

# **Gateway Regional Environment Fund**

## **Request for Letters of Interest**

**Issued February 1, 2022**

Letters of Interest due **by 3:00 pm Central Time on Friday, March 18, 2022**

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 advance **community efforts to reduce the region’s carbon footprint**. Greenhouse gases are global and, though their effects may not be felt directly, greenhouse gases do and will continue to negatively impact the St. Louis region.

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

## GRANT PURPOSE

This request for “letters of interest” (LOIs) is for organizations with proposals for projects that are both innovative and will have a lasting measurable impact on St. Louis. We seek ideas which will produce:

- **Measurable reduction of carbon (or other GHGs) in the environment**
- Replicable and sustainable programming
- New synergies or take advantage of existing synergies

The GREF will evaluate proposals in significant part based on their ability to credibly mitigate emissions, and at what scale. Mitigation may be affected via direct or indirect strategies, but a credible plan for mitigation to actually occur is critical. While it is not a requirement, the GREF prefers proposals that use funding to maximum effect by facilitating end-user access to already-existing resources, incentives, or efficiencies. Such facilitation might occur by attempting to correct for issues such as lack of knowledge or awareness, market inefficiencies, split incentives, fragmented opportunities, measurement challenges, and constraints on access to capital.

- As an example of a successful proposal, the GREF made a grant to Renew Missouri to develop a financing mechanism allowing nonprofit agencies in the region to access the tax advantages associated with installing renewable energy on their property. This project aims to allow the nonprofits, which do not pay federal income taxes, to benefit from tax incentives already in place for other sectors of the community.

## 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 asked for a full proposal and site visit with the donors. If, after the site visit, the donors have additional questions, the organization will be given an opportunity to submit additional material. Grant decisions will be announced after all materials have been reviewed and site visits conducted.

One-year grants may range from \$10,000 to \$50,000. 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 the range of efforts that will result in a more sustainable environment, the following types of projects are not the focus of this request for proposals:

- Advocacy and litigation
- Conservation efforts
- Food production
- Recycling programs
- Research initiatives

## TIMELINE for 2022 FUNDING PROCESS

February 1, 2022	Request for Letters of Interest released
March 18, 2022	Letters of Interest due @ 3:00 pm
w/o April 11, 2022	Invitations offered for full proposals and site visits
May 20, 2022	Full proposals due @ 3:00 pm
w/o June 20, 2022	Site visits conducted
July 2022	Grant recipients announced
January 2023	Mid-Year report and meeting held
April 2023	First Year evaluation report and funding renewal application due
July 2023	Second year funds 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 most recent audited financials and Board-approved 2022 budget. Finally, you are welcome to submit additional documents such as an annual/impact report, board list, or other information that you feel will help the trustees to get to know your organization.

## QUESTIONS

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

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## PROPOSAL QUESTIONS

1. Organization mission or purpose
2. Geographic Area Served – Please list counties served by your organization
3. Please provide a brief description of your organization

### For each Project Idea:

4. Project/Program Title
5. Project Start Date
6. Project End Date
7. Project foci – please check all that apply
  - a. Measurable reduction of carbon in the environment (required)
  - b. Replicable and sustainable programming
  - c. New synergies or take advantage of existing synergies
8. This is a:
  - a. A new program
  - b. Expansion of an existing program
9. Please provide a brief description of the program/project for which you are seeking funding and why you feel it fits within the stated purpose of the Gateway Regional Environment Fund's request for letters of intent.
10. Amount Requested: Year one
11. If multi-year, Amount Requested: Total
12. How did you decide on that amount?
13. Total project budget for the grant period: Year one
14. If multi-year, total project budget for the grant period: Total
15. If applying for program support, please provide the total budget of this proposed program.
16. If applicable, please provide the name(s) and a brief description of the role(s) of partners(s) on this project.

### Required Attachments

- Board approved 2021 Annual Operating Budget

### Optional Supplemental Documents

- Photos, client stories, agency materials such as annual reports