

Evaluation

	√	Adheres to application requirements
	X	Does not align with application requirements
●	Good	Standards met consistently or expectations exceeded
●	Fair	Standards met frequently or sometimes
●	Poor	Standards are developing or not met

Definitions

<i>Program Sustainability</i>	<i>Program or project possesses the ability to be maintained and continue onwards after RDN funding concludes (e.g. project develops ongoing revenue source such as the sale of materials)</i>
<i>Social Benefit (i.e., Scalability)</i>	<i>Programs or projects that that promote or advances positive economic, workforce and social development outcomes that produces value towards a healthy community. Ability to increase in size or operational capacity or provide documentation outlining replication.</i>
<i>Regional Benefit</i>	<i>Program or project that produces advantageous, positive, and desirable effects on the surrounding community or electoral areas within the RDN</i>
<i>Anticipated Diversion per year</i>	<i>The amount of waste the applicant expects to divert through their project</i>
<i>Non-Profit</i>	<i>Refers to a registered not for profit agency</i>
<i>Local Organization</i>	<i>An organization based in the Regional District</i>
<i>Non-Profit Partnerships</i>	<i>Partnerships that involve a registered not for profit agency</i>
<i>Local Partnerships</i>	<i>Partnerships with a registered not for profit agency based in the Regional District or other entities that are located in the Regional District</i>
<i>Project Execution</i>	<i>Program demonstrates the steps the project will take to carry out their project</i>
<i>Reporting (clarity and frequency)</i>	<i>The project identifies what will be communicated to the RDN and the periods that communication may be carried out</i>
<i>Budget clarity</i>	<i>Clear and concise estimation of expenses and expected revenue</i>
<i>Partial Funding Feasibility</i>	<i>Assessment of project viability if only partial funds are received</i>
<i>Comprehensive Timeline and Milestones</i>	<i>A clear and comprehensive schedule of events and procedures that incorporate key milestones</i>

Analysis

Details for each application can be found in Attachment 1, Summary of Applications. The proposals put forth by Island Futures Society demonstrated excellent utilization of 2022 funding through their 2023 application where it is evident that much consideration and research was put towards a well-executed and sustainable project proposal. Ocean Ambassadors Canada provided a compelling proposal that renders excellent value to 50 multi-family communities and 80 small businesses in the Region. Gabriola Island Recycling Organization (GIRO) and Loaves and Fishes Community Food Bank, submitted strong proposals that work toward continuing their projects supported in 2021 and 2022. Habitat for Humanity Mid Vancouver Island (H4H) submitted an application that involves book upcycling which is supported by the local Rotary Club, and would immediately benefit their partners, Rotary Nanaimo. The Canadian Locally Improving Communities Society (CLIC) proposal aligns with the ZWRF guidelines. Each proposal is discussed below:

The **CLIC Society** proposes to obtain shipping containers to increase the storage capacity of diverted materials for upcycling purposes. CLIC has been advised to consult the RDN's Planning Department to ensure that shipping containers on the property are in accordance with zoning regulations. CLIC intends to use the grant to continue with free upcycling workshops that are open to the community, offset the cost of labour and delivery to allow to access more items to be recycled, purchase an industrial washing machine and repair existing sewing machines for textile upcycling. CLIC has also proposed to initiate a partnership with the University of British Columbia and the University of Athabasca to conduct research and development of reclaimed materials in construction. Due to the applicant's oversubscription of ZWRF, it is recommended that CLIC receive \$40,000, or 64% of their requested funding.

GIRO was a successful candidate in 2021 and 2022 ZWRF, where they have successfully carried out several programs, including market research for textile recovery, textile upcycling and the beginning of construction of a new Makerspace. GIRO plans to offer shredding services to other organizations that are looking for environmentally responsible methods for recycling textiles. GIRO plans to continue research and development into acoustic panels, with a goal to finalize the prototype and complete testing, and have panels market ready by August 2023. The organization will grow the apprenticeship program, establish the membership system for Makerspace, and continue workshops for communities in BC that are interested in initializing their own cradle-to-cradle textile initiative. GIRO aims to divert 52,000lb of textiles and reduce GHG emissions by over 32.5 tonnes of CO₂e annually. Through the construction process, the cost of construction and essential equipment-related costs have increased, and delays have occurred. The requested funding will go towards covering the costs associated with their operations of Makerspace and shortfalls due to the time required to develop a foothold into the various markets for the C2C products and services in its first year. Staff recommend allocating \$61,545, or 100% of their requested funding to GIRO in 2023.

Habitat for Humanity was provided ZWRF funding in 2021 and 2022 to initiate the upcycling center, providing more space to divert more materials and host workshops that were open to the community. In

2022, Habitat for Humanity worked to create a workspace membership program that could utilize diverted material. The 2023 proposal requested funds to continue supporting start-up costs of the programs that began in 2021 and 2022 (i.e., warehouse lease costs and use of funds for staff). The proposal also outlines the initiation of book upcycling, Books and Beyond, in partnership with the local Rotary Club of Nanaimo. As noted in the ZWRF application guide, there are currently no viable recycling options available for book recycling in the RDN. Habitat for Humanity's application notes that the proposed Books and Beyond recycling can be made viable through volunteer resources. Staff recommends that \$60,000 or 26% of the funding requested be provided to develop the book recycling program.

Island Futures Society received partial funding in 2022, where they were able to research upcycling potentials of waste vegetable oil. In the 2023 application, Island Futures demonstrated excellent use of 2022 funding, where the market analysis was conducted through a consultant who provided multiple uses for recycled waste vegetable oil. Island Futures has determined a primary product to upcycle from waste vegetable oil (biodiesel) and has provided multiple products that can be produced by utilizing the byproducts of creating biodiesel. Namely, a byproduct of biodiesel is a fuel source for local community greenhouse heater. The application shows strong project execution and program sustainability that contributes to a circular economy on Gabriola. It is recommended that \$22,800, or 100% of ZWRF funding be allocated to Island Futures for 2023.

Loaves and Fishes submitted a proposal that is consistent with the goals of the Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) and demonstrates excellent social and regional benefit, and program sustainability and has several local partnerships that are in good standing. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the construction of the new warehouse has been delayed. This contributes to the unspent ZWRF funds provided in 2021 and 2022. As a result of oversubscription and unspent funds, staff recommend providing Loaves and Fishes with \$85,955, or 57% of the requested funding for 2023.

Ocean Ambassadors Canada submitted an application that aims to educate 80 small businesses, and 50 multi-family communities on zero waste, and best recycling practices in the RDN. Ocean Ambassadors have demonstrated their understanding of the provincial recycling regulations and knowledge of the RDN's SWMP which can be seen in their project execution where they intend to promote the RDN Curbside app and the What Goes Where recycling directory. This program has scored very well in the proposal analysis matrix, where there is potential for significant regional benefit with a large scope. This application aligns very well with the SWMP. Staff recommend providing Ocean Ambassadors with \$29,700, or 100% of ZWRF for 2023.