



CITY OF VANCOUVER

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: June 12, 2007
Author: Sean Pander
Phone No.: 604.871.6542
RTS No.: 6491
VanRIMS No.: 05-5000-10
Meeting Date: June 28, 2007

TO: Standing Committee on Planning and Environment
FROM: General Manager of Engineering Services
SUBJECT: Environmental Grants - Funding Requests and Terms of Reference

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT Council approve the changes to the terms of reference of the Environmental Grants program to those detailed in Appendix A and recognise the Sustainability Group as the lead agency for grant reviews and reports to Council.
- B. THAT Council approve a grant of \$5,000 to Society Promoting Environmental Conservations (SPEC) for the Product Care and Safe Disposal component of their Real Environmental Alternatives to Pesticides (REAP) project; source of funds to be the Environmental Grants Fund in the Solid Waste Capital Reserve.
- C. THAT Staff review the Environmental Grants Program and report back with recommendations for the continuation of the program and an appropriate funding strategy.

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The General Managers of Engineering Services RECOMMENDS approval of the foregoing.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager RECOMMENDS approval of A through C.

COUNCIL POLICY

On March 27, 1990 Council approved allocation of \$250,000 from Solid Waste Capital Reserve to fund the Environmental Grant Program.

On July 10, 1990 Council approved the Environmental Grant Guidelines and Criteria.

On May 10, 1996 Council approved a further allocation of \$250,000 for the continuation of the Environmental Grant Program. They also approved amendments to the Guidelines and Criteria, requiring a detailed budget, financial statement and brief summary report upon completion of the project.

Approval of grants requires eight affirmative votes.

PURPOSE

This report proposes changes to the Environmental Grants program to reflect the broader goals of Sustainability and recommends approval of one grant request.

BACKGROUND

To date, a total of 61 requests for grants have been received with 38 funding awards to organizations totalling \$465,288.

DISCUSSION

The Sustainability Group has replaced the now defunct Special Office of the Environment as the lead agency coordinating City efforts to promote and enable community action on environmentally sustainable initiatives that fall outside the defined roles and existing programs of specific City departments (e.g. Solid Waste Management, Neighbourhood Transportation, etc.).

As a result, staff recommends that the terms of reference of the program be modified (as per Appendix A) to indicate that the Sustainability Group manages the Environmental Grants Program, guided by an internal Proposal Review Committee consisting of one staff member each from the Sustainability Group, Environmental Protection, Engineering, Community Services, and Corporate Services. Furthermore the guidelines and criteria should be updated to reflect the focus as being projects which benefit the environmental aspects of sustainability within Vancouver.

Given the funding for this program has been nearly fully expended and that the funding applicants are pursuing initiatives outside the originally envisioned waste management scope, staff should review the Environmental Grants Program, develop recommendations for its improved efficacy and profile, and propose alternate funding sources.

CURRENT GRANT REQUESTS

This is the fourteenth Environmental Grant Report. It deals with one grant request and staff recommend this request be approved.

The existing Staff Review Committee, comprised of representatives from Engineering, Environmental Health, Environmental Protection Branch and Corporate Services, has reviewed the submission relative to the criteria approved by Council, and makes the following recommendations:

- | | | |
|--|---------------------|---------|
| 1. Society Promoting Environmental Conservations (SPEC) | | |
| | Requested: | \$5,000 |
| Real Environmental Alternatives to Pesticides (REAP) project | | |
| | Recommended: | \$5,000 |

SPEC research, outreach and education programs work to raise awareness of environmental issues, with a particular focus on issues that affect urban communities in the Lower Mainland and Georgia basin. Current projects focus on air and water quality, waste reduction, energy conservation, sustainable transportation and urban green space.

SPEC operates the Vancouver Environmental Information Centre at 2150 Maple Street, where members of the public can access information on environmental issues.

