



ZERO WASTE RECYCLING FUNDING 2023 APPLICATION REVIEW

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Board award the 2023 Zero Waste Funding as follows:
 - a. \$40,000 to Canadians Locally Improving Communities to carry out upcycling activities and workshops that divert waste and involve community members.
 - b. \$61,545 to Gabriola Island Recycling Organization for textile recycling.
 - c. \$60,000 to Habitat for Humanity to initiate book recycling.
 - d. \$22,800 to Island Futures Society for their waste vegetable oil upcycling initiative.
 - e. \$85,955 to Loaves and Fishes to carry out infrastructure and facility expansion.
 - f. \$29,700 to Ocean Ambassadors to improve recycling, decrease food waste and maximize reuse with 80 businesses and 50 multifamily communities.

BACKGROUND

The approved Solid Waste Management Plan identifies \$300,000 in annual grant funding, available from 2019-2023. On July 28, 2020, the Regional Board directed that this funding be made available for innovative programs that increase diversion through the development of a circular economy.

The 2023 grant application received six compliant submissions, seeking more than \$560,000 in funding. Having reviewed the six submissions, staff recommend that the funding be provided to Canadians Locally Improving Communities (CLIC), Gabriola Island Recycling Organization (GIRO), Habitat for Humanity Mid Vancouver Island, Island Futures Society, Loaves and Fishes Community Food Bank, and Ocean Ambassadors Canada.

The Zero Waste Recycling Funding (ZWRF) program aims to fund organizations that demonstrate innovative initiatives that increase waste diversion through the development of a circular economy, through actions of the zero-waste hierarchy of highest and best use, including but not limited to:

- Acting as a research and recycling hub for hard to recycling items,
- Conducting programs including reduction and redesign of materials,
- Re-using, repairing, and reprocessing of materials, and
- Investigating barriers to recycling.

Detailed analysis and summaries of the proposals are included in Attachment 1.

Overview of eligible organizations:

- **Canadians Locally Improving Communities (CLIC)**
 - Amount requested: \$72,500
 - Amount recommended: \$40,000
 - Proposes to expand their upcycling and diversion efforts by obtaining additional storage¹
 - Seeks to purchase an industrial washing machine and repair existing sewing machines for textile recovery for upcycling
 - Proposes to initiate a partnership with the University of British Columbia and Athabasca University to support the research of reclaimed material in construction. Partnerships with these universities can assist in grant applications for more grants to continue research.

- **Gabriola Island Recycling Organization (GIRO)**
 - Amount requested: \$61,545
 - Amount recommended: \$61,545
 - Achieves a high level of diversion through diverting textiles, creating a maker space, and documenting the process that allows for expansion or duplication in other regions
 - 2023 funding will allow for the Makerspace to be used for the various C2C products and will be used to address expected shortfalls in the first year of operations which should lead to the long-term sustainability of the program through the development of their revenue stream.

- **Habitat for Humanity Mid Vancouver Island**
 - Amount requested: \$234,000
 - Amount recommended: \$60,000
 - To recover and upcycle between 6,000-10,000 books annually with volunteer assistance. Books are to be donated by the Rotary Club of Nanaimo and other sources
 - Proposes to utilize funds for wages and lease expenses and support existing programs that were initiated in 2021 and 2022
 - Some funds may be used to landfill residual material from the book upcycling program.

- **Island Futures Society**
 - Amount requested: \$22,800
 - Amount recommended: \$22,800
 - Proposes to repurpose waste vegetable oil into biodiesel, fuel for heating a local community greenhouse, and to utilize the by-products to create fertilizer for local farmers or glycerine for soap which can be sold.

- **Loaves and Fishes Community Food Bank**
 - Amount requested: \$150,000
 - Amount recommended: \$ 85,955
 - To contribute to expenses related to the warehouse development costs such as planning and design that is currently ongoing
 - Currently has unspent funds from 2021 and 2022.

¹ Funding is contingent on receiving approvals from by Planning and Building Inspection.

- Ocean Ambassadors Canada
 - Amount requested: \$ 29,700
 - Amount recommended: \$ 29,700
 - Proposes to carry out education for 80 small businesses and 50 multi-family communities on the waste hierarchy and how to recycle effectively.

		Requested Amount	Funding Recommendation*
CLIC Society	Upcycling & workshops	\$ 62,500	\$ 40,000
GIRO	C2C Threads	\$ 61,545	\$ 61,545
Habitat for Humanity	Book Upcycling	\$ 234,000	\$ 60,000
Island Futures Society	Waste Vegetable Oil Recovery	\$ 22,800	\$ 22,800
Loaves and Fishes	Food Diversion	\$ 150,000	\$ 85,955
Ocean Ambassadors	Education on Zero Waste	\$ 29,700	\$ 29,700
			\$ 300,000

*For the basis of the funding recommendation see Attachment 1 Proposal Analysis.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The 2023 Grant Funding is provided for in the approved 2023 Solid Waste Budget.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Environmental Stewardship - Achieve the 90% waste diversion target as per the Solid Waste Management Plan.

This program supports the 90% waste diversion target by supporting waste reduction initiatives and promoting increased waste diversion

REVIEWED BY:

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ATTACHMENTS

1. Analysis of Applications
2. Summary of Applications
3. Applications