
Project title: Envirogrants expansion
Strategy area: Environmental

The Grants Subcommittee agreed on 15 November 2005, and the Strategy and Policy Committee subsequently agreed on 8 December 2005, to a \$30,000 increase in the size of the Environmental Grants pool, by transferring \$15,000 each from the Social and Cultural Grants pools. The funds will be targeted towards the approximate distribution for the 06/09 triennium:

- Energy/water efficiency and renewable energy: 25%
- Stream protection: 25%
- Other partnerships that support participation and environmental education: 50%

This increase responds directly to Strategic Priority 19: *“The Council will strengthen its partnerships with stakeholders to increase environmental awareness, community participation, and the achievement of environmental goals.”* The Environmental Grants pool is considered to be the best mechanism for the integrated consideration of funding requests from community-based environmental projects. It complements the more targeted, long-term strategic partnerships such as EnviroSchools.

The current Environmental Grants pool of \$50,000 had been fully subscribed in recent years, mostly for projects related to tree planting and community gardening. The previous amount was not considered adequate for continuing to support those types of projects while responding to the new priority areas of energy/water efficiency, renewable energy and stream protection.