

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: May 31, 2011
Contacts: MaryClare Zak /
James O'Neill
Contact No.: 604.871.6643 /
604.873.7764
RTS No.: RTS 09192
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: June 14, 2011

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: Deputy General Manager, Community Services Group in consultation with
the Deputy City Manager.

SUBJECT: Greenest City Neighbourhood Grants Allocations

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve 16 Greenest City Neighbourhood Grants totalling \$100,000; source of funds to be the 2011 Greenest City Neighbourhood Grants Budget.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The Grants will generate more community involvement for the Greenest City goals in the areas of zero waste, local food, trees/greening and active transportation. The City Manager recommends approval.

COUNCIL POLICY

On April 23, 2002, Council adopted definitions and principles for environmental, economic and social sustainability to guide City actions and operations.

On February 3, 2009, Council passed a motion to establish a Mayor's Greenest City Action Team (GCAT) as a type D Committee.

On April 7, 2009, Council approved the Final Budget Estimates allocating \$100,000 toward a Green Grants fund (referred to here as the Greenest City Neighbourhood Grants Fund).

On May 5, 2009, Council received a 'Quick Start' report from GCAT with immediate actions the City can take to become the greenest city in the world by 2020. The recommendations included establishing a green grants program.

On May 4, 2010, Council adopted the long-term environmental goals recommended by the Greenest City Action Team (GCAT) in *Vancouver 2020: A Bright Green Future*. Council also directed staff to

develop a "Greenest City 2020 Implementation Plan," which includes a grant program.

On January 20, 2011 Council adopted the Greenest City 2020 targets amended from the

Greenest City Action Team's report *Vancouver 2020: A Bright Green Future* that include green economy and green jobs; green communities; and human health, emphasizing clean water, clean air, and local food.

Approval of grant recommendations requires eight affirmative votes.

PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

This report recommends expenditures of \$100,000 for the 2011 allocation for the Greenest City Neighbourhood Grants Fund.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The goals of the Greenest City Neighbourhood Fund are to i) advance multiple efforts outlined in *Vancouver 2020: A Bright Green Future* Action Plan; ii) promote participation at the neighbourhood level, and iii) to leverage other external funding, partnerships, and resources.

The focus of the allocations for 2009 and 2010, totaling \$200,000, was to support local urban food systems projects meeting multiple goals identified in the *Vancouver 2020* Action Plan such as ecological health, urban greening, a green economy, and building neighbourhood food assets.

For 2011, eligibility was expanded to advance goals in other Greenest City priority areas. Along with local food, other priorities for the 2011 grant allocation include active transportation, trees/greening, and zero waste.

Application process

Information and applications for the Greenest City Neighbourhood Grants were posted on the City website on March 30th, and posted to the Greenest City facebook page and twitter accounts. The deadline for project submissions was April 20th.

Applications were reviewed by Staff from four City departments (Sustainability, Social Policy, Engineering and Parks) based on eligibility and assessment criteria. In addition to addressing either active transportation, trees/greening, local food or zero waste, projects needed to demonstrate how activities will enhance community capacity, leverage funding and community resources, and generate opportunities to advance the health and well being of Vancouver neighbourhoods. Further details on assessment criteria are described in Appendix A.

The process was highly competitive. Out of the 54 applications, 16 that best meet grant priorities and criteria are being recommended. There was a total budget request of \$558,379, more than five times the amount of available funding. While the grant criteria were expanded to include other priority areas, over 50% of applications related to Local Food, demonstrating a high degree of community interest in this Greenest City Goal area.

The 16 recommended projects will assist the City in reaching its Greenest City targets through the addition of:

- Supporting greening of three parks and open spaces
- Developing and enhancing four food producing gardens

- Supporting zero waste by diverting food scraps and other material away from landfill
- Support three transportation initiatives to promote and develop active transportation
- Enhanced community capacity on Greenest City Goal areas

A number of non-selected applications qualify for funding through the Urban Agriculture and Neighbourhood Food Security Grant Allocations (RTS 09197) or the Downtown Eastside Capital Budget Funding Allocations (RTS 9206).

