

# Gateway Regional Environment Fund

## Request for Letters of Interest

Issued March 8, 2021

Letters of Interest due **by 3:00 pm Central Time on Tuesday, April 20, 2021**

Proposals may be found at: <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=stlgives>

**ST. LOUIS**



**COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION**



## OVERVIEW

The purpose of the Gateway Regional Environment Fund (“GREF”) is to support projects in the St. Louis metro area that seek to protect or improve the natural environment by reducing or ameliorating harmful human-caused impacts including, but not limited to global warming, pollution, unsustainable land use, destruction of habitat, and over population. The Fund’s goal is to make the region more environmentally sustainable.

The GREF assumes that a large portion of the population would adopt more sustainable practices at home and at work, but are discouraged from doing so by barriers, including, but not limited to, lack of knowledge or awareness, market inefficiencies, split incentives, fragmented opportunities, measurement challenges, and constraints on access to capital. The Fund will support projects that seek to facilitate the adoption of sustainable practices for individuals or community-wide.

The GREF is a component fund of the St. Louis Community Foundation.

## GRANT PURPOSE

The GREF is looking for partners with ideas intended to advance community efforts to reduce the region’s carbon footprint. Greenhouse gases are global and, though the effects may not be felt directly, greenhouse gases do and will continue to impact the St. Louis region.

This request for “letters of interest” (LOIs) is for organizations with proposals for projects that are both innovative and will have a lasting impact on reducing carbon in the environment. We seek ideas which will produce demonstrable outcomes and the adoption of sustainable practices. Specific programming strategies may range in focus - we are interested in creative ideas for reducing carbon intensity (or carbon footprint). This year, we will also consider projects that include renewable energy sources. Implementation of either individual/personal and community-wide carbon mitigation tactics will be considered. Projects that take advantage of existing synergies or create new ones are both encouraged.

As an example of a successful project idea, in 2020 the GREF made a grant to the US Green Building Council – St. Louis Chapter (USGBC). USGBC is partnering with the Metropolitan Congregations United (MCU), the St. Louis Association of Community Organizations (SLACO), and New Northside Missionary Baptist Church to pilot a program titled “Green & Efficient Buildings are Better.” This pilot project will:

- Engage with congregations, assisting in developing a green team or an environmental justice action team to address energy efficiency and other issues important to congregation members and assist with benchmarking energy use.
- Research best practices and similar programs or projects that have been successful in other communities.
- Work with partners and participants to problem-solve around an issue that many building owners face: how to access upfront funding to make improvements.

## GRANT PROCESS

In this LOI phase we welcome project ideas that may have a one-year lifespan or may require multiple years for planning and implementation. Organizations may propose up to four potential projects that would support the Fund's efforts to decrease carbonization. Organizations with a project or projects of potential interest to the GREF, based on review of the LOIs, will be invited to submit a full proposal for funding. In some cases site visits will be requested.

One-year grants may range from \$10,000 to \$30,000. Successful grants may be renewed for up to two additional years. Eligibility for a second and third year of funding will be based on an annual evaluation and report.

Where possible, ongoing programs should have the potential to self-fund or operate without need for additional funding from the GREF after the term of the grant.

## ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be a 501c3 nonprofit organization
- Have a minimum of two permanent staff members
- Have a minimum budget of \$200,000

While the Gateway Regional Environment Fund recognizes the importance and value of advocacy and litigation, these activities are not the focus of this request for proposals.

## TIMELINE for 2020-2021 FUNDED PROJECTS

March 8, 2021	Request for Letters of Interest released
April 20, 2021	Letters of Interest due @ 3:00 pm
May 10, 2021	Requests for full proposals released
June 25, 2021	Proposal due date
July or August, 2021	Grant recipients announced
June, 2022	First Year Evaluation Report and Funding Renewal Application due
July, 2022	Second Year funds to be disbursed, if applicable

## APPLICATION

The LOI for funding through the Gateway Regional Environment Fund may be found on the St. Louis Community Foundation's on-line grant portal at <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=stlgives>. As well as the application questions, complete applications will be asked to submit a copy of your last fiscal year's income statement.

## QUESTIONS

Please contact us with questions about the Gateway Regional Environment Fund and this Request for Proposals.

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