



The Eco-Living Fund Application Guidelines

Deadline for Submission of Optional Letter of Inquiry—Tuesday, April 30, 2024 at 5:00PM

Full Proposal open – Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Deadline for Submission of Full Proposal—Monday, July 1, 2024 at 11:59PM EST

The *Eco-Living Fund* is a donor-advised fund based at the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation. The donor to the fund, who wishes to remain anonymous, reviews proposals on an annual basis and makes funding recommendations to the Governing Board of the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation.

The *Eco-Living Fund* supports efforts to steer the daily life habits of people away from environmentally unsustainable practices, and toward zero-footprint or net-positive impact on the natural world. Funded projects:

- 1) are not designed to simply improve the environmental-friendliness or sustainability of a particular building or facility. Instead, they are designed to permanently change many, many buildings' performance and/or people's daily life habits to be better for the planet; ***and***
- 2) have specific, concrete actions which have quantifiable results of people living and/or buildings performing more sustainably; ***and***
- 3) are designed, tracked, documented, and reported in ways that they can be showcased to serve as positive change models for other organizations and communities; ***and***
- 4) (bonus which is particularly encouraged though not required) result in people, businesses or institutions saving money.

Successful proposals will include **all of the first three (3)** of the above characteristics, not just one or two of them.

Among the pool of applications received, winners will be those that have the greatest bang-for-the-buck: the greatest number of people permanently changing their daily life habits, and/or the greatest number of buildings getting their consumption of resources reduced, per grant dollar. Preference will be given to those projects that have quantifiable results, that is, results that can be numerically verified and measured.



Examples of relevant projects include leveraging funds from this grant in ways that result in water or energy systems of numerous houses or buildings being replaced with efficient ones; or that result in people exercising (walk, bike) instead of driving; and/or awareness or education on public policies which would achieve the goals of this fund. These are examples only and do not represent the full scope of grant applications that will be considered.

Grant requests up to \$5,000 will be considered. Applicants must be tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organizations or government agencies. Grants are limited to projects in the CACF service area which includes Charlottesville and counties of Albemarle, Buckingham, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, Nelson and Orange.

Applicants are encouraged to submit an *optional* initial 1-page Letter of Inquiry no later than April 30, 2024, if an applicant has a question as to whether a project in mind could meet the goals of this fund. The donor will provide feedback and suggestions regarding information to include in the full proposal that may increase the possibility of the proposal being funded. This feedback will be provided no later than May 22, 2024. Submitting a Letter of Inquiry **does NOT guarantee**, however, that a proposal will be funded. Letters of Inquiry should be submitted via email to Daniel Fairley, Donor Relations Manager, at dfairley@cacfonline.org.

The deadline to submit a full proposal for the *Eco-Living Fund* is July 1, 2024. Applications should be submitted via the foundation's [Grantee Portal](#) (GLM). Contact our Grants Administrator at grants@cacfonline.org for any technical support related to the Grantee Portal.

All grant recipients will be asked to document their efforts, including a 1-page summary sheet to serve as models for other communities and organizations to consider following. A report on the project's spending, accomplishments and impact will be required upon its completion.

Questions and inquiries may be addressed to dfairley@cacfonline.org.