Accountability Process

Organizations awarded grants will provide a written evaluation based on proposed outcomes, results achieved, in addition to financial reports upon project completion, and lessons learned. Results will be shared with Greenest City Action Team, relevant committees and stakeholders.

Recommendations

Recommended funding allocations are as follows:

Please see Appendix B for list of applications not being recommended for Greenest City Neighbourhood Grants.

Priority Area	Organization	Project Name	Project Description	Recommended Allocation
Trees/Greening	Child and Nature Alliance Society	Healthy by Nature Forum	A forum/conference on the physical and mental health benefits of time spent in nature.	\$2,000
	Stanley Park Ecology Society	Stanley Park Bog Restoration	The restoration and protection of the bog, and a program to engage diverse audiences in direct hands-on stewardship.	\$5,000
	Van Horne Elementary - Parent Advisory Council	Van Horne Elementary Greening Initiative	Beautify the school grounds and provide learning opportunities for students to build ornamental and food producing gardens.	\$4,000
Sub total				\$11,000
Local Food	Environmental Youth Alliance Society (EYA)	Lawns to Loaves - A Collaborative City Wheat Farm	A pilot project to explore small-scale grain production by converting conventional grass lawns.	\$5,000
	BC Coalition of People with Disabilities (BCCPD)	Farmers on 57 th Community Integrated Gardens	Expanded on-site garden at George Pearson Hospital to provide local food for the hospital.	\$3,000
	Sunset Child Care Society	Little Green Lunch Program	On-site garden and expand the Green lunch program at the Sunset Child Care Centre.	\$6,000
	Vancouver Fruit Tree Project Society	Fruit Tree Project	Materials and program development for harvesting fruit-bearing trees	\$3,000
	City in Focus Foundation - City Gate Leadership Forum	Integrated Food Security Network among Faith Based Service Providers	Integrate best-practices on sustainable food system among faith-based service providers.	\$8,000
	Hastings Community Association	Hastings Food - SAC Seasons of Food	Community wide skill-building program on neighbourhood food security, nutrition workshops,	\$10,000

			community meals and a teaching garden.	
	Pacific Community Resources Society - Broadway Youth Resource Centre	Community Connections, From Seed to Plate	Community garden and kitchen program that engages young people.	\$4,000
Sub total				\$39,000
Zero Waste	Vancouver Tool Library Cooperative	Vancouver Tool Library	A long-lasting tool collection resource that residents can use to teach how to transform communities.	\$7,500
	Your Local Farmers Market Society	West End Farmers Market Community Compost Drop Off	Divert food scrap compostables by offering a drop-off collection station	\$10,000
Sub total				\$17,500
Active Transportation	Pacific Community Resource Society	PCRS Green Courier Program	Inter-office courier service using public transportation and provide supported employment to marginalized individuals.	\$5,000
	Alma Mater Society UBC - AMS Bicycle Co-op	Cycling Resource Centre	Cycling resources at Vancouver's Farmers Markets e.g. basic tune-ups, tutorials on bike mechanics, and cycle route planning.	\$2,000
	Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition	SHIFT Urban Cargo Delivery	A courier business using cargo bikes.	\$15,500
Sub total				\$22,500
Four Priority Areas	Global Youth Education Network Society	The Story of How	Workshops to connect communities on shared values, commitments and a vision for a sustainable future.	\$10,000
Sub Total				\$10,000
Grand Total				\$100,000

GRANTS ADMINISTRATION

Social Policy / Community Services Group will serve as the lead agency for grant administration for allocation following the objectives and criteria established in this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

On April 7, 2009, Council passed the Final Budget Estimates allocating \$100,000 on an annual basis toward a Greenest City Grants fund.

This report recommends a grant allocation of \$100,000 towards 16 organizations from the 2011 Greenest City Grants budget, leaving a balance of \$0.00.

