

## **Staff Report 2019-0257**

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Meeting Date: December 3, 2019

Subject: 2019 School Green Fund Recommendations

Submitted By: Katelyn McFadyen, Manager, Energy and Environment

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

That School Green Fund grants, in the total amount of \$15,815, be allocated to the recipients outlined in Table 1 of Staff Report 2019-0257 and funded from the School Green Fund operating account; and

That the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute School Green Fund agreements with the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board and the Peel District School Board for the School Green Fund.

### **REPORT HIGHLIGHTS**

- The School Green Fund, established in 2013, provides funding to Public and Catholic schools in Caledon for the development and implementation of environmental projects, and to support the implementation of the Town's Community Climate Change Action Plan.
- The Town's 2019 call for applications resulted in 11 submissions with funding requests totaling almost \$20,000.
- Staff recommends that a total of \$15,815.00 be distributed amongst 10 schools, outlined in Table 1, based on the Corporate Environment Committee's evaluation of the applications received.

### **DISCUSSION**

The purpose of this Report is to summarize the projects being recommended for funding through the Town's 2019 School Green Fund by the Environment Committee and seek Council approval to distribute and execute agreements with 10 schools.

The Town's Community Climate Change Action Plan is comprised of actions aimed at reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in several sectors within the Town. One priority action area involves educating students and residents about climate change and the importance of reducing GHG emissions. This action is to be partially addressed through the implementation of a School Green Fund. In 2013, Council approved the School Green Fund grant program through Report DP-2013-104.

The 2019 School Green Fund application window closed on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019, allowing four weeks for all local Caledon Public and Catholic schools to submit an application. A total of 11 School Green Fund applications were received in 2019, which equates to almost 50 percent of all Public and Catholic schools in Caledon.

Evaluation Procedure

An overview of the evaluation process of the School Green Fund is outlined below:

1. Energy and Environment staff accept and pre-screen project applications to ensure that the minimum eligibility criteria are met, outlined below:
  - Applicant school must be under the Peel District School Board or the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board and must:
    - Receive approval from Public School Facilities Management Team;
    - Receive approval from Catholic School Grants Approval Committee.
  - One project and grant per school per year;
  - Funding must be used within a year of project approval.
2. The Staff Environment Committee, consisting of staff across various Town Departments, conduct independent evaluations of each grant application and provide a score out of 10, using an evaluation matrix. The evaluation considers:
  - Whether the project has a clear environmental focus;
  - How the project aligns with Town Energy and Environmental Strategic Plans and Policies;
  - The project deliverables and outcomes;
  - Student and staff engagement;
  - Budget and timeline.
3. Following the independent evaluations, the Staff Environment Committee meet, as a group, to finalize comments, scores for each application and to determine the recipients of the School Green Fund. Projects with an average score of 8-10, are eligible to receive their full funding request. Projects that receive an average score of 6-7 from the Committee, are eligible to receive partial funding (equivalent to 66% of the total funding request). Lastly, projects that receive a score of less than 6 are not recommended for funding by the Committee. Funding allocation is subject to budget available.

Applications recommended to receive 2019 funding are listed in Table 1 below.

Table 1: School Green Fund Application Summary			
School Name	Project Name	Funding Request	Recommended Funding Award
Allan Drive Middle School	Pollinator and Landscape Garden	\$2,000.00	\$1,320.00
Belfountain Public School	Rain Garden Project	\$2,000.00	\$1,320.00
Caledon Central Public School	Outdoor Classroom Project	\$1,978.00	\$1,978.00
Caledon East Public School	Outdoor Classroom Project	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Holy Family Elementary School	Eco Garden Project	\$1,654.32	\$1,092.00

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<b>James Grieve Public School</b>	School Tree Planting Project	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00
<b>Mayfield Secondary School</b>	Garden Tower Project	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
<b>Robert F. Hall Secondary School</b>	Greenhouse Project	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
<b>Southfields Village Public School</b>	Outdoor Classroom Project	\$2,000.00	\$2000.00
<b>St. Cornelius Elementary School</b>	Outdoor Classroom Project	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
<b>St. Evan Catholic Elementary School</b>	Drought-Resistant Garden Project	\$764.00	\$505.00
		<b>\$19,996.00</b>	<b>\$15,815.00</b>

Full project descriptions of each application and their score are attached as Schedule A to Staff Report 2019-0257.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Annual funding of \$18,000 for the School Green Fund grant (account 01-09-44040-365-62393) is available in the Energy and Environment Division's operating budget. The recommended disbursements for 2019's School Green Fund grants total \$15,815, which is within the approved budget for this program.

**COUNCIL WORK PLAN**

Not Applicable

**ATTACHMENTS**

Schedule A: School Green Fund Project Descriptions and Environment Committee Evaluation Results