposal, applicants must create an account and complete the form** by providing the information indicated above.

For more information or assistance regarding this grant application process, please contact us at (514) 350-4347, or by e-mail at: napeca@cec.org