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

No additional staff resources are being requested.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

The recommended projects and programs will catalyze community action around the City's environmental goals, and support urban greening, reduce edible food waste and increase recycling options, create and sustain local food production, and promote active transportation.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Through the implementation of projects approved under the Greenest City Neighbourhood Grants, Vancouver's communities will enhance their capacity to maintain and build resources and social networks to address current environmental issues and develop resiliency to prevent and/or respond to problems in the future. The projects will provide the ability of a range of people, community groups, and businesses within neighbourhoods to work together, and inspire local leadership and action in key areas of the greenest city goals while supporting social inclusion, enabling neighbourhood level capacity and resiliency.

CONCLUSION

The approval to expend the \$100,000 annual Greenest City Grants Fund from the 2011 budget will allow staff to implement the priority initiatives described in this report, namely: Grants to non-profit societies and community service co-operatives to develop and deliver a variety of environmental and social-action oriented projects that will help achieve the goals of being the greenest city.

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GREENEST CITY NEIGHBOURHOOD (GCN) GRANT

Application Deadline: Wednesday, April 20, 2011

Description

Vancouver has set a bold challenge: to be the greenest city in the world by 2020. Achieving this will require commitment, broad community action and strong local leadership.

The City of Vancouver recognizes that when residents become active in their neighbourhoods, communities are strengthened from the ground up. The Greenest City Neighbourhood Grants are designed to enhance the ability of a range of people, community groups and businesses within neighbourhoods to work together. Its aim is to inspire local leadership and action in key areas that will help us achieve our goal of being the 'greenest' city while supporting social inclusion, enabling neighbourhood level capacity and resiliency.

If everyone on earth lived as Vancouverites do now, we would need three planets to sustain us. Greenest City Neighbourhood Grants will provide funding towards projects in Vancouver that can best demonstrate that they help us achieve our one planet ecological footprint goal. Promoting food choices that are seasonal, local and lower on the food chain, reducing unnecessary consumption and waste of resources, nurturing plants and natural environments, and reducing the kilometers that the vehicles in our city travel are all large contributors to moving us toward our one planet footprint goal. Projects should also be based on neighbourhood priorities and need(s), engage and be supported by diverse members of their community and develop viable approaches to addressing one or more of these four priority areas:

- *Green Transportation*
- *Local Food*
- *Trees/Greening and*
- *Zero Waste*

A description of examples of types of projects is provided below. Link to all the Green Goals here (note: only the four goals listed above are part of this grant stream): www.talkgreenvancouver.ca/goals

The City is interested in proposals that:

1. contribute to a tangible goal related to one or more of the above four priority areas while reducing our ecological footprint during the life of the project or program;
2. foster long-term behavioural change for a lasting impact in one or more of the above four priority areas; and
3. directly enhance the capacity of individuals or communities to engage in one or more of the above four priority areas.

Priority will be given to projects that:

1. are neighbourhood based or community of interest based (a community of interest might go beyond geographical boundaries and would include people in the City of Vancouver who share a common interest or passion. This might include urban farmers, bicycle commuters etc.);
2. display innovation in terms of program design, audience reached or delivery mechanism;
3. include local community partnerships;
4. demonstrate the capacity to leverage other resources (this could include funding from other sources and/or in-kind support);
5. include clear measurable outcomes and indicators;
6. do not duplicate a program being delivered in the community by another organization;
7. have plans to sustain the project; and

8. create conditions to increase community engagement of people of all ages, abilities, economic levels and cultures.

2011 Funding Priority Areas and project examples:

Green Transportation

To be the greenest city, we need to make walking, cycling and transit the preferred transportation options. The City's 2020 target is for over 50% of trips to take place by walking, cycling and public transit. Your project should focus on generating new active trips in the targeted area. It should help make active transportation fun, easy and convenient and promote connections to work, community facilities, shopping areas or any other 'destinations'. Barriers to and stereotypes about active transportation must be broken down to encourage more participation. Projects should leave a legacy and continue to encourage active transportation once they are 'over'. Some examples of possible projects include:

- Starting a seniors neighbourhood walking initiative
- Creating an active winter commuting strategy
- Implementing a cargo bicycle program

