

Department of Jobs, Growth and Rural Development



Green Transition Fund – Program Guidelines

Updated: June 6, 2023

1. Introduction

The Green Transition Fund provides financial support to businesses, organizations, post-secondary institutions, and industry associations to assist with the province's transition to a green economy. The program will de-risk commercial and non-commercial activities that facilitate collaboration, investment, and industry growth required for the transition.

The Green Transition Fund targets the greening of commercial operations in traditional sectors and development of new opportunities related to the growth of a green economy. The program additionally targets research and development projects related to green transition, and projects that support green economy supply chain improvement. The program also targets projects led by Indigenous and rural proponents that are focused on a green economic transition.

Proponents are encouraged to partner with other stakeholder groups that will help ensure the success of their proposed projects. Stakeholders may include other commercial enterprises, academia, municipalities, community-based groups, and other relevant stakeholders as required.

2. Program Objectives

The Green Transition Fund is a key mechanism to facilitate the necessary collaboration, investment, and industry growth to assist transition to the green economy through:

- Facilitating green economy supply chain collaboration and technology adoption.
- Expanding local supply chain, export and diversification opportunities.
- Attracting investment in areas where there are gaps in innovation, technology and supply chain capabilities, while not duplicating other funding programs.
- Improving natural resource industry competitiveness by reducing environmental impacts and promoting green processes, development, and operations.
- Contributing to economic growth in Newfoundland and Labrador.
- Promoting the province as a world leader in green economy excellence, sustainable development, and environmental stewardship.

3. Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants normally include:

- Non-commercial applicants: industry associations, Indigenous Governments/Organizations, business development organizations, post-secondary education institutions and other support organizations in Newfoundland and Labrador focusing on green economy initiatives.
- Commercial applicants: registered incorporated businesses, primarily small-and-medium sized enterprises (SMEs) with operations in Newfoundland and Labrador. Larger businesses with higher risk R&D projects may be eligible on a case by case basis.

Eligible applicants normally must:

- be a registered business in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador;
- have an office and operations established in the province throughout duration of the project;
- demonstrate their ability to complete the work identified in the project proposal;
- demonstrate their ability to complete the proposed project within the within the identified timeline provided;
- be in good standing with the Registry of Companies and Deeds and the Department of Finance of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador (if applicable);

- be in good standing with the Office of the High Sheriff (if applicable);
- be in good standing with the Canada Revenue Agency (if applicable); and
- be in good standing with Workplace NL (if applicable).

4. Ineligible applicants

Ineligible applicants normally include: municipalities, non-incorporated entities, and provincial and federal departments, agencies, and related entities. Normally Crown corporations or agencies would not be eligible, however certain projects may be considered if applicable.

5. Eligible Activities

Contributions may be used to support continued, expanded or new operations in the province, including:

- Activities to increase education and awareness of key issues affecting the commercial ecosystem regarding the transition to a green economy.
- Incremental technical costs to support green economy supply chain development and production efficiencies.
- Costs associated with greening of commercial operations, including specialized consultants, feasibility studies, technical studies, green certification review and preparation, and incremental technology implementation costs (see capital costs below).
- Capital costs where specialized technology may be required for project development or completion. Only incremental costs would be eligible.
- Commercial research and development and demonstration/pilot projects supporting green economy technologies with Technology Readiness Levels three to nine (3-9).
- Market development activities including industry-wide promotion of capabilities, export readiness and market entry strategies, specific to the green economy.
- Specialized labour costs may be eligible, which may include incremental wages and salaries for positions requiring new technical skills, supply chain or market development expertise, or other specialized skills required for project success, and not available through other funding programs.

6. Ineligible Activities

Funds may not normally be used for:

- Building and land acquisition, leasehold improvements, renovations, furniture, and other non-specialized capital costs;
- Administration costs, and non-incremental business development costs or operating costs;
- Non-incremental labour, labour that is not directly assigned to the project, and labour that is not in a specialized or skilled area identified for project success; and
- Any costs incurred prior to application. Specific costs such as proposal development are ineligible. Other costs may be deemed ineligible upon project assessment.

7. Financial Assistance

The program will normally provide financial support in the form of non-repayable funding with parameters of:

- Commercial/Non-Commercial requests: \$75,000 minimum to \$3 million maximum
 - Indigenous/Rural projects: No minimum project size.

The terms of the funding may include:

- Non-Commercial: project funding will not normally exceed 50 per cent of eligible project costs, as a non-repayable contribution.
- Commercial: project funding will not normally exceed 40 per cent of eligible project costs, as a non-repayable contribution

JGRD may issue innovation or research challenges through an RFP process and may support up to 100 per cent of eligible costs for eligible activities.