



Staff Report

Operations – Sustainability & Solid Waste

Report To: Council Meeting
Meeting Date: May 13, 2024
Report Number: CSOPS.24.038
Title: Youth Climate Action Fund Grant Acceptance
Prepared by: Nicholas Cloet, Sustainability Coordinator

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report CSOPS.24.038, entitled “Youth Climate Action Fund Grant Acceptance”;

AND THAT the Mayor and Clerk are authorized to execute a Grant Agreement between the Youth Climate Action Fund as represented by Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors and The Corporation of The Town of The Blue Mountains to receive \$50,000 USD for administration and disbursement of funding for youth-led climate action projects;

AND THAT the Mayor and Clerk are authorized to execute an additional Grant Agreement between the Youth Climate Action Fund and The Corporation of the Town of The Blue Mountains to receive the additional \$100,000 USD of YCAF funding, in the event the \$50,000 USD allocation is distributed to eligible projects by September 30, 2024 and if a new Grant Agreement is required.

B. Overview

The Town has been successful in receiving \$50,000 USD from Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors on behalf of the Youth Climate Action Fund, which will provide between \$1,000 and \$5,000 USD to eligible youth-led projects that align with the climate change goals and actions within The Blue Mountains Future Story and Going Green in Grey. This report is coming directly to Council as it is time sensitive.

C. Background

The Mayor attended COP28 Local Climate Action Summit in Dubai, UAE in late 2023 and as detailed in Staff Report [FAF.24.023 Mayor Matrosovs’ Follow Up Report Regarding Attendance at the COP28 Local Climate Action Summit, Attachment 2](#), a Youth Climate Action Fund (YCAF) was launched at this event to provide municipalities with technical assistance and funding to engage thousands of youth between the ages of 15 and 24 years to design, produce, and govern climate solutions.

The following was also communicated to Council in Staff Report FAF.24.023, Attachment 2: Staff and Mayor Matrosovs will engage local youth organizations to encourage applications for the Youth Climate Action Fund of the potential \$50,000 plus \$100,000 offered to the municipality. Falling within our sustainability staff current job descriptions, the Mayor and staff are asked to dedicate time to launch and monitor youth-led, climate-focused microgrants, utilize community engagement strategies and participate in mandatory virtual technical assistance programming, and share updates, impacts and stories from the ground with Youth Climate Action Fund partners.

As one of the 150 municipalities represented by the invited Mayors at COP28, The Blue Mountains was eligible to participate in the YCAF and Mayor Matrosovs applied on behalf of the Town by the deadline of February 29, 2024. The Town's application was successful, and the Town's participation was publicly announced by the Youth Climate Action Fund organizing partners and by the Town via a Public Notice on April 11, 2024. As the Town is a small community with youth going to school outside of the Town, and as our region of smaller communities is interdependent in so many ways and will need to collaborate on meaningful climate action, the eligible geographic area for projects to be implemented is being conceived of as communities within Saugeen Ojibway Nation's traditional territory, including: The Blue Mountains, Grey County, Southern Georgian Bay communities, Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation, Chippewas of Saugeen First Nation, and other communities that may be within this broad area. All proposals must be youth-led and support the Town's Future Story and/or Grey County's climate change action plan, Going Green in Grey. Information that is currently available for The Blue Mountains YCAF can be found on the Town's website at www.thebluemountains.ca/YCAF.

A grant agreement was received from Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors on April 29, 2024, on behalf of the Youth Climate Action Fund for the total allocation of \$50,000 USD. This grant is made possible through the support of Bloomberg Philanthropies in partnership with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and the Bloomberg Center for Public Innovation (BCPI) at Johns Hopkins University. Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors is responsible for administering the funding portion of the YCAF.

If the full \$50,000 is subsequently allocated to youth-led climate action projects by September 30, 2024, with eligible project amounts ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 USD, the Town will be eligible to access an additional \$100,000 USD for further youth-led climate projects in late 2024 for implementation in 2025.

D. Analysis

The YCAF allocation of \$50,000 USD was not included in the 2024 Budget. As described in the Financial Implications section, expenses such as staff time, communications or event costs will be compensated by the fund up to \$10,000 USD. For the Town to accept the \$50,000 USD amount from Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors on behalf of the YCAF, it is recommended that Council authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute a Grant Agreement with Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors.

An approximate timeline of the YCAF includes receiving proposal submissions from eligible youth-led projects in June and July, convening a selection committee to identify successful proposals in August and September, and implementation of the projects completed by December 30, 2024. The timely receipt of funds will enable The Blue Mountains YCAF program to proceed with preparing local and regional stakeholders, such as local governments and non-profit organizations, to encourage and support youth-led climate action projects that meet YCAF and Town eligibility requirements. This is a tight timeline, however, there has been strong and growing interest among a wide variety of local and regional stakeholders to support a successful program. All 100 international communities selected for the YCAF, including several in Canada (Guelph, Halifax, Kitchener, New Westminster, and Oakville) are subject to the same timeline.