Local Food

To support local food and sustainable food systems, the City of Vancouver has a goal to become a global leader in urban food systems with the 2020 target of increasing neighbourhood food assets by 50%. One of the first steps is to focus on urban food projects that meet multiple goals such as ecological and human health, community economic development, poverty reduction, building neighbourhood food assets, increasing community capacity and enhancing access to appropriate food sources. Some examples of possible projects include:

- Urban agriculture projects
- Micro-enterprise and/or skill-building programs
- Food distribution programs
- Community produce stands
- Community kitchens
- Aquaculture projects
- Indigenous food sovereignty
- Seed saving

Trees/Greening

The long-term vision is that Vancouver residents enjoy incomparable access to green spaces. The 2020 target is that every person lives within a five-minute walk of a park, beach, greenway, or other natural space, and that we have planted 150,000 additional trees. Some examples of possible projects include:

- School ground and community planting projects
- Stream and ravine revitalization projects
- Street greening and living wall projects
- Urban forest enhancement
- Fruit tree and edible landscape projects
- Encourage watering of new street trees and care for existing trees

Zero Waste

The City's long-term goal is to create zero waste. The 2020 target is to reduce solid waste going to landfill or incinerator by 50%. To get there, we need new "zero waste assets" - creative forms of infrastructure, projects and community initiatives that allow residents to share resources, and increase their composting and recycling. Some examples of possible projects:

- Lending libraries, sharing cooperatives or community sheds for tools, toys, appliances and other equipment
- Projects to increase sharing, recycling or composting in apartments and condominiums
- Neighbourhood composting systems
- New social enterprises focused on reuse and recycling

- Skill-building programs for repairing, refurbishing and repurposing things
- Social marketing and awareness-raising projects

Eligibility:

- Applicants must be registered non-profit societies or community service co-operatives in good standing, have a proven track record in neighbourhood-based program delivery, demonstrate sound financial and project planning, identify partnerships and community support, and contribute resources (including volunteer time) towards the project beyond the City's contribution.
- The City encourages prospective applicants that are not a registered non-profit society or community service co-op to partner with an organization that fulfills these requirements. (If you would like advice about how to undertake such a partnership please contact one of the City staff listed below.)
- In future grant cycles the City will explore ways to include applicants outside of the two categories listed above.

Financial Sustainability: This grant provides one-year funding, and as such, projects/programs should either be one year in duration or demonstrate sustainability beyond one year. This might be accomplished by extending an existing program, or through additional funding and in-kind partnerships.

Funding allocations: Grants may range from a minimum of \$2,000 to a maximum of \$25,000. Exact funding amounts will be determined based on the type and range of applications received. Once agreements are reached, staff will report back to Council for final approval of specific grants.

Timelines and Grant Term: Deadline for Applications will be Wednesday, April 20, 2011. The project/program must be completed, and the City funding must be spent on the project/program within one year of City Council's approval of the grant.

Approvals and Dissemination of Funding: Project/program proposals will be reviewed by a cross departmental City of Vancouver staff team. Following the review process, recommendations will be made by staff. All initiatives will require Council approval. Applicants will be notified of the staff recommendations together with notice of the City Council meeting date at which the grants will be considered. Funds will be allocated through grant allocations to non-profit organizations according to City policy and standards. Successful applicants generally receive grant payment within two and a half weeks of approval. There is no appeal process in place for this grant stream.

Accountability: City Council has asked that grant programs be structured to identify and assess the outcomes achieved by its funded programs. Applicants for the Greenest City Neighbourhood grants with requests above \$5,000 must complete an Outcome Measurement Framework (OMF) as part of the application process. The framework that is used for this grant is the same tool used by the United Way and Vancouver Coastal Health in the evaluation of their funded programs.

All organizations or individuals receiving City grants to implement the projects/programs are expected to provide a written evaluation outlining the outcomes achieved and lessons learned, in addition to financial reports, upon project/program completion. Projects/programs will also be asked to submit 10 digital photos illustrative of the successful implementation of the project or program. (All identifiable people in the photos must have signed photo release sheets allowing the City to share these photos on our website or in other public information publications.) Staff will report back to Council with the outcomes for each individual project/program or initiative.

