



**The Corporation of the
City of Sault Ste. Marie**

C O U N C I L R E P O R T

April 29, 2025

TO: Mayor Matthew Shoemaker and Members of City Council
AUTHOR: Emily Cormier
DEPARTMENT: Community Development and Enterprise Services
RE: Community Development Fund – Green Initiatives Program
Applications 2025 Q1 Intake

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval of recommendations from the Environmental Sustainability Committee for the distribution of Community Development Fund (CDF) – Green Initiatives Program funds.

Background

The purpose of the Green Initiatives Program of the Community Development Fund (CDF) is to support green initiatives that result in reduced greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs), improve water quality/rehabilitation, increase energy efficiency, healthy and resilient ecosystems, including habitat restoration, active transportation and waste reduction.

The City of Sault Ste. Marie Environmental Sustainability Committee (ESC) is responsible for making recommendations for the allocation of funds for eligible projects or programs that support the City's environmental plans and practices. Funding applications are reviewed by the ESC in accordance with the CDF – Green Initiatives Program guidelines and are accepted in four quarterly intakes throughout the year.

Total annual funds available for all projects under the CDF – Green Initiatives Program in 2025 is \$64,459. Note an extra \$14,459 was allocated to the fund this year due to a \$1,194 carry forward from 2021 – 2023 and \$13,265 from the 2022 Deep Energy Retrofit Project, which came in under budget. Eligible applicants include not-for-profit organizations, unincorporated organizations/collectives, local school or schools groups / committees and City departments.

Analysis

At the ESC meeting on Tuesday April 15, 2025, three projects received the following recommendations:

Resolved that the Environmental Sustainability Committee supports the request for funding from the CDF Green Initiatives Program for the Save Our Young Adults (SOYA) Community Garden amounts and recommends that Council approve \$13,492 in project funding.

Resolved that the Environmental Sustainability Committee supports the request for funding from the CDF Green Initiatives Program for the Clean North Repair Café Project and recommends that Council approve \$4,455 in project funding.

Resolved that the Environmental Sustainability Committee supports the request for funding from the CDF Green Initiatives Program for the ARCH Hospice LED Lighting Project and recommends that Council approve \$5,984 in project funding.

A summary of each of the recommended projects is provided below.

1. Save Our Young Adults (SOYA) Community Garden Project

The project includes moving the Étienne Brulé Community Garden from Captain Nichola Goddard Park to Esposito Park, rebuilding the 22 garden beds that have reached the end of their lifespan, and building a perimeter fence to protect the garden beds. Funding is sought to help pay for the new garden beds and fence, as well as equipment, tools, and amenities for the garden.

2. Clean North Repair Café Project

This project seeks to support the inaugural Sault Repair Café. Repair Cafés are an international movement that started in Amsterdam and are free meeting places that focus on repairing things (together)¹. At a Repair Café location, fixers, tools, and materials will be available to help attendees make any necessary repairs. Repairs are usually minor and can occur on clothes, furniture, electrical appliances, bicycles, crockery, toys, etc. The Sault's first Repair Café will focus on three repair themes: sewing/knitting/darning, bicycles, and small household electrical (cord, plugs, switches). The goal of the project is to promote the concept of repair, not replace, and divert damaged and broken items from the landfill.

3. ARCH Hospice LED Lighting Project

This project seeks to provide funding support to replace ARCH Hospice's outdated fluorescent fixtures with energy-efficient LEDs, reducing energy use. As a 24/7 facility, this upgrade will enhance efficiency and sustainability.

Financial Implications

The 2025 Community Development Fund – Green Initiatives Fund currently has an uncommitted balance of \$64,459 available to support the three projects in this report totalling \$23,931, leaving \$40,528 for the rest of the year.

¹ <https://www.repaircafe.org/en/about/>

Strategic Plan / Policy Impact / Climate Impact

The project recommendations support the sustainable growth value and quality of life and infrastructure focus areas of the Community Strategic Plan for 2024 – 2027 by encouraging sustainable options, enhancing green spaces, investing in recreation, and seeking opportunities to implement sustainable solutions.

In addition, the applications support actions in the Sault Ste. Marie Community GHG Reduction Plan: 2020 – 2030, including:

- Encouraging the preservation of natural areas
- Environmental Stewardship
- Energy Efficiency

Recommendation

It is therefore recommended that Council take the following action:

Resolved that the report of the Sustainability Coordinator dated April 29, 2025 concerning Community Development Fund – Green Initiatives Program Applications 2025 Q1 Intake, be received and that the recommendations of the Environmental Sustainability Committee to support the three projects as follows be approved:

1. Save Our Young Adults (SOYA) Community Garden Project \$13,492;
2. Clean North Repair Café Project \$4,455; and
3. ARCH Hospice LED Lighting Project \$5,984.

Respectfully submitted,

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