The Grant Agreement outlines the amount (\$50,000 USD) and specifies the funding must be used for the charitable purpose of administering a microgrant program for youth aged 15-24 to implement climate action projects. The Agreement includes a list of requirements for the Town, which are already underway (paraphrased as follows):

- Create a municipal YCAF project team;
- Create an application process to identify, select and fund eligible projects that align with the Town's climate change objectives;
- Promote the YCAF opportunity widely beginning with a Mayoral call to action;
- Select successful applicants and award the funds in amounts between \$1,000 and \$5,000 USD;
- Track progress on projects with at least one output (work in progress) and one outcome (demonstrating the impact); and,
- Engage municipal and community partners to disseminate the YCAF opportunity to the broader resident population.

The Grant Agreement also includes the following clauses outlining requirements for: recipient tax status; the purpose of the grant; the payment schedule (a single payment date for the lump sum of \$50,000 USD); a progress report due date (February 28, 2025); intellectual property; grant acknowledgement/transparency; termination; repayment; recordkeeping and retention; audit; legal compliance; prohibited activities; OFAC and anti-terrorism compliance; anti-discrimination and anti-harassment; anti-slavery and anti-trafficking compliance; anti-bribery and anti-corruption; safeguarding compliance; and an acknowledgement of the full Agreement. The Grant Agreement is included in Attachment 1.

If the Town and regional partners can successfully utilize the full \$50,000 USD (estimated at roughly \$41,000 as youth climate grants and \$9,000 for eligible expenditures by the Town) before the September 30, 2024 deadline, the Town will be eligible for an additional \$100,000 USD to support additional projects into 2025. Should a new Grant Agreement be required, it is recommended that Council authorize the Clerk and Mayor to execute this Grant Agreement with Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors acting on behalf of the Youth Climate Action Fund.

E. Strategic Priorities

1. Communication and Engagement

We will enhance communications and engagement between Town Staff, Town residents and stakeholders

3. Community

We will protect and enhance the community feel and the character of the Town, while ensuring the responsible use of resources and restoration of nature.

F. Environmental Impacts

Youth-led projects supported by the Youth Climate Action Fund will support the Goals and Bold Actions of The Blue Mountains Future Story, as well as community-wide climate change objectives outlined in Going Green in Grey – Grey County’s climate change action plan. Climate change is an emergency, as declared by the Town in 2019, and will affect youth to a greater extent than older populations. The YCAF provides youth with an opportunity to become directly involved, build capacity across the region and support the climate change and sustainability objectives of their communities.

G. Financial Impacts

As part of the Town’s follow-up documentation to Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors (RPA), a high-level budget was submitted to allocate a portion of the available \$50,000 USD for Town expenses that will be incurred to administer and support the YCAF, such as staff time, program design, communications, and events. The Town is allowed to claim up to \$10,000 USD for expenses and proposed in the budget submitted to RPA that up to \$9,000 USD would be needed to cover staff time, communications, and event expenses.

This program was not considered during the 2024 Town Budget process, including allocation of Sustainability staff time. However, the outcomes of the funding program will and do directly support many of the actions and key steps of The Blue Mountains Future Story, which is the intended role of the Sustainability Division staff. This program will help to build a network to champion sustainability efforts in the community (Bold Action 18).

The \$50,000 USD amount is roughly equivalent to \$68,370 CAD using the monthly USD–CAD exchange rate for April 2024 (1.3674) from the Bank of Canada Monthly Exchange Rate website.

H. In Consultation With

Sam Dinsmore, Acting Director of Finance

I. Public Engagement

The topic of this Staff Report has not been the subject of a Public Meeting and/or a Public Information Centre as neither a Public Meeting nor a Public Information Centre are required. However, any comments regarding this report should be submitted to Nicholas Cloet, Sustainability Coordinator sustainability@thebluemountains.ca.

J. Attached

1. Attachment 1: Youth Climate Action Fund Grant Agreement

Respectfully submitted,

Nicholas Cloet,
Sustainability Coordinator

Jeffery Fletcher,
Acting Director of Operations

For more information, please contact:
Nicholas Cloet, Sustainability Coordinator
sustainability@thebluemountains.ca
519-599-3131 extension 235

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	CSOPS.24.038 Youth Climate Action Fund Grant Acceptance.docx
Attachments:	- Attachment 1 Youth Climate Action Fund Grant Agreement.pdf
Final Approval Date:	May 6, 2024

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Jeff Fletcher - May 6, 2024 - 1:59 PM

Jeff Fletcher - May 6, 2024 - 2:01 PM