

OUR LIVING CITY FUND OCTOBER 2013

1. Purpose of report

The report provides recommendations for the distribution of the Council's Our Living City Fund.

2. Executive summary

The Council provides grants to assist community groups to undertake projects that meet community needs. Grants are also a mechanism for achieving the Council's objectives and strategic priorities, especially those priorities that rely on community organisations carrying out specific activities.

The 2013 review of the grant criteria proposed a move away from generic criteria in favour of specific criteria for each fund. The review highlighted the need to move away from generic criteria in favour of specific criteria for each grant fund. While each pool may share a number of criteria, others would be tailored to suit the particular demands of that community of interest and relevant Council outcomes.

In June 2013 four new grant funds were established; the Our Living City Fund, the Business Improvement District Development Fund, the Arts and Culture Fund, and the Social and Recreation Fund.

3. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Environment Committee:

- 1. Receive the information.*
- 2. Agree to fund the applicants as listed in Appendix 2*

4. Background

The Our Living City Fund is focussed on projects which serve to meet the "growing and enjoying our natural capital" and "reducing our environmental impact" goals of the Our Living City programme.

The fund aims to support initiatives which provide opportunities for community enjoyment and kaitiakitanga of Wellington's natural environment.

Projects should strengthen Wellingtonians connections with nature which is acknowledged as a contributor to our quality of life. The fund can also support activities such as green infrastructure (e.g. living walls and roofs), projects that serve to address resilience to natural events, and emissions reductions from stationary energy, transport, and waste.

The criteria and focus areas (priorities) for the Our Living City Fund are included as Appendix 1.

5. Discussion

These funds provide grants to community organisations for projects that meet the criteria for the fund (Appendix 1).

This is the second of three funding rounds for 2013-14. In the first funding round (closed 31 July 2013) \$21,500 was allocated to 6 projects. There are 15 applications to the Our Living City Fund requesting a total of \$72,431.

5.1 Climate change impacts and considerations

The Our Living City Fund contributes to the achievement of the Council's climate change outcomes, particularly in relation to supporting community activity.

5.2 Application Assessment

Officer's recommendations (Appendix 2) are based on evidence of need, alignment with the Council's strategic goals, the fund criteria (Appendix 1) and the likely effectiveness of funding the project. Officers also take into account the management of previous funding (through accountability reports).

The assessment process may include consultation with; the applicant, persons or organisations referred to in the application, Council officers, and persons operating or knowledgeable about similar services to that of the applicant. Officers from the Our Living City, Parks and Recreation, Transport Planning and Waste Minimisation teams have contributed to assessment of applications.

Applicants are given five working days where possible to respond to a request for more information, so some recommendations may be subject to change depending on responses received after this report has been written.

To ensure funds are used appropriately, conditions may be suggested in certain circumstances should funding be approved. This is usually in cases where applicants need to use funds for a specific aspect of their budget or they are awaiting confirmation of sufficient funds from other sources to proceed with their project.

The original information provided through online application has been made available to members of the Committee.

The recommendations (Appendix 2) give each applicant's organisation name, a brief project description, the total project cost, amount requested and general comments from Council Officers.

6. Conclusion

The Environment Committee is asked to consider the applications received for the Our Living City Fund and decide whether or not it is appropriate to fund the applicant, and at what level.

Contact Officer: *Mark Farrar, Senior Advisor - Funding and Relationships*

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1) Strategic fit / Strategic outcome

Wellington City Council Grants support communities to deliver on Council's strategic outcomes.

2) LTP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact

The Long Term Plan makes provision for community grants in several places - 2.1.6 - Community environmental initiatives, 3.1.4 - Grants and creative workforce, 4.1.4 - Cultural grants, and 5.2.4 - Grants (Social and Recreation). The Our Living City Fund under project C652.

3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations

Any grants application that could have implications for Maori are referred to WCC Treaty Relations Office for recommendations. For each of these grant funds there are specific criteria and questions relating to Maori, for the Our Living City Fund applicants are asked to describe how their project relates to concepts around the guardianship with mana whenua as kaitiaki of the natural environment.

4) Decision-making

This is not a significant decision.

5) Consultation

a) General consultation

Council Officers engage and consult widely with a range of groups and organisations before funding applications are made and throughout the assessment process.

b) Consultation with Maori N/A

6) Legal implications N/A

7) Consistency with existing policy

Council funds have been created to assist community initiatives in line with Council strategy.

Appendix 1

Criteria

This fund aims to improve Wellington's quality of life by strengthening urban-nature connections and building economic opportunities from a healthy environment

About the fund

The fund will support projects and activities like community conservation projects, community gardens, green infrastructure (living walls and roofs), resilience to natural events, reducing emissions, reductions from stationary energy, transport, water and waste

Fund objectives

- To support community initiatives and projects that grow Wellington's natural capital and reduce our environmental impact.
- To support initiatives which provide opportunities for community enjoyment and kaitiakitanga of Wellington's natural environment.
- To strengthen Wellington's connections with nature to safeguard and develop one of our greatest strengths – our quality of life.

Criteria

Your project makes a positive contribution to achieving the Council's Strategic outcomes:

Towards 2040: Smart Capital strategy

- People Centred City: Contributes to healthy, vibrant, affordable and resilient communities, with a strong sense of identity and 'place' expressed through urban form, openness and accessibility.
- Connected City: Supports a city with easy physical and virtual access to regional, national and global networks.
- Eco-City: Allows the city to proactively respond to environmental challenges and seize opportunities to grow the green economy.
- Dynamic Central City: Supports a central city of creativity, exploration and innovation, helping Wellington to offer the lifestyle, entertainment and amenity of a much bigger city.

