

# Ottawa Sustainability Fund



## What is the Ottawa Sustainability Fund?

The **Ottawa Sustainability Fund (OSF)** is an arm's length endowment managed by the **Community Foundation of Ottawa** to provide funding on an ongoing basis to projects that serve to enhance the sustainable development of the city of Ottawa with a particular emphasis on the environment.

## Sustainable development is a very open concept, what areas will the Fund focus on?

The Fund will help to provide funding for initiatives that focus on:

- reducing Ottawa's impact on climate change and the ability of its citizens to adapt to those changes that are occurring;
- improving Ottawa's air quality;
- addressing water issues in Ottawa, both urban and rural;
- promoting waste reduction and sustainable waste management in the city of Ottawa;
- promoting sustainable land use in the city of Ottawa including protection of trees, forests, biodiversity, and food security;
- and other projects or initiatives that enhance the sustainability of the city of Ottawa.

## Why is a Fund Needed?

The City of Ottawa is Canada's capital city and has committed itself to a forward-looking agenda with respect to the environment. Further, as Canada's capital city, Ottawa should be *the* leader at the municipal level on initiatives that promote environmental integrity while maintaining or enhancing economic growth. The **Ottawa Sustainability Fund** will contribute to the attainment of this goal.

Given the constant challenge of allocating tax-based resources to environmental initiatives, a donor-advised fund, at arm's length from the municipality, is the answer to ensuring stable funding for projects and initiatives that enhance Ottawa's sustainability.

## Status:

In March 2006, Ottawa City Council approved a \$10,000 grant to the **Ottawa Sustainability Fund** to assist the City's **Environmental Advisory Committee** in establishing the Fund with the **Community Foundation of Ottawa**. The OSF is now operational and is accepting both donations and applications for funding, although limited funds will be available to make grants until the endowment has reached a more significant level.

The Fund will be managed by the **Community Foundation of Ottawa** and disbursements will be made by the Foundation on the advice of an Advisory Committee.

## Who should donate to the Ottawa Sustainability Fund?

Corporations, individuals and families are all potential donors to the Fund. While the long-term goal of the OSF is to build a significant endowment through corporate contributions, and planned gifts, as well as individual contributions, the fund can be used immediately on a flow-through basis to fund community-based projects proposed by local charities and eligible community groups. In some cases, major contributors may wish to designate their contribution as a named fund under the umbrella of the OSF and continue to advise on how the earnings of those particular funds will be used. All of this is within the planned approach.

## Yes, I would like to Donate to the Ottawa Sustainability Fund!

Those wishing to make major contributions to the OSF either immediately or through planned gifts should contact the Community Foundation of Ottawa directly so that the appropriate arrangements can

be made. A member of the OSF Advisory Committee will be pleased to work with you and the Community Foundation in confidence to work out the details that best meet your needs and intent.

For those individuals, families or corporations wishing to support the OSF as part of their annual giving, donations can either be made by cheque or on-line by credit card. It is the practice of the Community Foundation to issue receipts for donations of \$20.00 or more. When you use the on-line system and donate by credit card, you get an immediate receipt to file away for your tax return! The Community Foundation also routinely handles gifts of securities.

### **On-line Donations - Step-by-Step:**

Log on to the Community Foundation of Ottawa web site at ([www.cfo-fco.ca](http://www.cfo-fco.ca)) and follow these easy to use directions:

1. Click on '**Become a donor**' - here you can explore 'Giving Options' and 'Fund Options';
2. One giving option is to Donate Online at the hot linked '**Donate Now through Canada Helps**' button on the homepage. If you plan to donate this way you simply click on '**Donate Now**', fill in the information requested and use the pull-down menu to designate the **Ottawa Sustainability Fund**. If you wish to split your donation (for example 50/50) between the OSF Endowment and a Flow-through donation to support a specific project in the coming year you can do so by filling in the message section.

### **How will donors be recognized?**

The **Community Foundation of Ottawa** annually recognizes its donors and supporters in their Annual Report. The OSF plans to establish a Founder's Circle where donations made to the OSF in its first 3 years will be permanently recognized. Donations made over this 3 year period may be accumulated to qualify for the Founder's Circle.

### **Ottawa Sustainability Fund, Founder's Circle**

- OSF Founding Champion \$500,000 or more
- OSF Founding Protector \$100,000 - \$500,000
- OSF Founding Conserver \$25,000 - \$100,000
- OSF Founding Steward \$5,000 - \$25,000
- OSF Founding Supporter \$1,000 - \$5,000

### **Yes, my organization would like to apply for an Ottawa Sustainability Fund Grant!**

In the immediate future the OSF working with the Community Foundation expects to be able to provide grants for a number of projects using both new funds donated to the OSF and limited existing funds within the Foundation that are available for projects meeting the OSF's criteria. The submission of grant applications for projects in keeping with the OSF mandate is strongly encouraged.

To apply for a grant click on '**Apply for a Grant**' on the Community Foundation of Ottawa web-site. The guidelines are well explained. Two types of grants are possible:

- **The Community Grants Program (\$5-\$10K)**
- **Strategic Impact Grants Program (\$10K+):**

Grants must be submitted by charitable organizations or in partnership arrangements with charitable organizations (this includes the City, universities, colleges, churches etc. etc.).

For more information about the Fund please contact the Ottawa Environmental Advisory Committee at [ottawaeac@hotmail.com](mailto:ottawaeac@hotmail.com), or the Community Foundation of Ottawa at [info@cfo-fco.ca](mailto:info@cfo-fco.ca).

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