Total Funding Available:

\$100,000 annually with an aim to support all four priority areas.

Contacts:

Peter Bruckmann
Social Planner - Grants
604.871.6682
peter.bruckmann@vancouver.ca

James O'Neill
Social Planner
604.873.7764
james.oneill@vancouver.ca

Non-selected Greenest City Neighbourhood Grant applications

Organization	Project Name	Amount Requested
Association of Neighbourhood Houses of BC	My Green Planet's New Home - MPNH Green	\$25,000
Battered Women's Support Services	Empowering Women for Sustainability -Reclaiming Wisdom	\$12,000
Collingwood Neighbourhood House Society	Renfrew Collingwood Food Security Institute	\$15,000
EatART Foundation	Regenerate	\$2,300
Gardenscapes Urban Farming Initiative Society	Gardenscapes Urban Farming Initiative Society	\$4,000
Gordon Neighbourhood House	Sustainable Strategies	\$20,000
Greenstreets	54 th and Inverness Traffic Circle	\$300
Growing Chef's! Chefs for Children Urban Agriculture	Growing Chef's! Classroom Gardening	\$5,000
Hastings Community Association - Hastings Community Centre	Hastings Food - SAC Seasons of Food	\$15,100
Hastings Elementary Community School Parent Advisory Committee	Natural Adventure Playground - Phase 1	\$25,000
Jewish Family Services Agency	Permeating Culture: Urban Agriculture Diversified	\$25,000
Kerrisdale Community Centre Association	Kerrisdale Community Garden Shed and Tool Acquisition	\$5,000
Kitsilano Sustainability Network - Partnership Greener Footprint	Kits Compost	\$4,000
Langara Community Garden Society	Establishing a Community Garden	\$2,300
Livable Laneways Society	Initial Training and Preparation for Permanent Farmers Market	\$5,000
Marpole Oakridge Area Council Society	Community Composting and Soil Building Program	\$4,900
New Works Performance Society	County Fair: An Urban Farming Celebration	\$7,500
Other Sights for Artist's Projects Association	GROW: An Urban Agriculture Laboratory	\$7,500
Pacific Parklands Foundation	Ecocitizens in Action - Engaging Individuals to Protect and Restore	\$25,000
Pine Street Community Gardens	Community Connections, From Seed to Plate	\$4,500
Potluck Café Society	DTES Kitchen Table Project	\$19,355
Save our Living Environment (SOLE)	Farm to Community Kitchen	\$3,650
Society Promoting Environmental Conservation	Kitsilano Growers Market	\$5,000
Society Promoting Environmental Conservation	SPEC's Seniors and Sustainability Project	\$5,000
Strathcona Business Improvement Association	Hastings Corridor Urban Tree Nursery	\$25,000
Strathcona Community Gardeners Society	Strathcona Wetlands Projects	\$20,000
South Vancouver Family Place Society	Changing our Footprint	\$5,000
Transformative Communities Project Society	Fresh Roots Urban Farm's Schoolyard Farms	\$25,000
Trout Lake Cedar Cottage Food Security Network Society	Accessing Local: Taste and Learn	\$14,228
Tupper Integrated Neighbourhood Greenway Association	Tupper Greenway Urban Orchard Project	\$3,295
Umbrella Multicultural Health Co-op	Connie's Community Kitchen Project	\$12,670
Urbandiggers Society	Mount Pleasant Park Community Garden	\$9,300
VanDusen Botanical Garden Association	SMART, Green and Growing	\$13,840
Vancouver Society of Children's Centres	I am the Future - Ecological Literacy for Children	\$10,000
Village Vancouver Transition Society	Chafer Beetle Lawn Alternative	\$5,000
Yew Street Housing Co-operative	Micro Urban Farm	\$20,380
Zero Waste Vancouver Association	www.zerowastevancouver.com	\$5,000