Long Term Plan 2012-22 priorities:

- An inclusive place where talent wants to live
- A resilient city
- A well managed city
- Annual Plan priorities for the relevant year.

The project is Wellington-based and mainly benefits the people of Wellington. (Exceptions may be made for projects based elsewhere in the region, but which significantly benefit Wellington City residents).

APPENDIX 1

The applicant is a legally constituted community group or organisation.

The applicant provides evidence of sound financial management, good employment practice, clear and detailed planning, clear performance measures, and reporting processes.

The applicant outlines how physical accessibility has been built into project development.

The applicant outlines how pricing has been set to ensure access by a wide range of people or by the intended users.

The project should show evidence of community support, collaboration, and building partnerships with other organisations (e.g. social media interest, letters of support from other organisations/leaders).

The applicant must show that the project discernibly improves community wellbeing and adds value to the range of similar types of services in the community.

The Council respects mana whenua values and aspirations for the environment. Demonstrate how your project reflects an understanding of Wellington's history, how to care for the land and resources and an understanding of wāhi tapu.

Focus Areas

- Green infrastructure and green urban networks
- Biodiversity and pest management, including beach, stream, and harbour cleanup
- Resilience to natural events
- Healthy communities, including community gardens.
- Reducing emissions from stationary energy, transport, and waste and facilitating renewable energy development.
- Water; conservation, efficiency and quality

APPENDIX 2

Appl No	Organisation Name	Project Description	Total Cost	Amount Requested	Recommended Amount	Comments
1	Berhampore School 3G	Rainwater tanks for Berhampore School	\$1,160	\$800	\$300	Contribution to cost of installing two rainwater tanks in playground, delivers to 'water; conservation, efficiency and quality' and 'health communities' focus areas.
2	Conscious Design Collective	Innermost Outreach Project	\$8,000	\$7,000	\$3,000	Support for education and school visits- delivers to 'healthy communities' focus area, benefit for the wider community and students learning from gardens.
3	Conservation Volunteers New Zealand	Bring back the Birds to Wellington - The Town Belt Project	\$33,824	\$11,000	\$10,000	Project encourages community support, coordination of animal pest control volunteers and enables people to experience native biodiversity in the central city.
4	Enspiral Foundation Ltd	Student-led urban agriculture project	\$5,750	\$5,750	\$0	Recommending support for another application, Officers will work with applicant to explore potential connections.

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Appl No	Organisation Name	Project Description	Total Cost	Amount Requested	Recommended Amount	Comments
5	Generation Zero	Solar Panels on the Aro Valley Community Centre	\$6,816	\$6,816	\$0	Council can facilitate/support this project through the Smart Energy programme. Officers will work with group to explore this option. If Generation Zero are unable to meet Smart Energy criteria, Officers will work with them to resubmit for the March 2014
6	Hataitai Community Recreation Trustee Limited	Develop a community garden for Hataitai. We don't have one at the moment.	\$2,108	\$2,100	\$0	Officers will work with group to explore options around remediation of soil, Lower priority given pressure on available funding in this round, can re-apply in 2014.
7	Kai O Te Aro	Aro Valley Community Compost	\$11,340	\$11,340	\$0	Ambitious proposal for pilot composting project, Officers will work with group to support a pilot project through operational budgets.

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Appl No	Organisation Name	Project Description	Total Cost	Amount Requested	Recommended Amount	Comments
8	Local Food Network	Local Food Week 2014	\$3,380	\$3,380	\$2,700	Contribution to costs of local food week, serves to promote resilience around food supply and healthy communities, good fit with fund criteria.
9	Local Food Network	Urban Farm Scoping Project	\$2,250	\$2,250	\$1,000	Support for local group to develop options for urban farming project, aligns well with Our Living City, strengthening connections with nature.
10	Manawa Karioi Society Inc	Biodiversity Engagement Programme	\$20,750	\$6,250	\$4,000	Support for maintenance and enhancement of track network, delivers to 'biodiversity and pest management' focus area through volunteer run programme.
11	Multicultural Council Wellington Inc	Multicultural Council Wellington Environmental Workshop	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0	Project outcomes can be met through Council business as usual, Officers will work with the group to schedule presentations and workshops.

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Appl No	Organisation Name	Project Description	Total Cost	Amount Requested	Recommended Amount	Comments
12	Rotary Club of Harbour City Wellington Inc	Great Harbour Way Miramar Ciclovia	\$24,500	\$2,000	\$0	Lower fit with criteria given pressure on available funding.
13	Society for Conservation Biology Victoria University Chapter	Kumutoto Forest Restoration	\$2,350	\$2,350	\$1,000	Contribution to traps and bait- delivers to 'biodiversity and pest management' focus area through volunteer (student led) programme.
14	THE WILLIAMS SCHOOL OF ART AT INVERLOCHY INC	Promote Environmental Practises at Inverlochy Art School	\$1,880	\$1,700	\$0	Lower priority given pressure on available funding from applications that more closely meet fund objectives.
15	Zealandia	Study of the feasibility of eradication of red-fin perch and brown trout from the lower reservoir and stream at Zealandia-Karori Sanctuary	\$7,605	\$7,605	\$0	Zealandia have ongoing support from Council, lower priority given pressure on available funding
		Totals:	\$133,713.30	\$72,341.31	\$22,000.00	