The project:

The program is part of their larger pesticide reduction project entitled Real Environmental Alternatives to Pesticides (REAP). We are requesting funding for the Product Care/Safe Disposal component of REAP, whose objective is to raise awareness of the safe disposal of pesticides and to encourage people to dispose of their pesticides safely by taking them to industry-funded return centers. The goal is to reduce the amount of toxins that enter our land and water systems through pesticide disposal. The information kit will be given out at workshops as well as to retailers who can provide this vital information to consumers.

The Staff Review Committee reviewed this project proposal and felt that this program is supportive of City policies, such as the recently adopted Pesticide Reduction regulations and meets the grant criteria.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The total grants recommended and provided for consideration to Council total \$5,000. Funding is from the Environmental Grant allocation approved from the Solid Waste Capital Reserve, with a current Environmental Grants balance of \$34,712.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

City support for these projects is consistent with a number of the City's Principles for Sustainability, including accountability for individual actions, fostering partnerships, collaboration with the community, and creation of healthy communities.

CONCLUSION

The Staff Review Committee recommends changes to the Terms of Reference of the Environmental Grants Program and awarding of a Grant to S.P.E.C. (\$5,000 for the Product Care and Safe Disposal component of their Real Environmental Alternatives to Pesticides project).

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Appendix A Environmental Grant Guidelines

CITY OF VANCOUVER ENVIRONMENTAL GRANT PROGRAM

A. INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICANTS

1. Please read the Environmental Grant Guidelines and Criteria below before completing your application form. If you have questions about your application, please contact the Sustainability Group at 873-7748.
2. Please be precise in your answers and keep support documents to a minimum.
3. Please enclose the following documents:
 - a. Your latest budget and audited financial statement. If audited statements are not available, your most recent financial statement endorsed by two signing officers of the Board of Directors.
 - b. A list of your Board of Directors including addresses and phone numbers.
 - c. Annual Report, if available.
 - d. Certificate of Incorporation, if not previously submitted.
4. Return the original completed form and attachments to: Manager, Sustainability Group, City of Vancouver, 453 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V5Y 1V4.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL GRANT GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA

1. Groups sponsoring activities or programs must be private, non-profit registered societies which are community-based. Applicants must demonstrate financial need as well as managerial and environmental knowledge and ability.
2. Programs or projects must be directed to personal or group actions which restore or improve the environment. As an example, in the climate protection area, proposals must be supportive of the City's Climate Protection Action Plan to reduce the use of fossil fuels in buildings and transportation or to support the use of clean, renewable energy sources.
3. Programs for funding consideration should not duplicate existing programs in the public or private sector; they should be directed to new initiatives or unmet needs.
4. Programs should be generally supportive of City policies with measurable, sustainable, environmental benefits accruing primarily to City residents.
5. Priority will be given to those proposals which require one time funding or initial seed money, and do not require ongoing City financial commitments. Grants are not intended to supplement existing efforts by defraying a portion of the current operating or program costs. The City will consider grants where the City is the sole contributor but

preference will be given to supplement existing funding or volunteer efforts. Grants are not intended to address accumulated debt or past operating deficits.

6. To qualify for a Sustainability Grant, an organization must supply accurate program and financial information. It should specify what the grant is to be used for and the period for which the grant is requested. Applicants must submit a detailed budget, audited financial statement, and a summary of outcomes achieved upon completion of the program.

7. Term of the program should be a maximum of one year.

8. Not all groups meeting the above criteria will automatically receive a grant or grant increase. Grant allocations are dependent on the Environmental Grant budget level and Council priorities with respect to environmental sustainability.

C. CITY COUNCIL DECISION ON ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS

A copy of the Environmental Grant Proposal Review Committee report and recommendations will be sent to all applicants, along with a notice of the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment meeting at which the report will be discussed.

Those groups not in agreement with the recommendations may write to the City Clerk's Office requesting to speak at the meeting. Following the meeting, all applicants will be notified of Council's decision by the City Clerk's Office.