



## REGION OF WATERLOO

### PLANNING, HOUSING, AND COMMUNITY SERVICES Community Planning CORPORATE RESOURCES Facilities Management

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**TO:** Chair Tom Galloway and Members of the Administration and Finance Committee

**DATE:** February 26, 2013 **FILE CODE:** D06-80, D03-80/ESF

**SUBJECT:** **2013 COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL FUND ALLOCATION**

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#### RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo take the following actions with respect to the 2013 Community Environmental Fund allocations as described in Report No. P-13-022/CR-FM-13-005, dated February 26, 2013:

- a) Approve project funding allocations of \$111,036 for the Environmental Stewardship Grant stream, as described in Attachment A; and
- b) Approve project funding allocations of \$50,000 for the Sustainability Grant stream, as described in Attachment B.

#### SUMMARY:

The Community Environmental Fund was established by Regional Council in October 2011 (CR-FM-11-022/P-11-085). The Fund consists of a Stewardship Grant stream (formerly the Environmental Stewardship Fund which operated in 2010 and 2011) administered by Planning, Housing and Community Services and a Sustainability Grant stream administered by Corporate Resources.

The Community Environmental Fund was widely advertised for proposal submissions in the late fall of 2012, and the application package was made available on the Regional website. By the January 31, 2013 deadline, 36 diverse proposals were received from a wide variety of local applicants. In accordance with eligibility criteria previously established by Regional Council, staff is recommending that the 24 projects listed in Attachment A be funded from the Stewardship Grant stream and the seven projects listed in Attachment B be funded from the Sustainability Grant stream.

The projects are anticipated to involve a wide variety of community stakeholders and cover a range of environmental activities such as rainwater harvesting, installation of an electric vehicle charging station, schoolyard greening projects which will further the Region's skin cancer prevention program, familiarizing New Canadians with local environmental issues and involving them in stewardship initiatives, and restoring a rare tallgrass prairie and wetland system in the Dumfries Carolinian Environmentally Sensitive Landscape. Applicants include local schools from elementary to university level, Area Municipalities, the *rare* Charitable Research Reserve, charitable and non-profit organizations, individual researchers, and the Waterloo Stewardship Council.

It is recommended that \$ 111,036 be allocated to the 24 projects in the Environmental Stewardship stream and that \$50,000 be allocated to the seven recommended projects in the Sustainability stream. The recommended allocations from the Community Environmental Fund are matched by the investments in cash or in-kind by the applicants for an estimated total of \$1,092,026 or \$6.23 for every dollar invested by the Region. Six projects listed in Appendix C are not recommended for funding at this time for reasons specified in the project summaries.

**REPORT:**

The Community Environmental Fund was established by Regional Council on October 26, 2011 (CR-FM-11-022/P-11-085). The Fund fulfills an action under the Environmental Sustainability Focus Area of the Region's 2011-2014 Strategic Plan to "Develop and implement an integrated funding program to support community-based environmental initiatives". The Community Environmental Fund aligns the Environmental Stewardship Fund previously established in 2009 with the new Community Sustainability Grant program to create an integrated environmental funding program consisting of a Sustainability stream and a Stewardship stream. The Community Environmental Fund welcomes applications for environmental projects falling within the following eight categories:

**Stewardship projects:**

1. Enhancement and restoration of natural areas
2. Naturalization projects
3. Acquisition of ecologically significant natural areas
4. Public education and awareness initiatives on some aspect of environmental stewardship
5. Research related to stewardship of natural areas

**Sustainability projects:**

6. Demonstration projects focused on reduction of GHG and air emissions, energy conservation and waste reduction/diversion
7. Public education/awareness initiatives which promote long term behavioural change on aspects of environmental sustainability (e.g. climate change)
8. Environmental sustainability-based research (focused on GHG and air emissions, energy conservation or waste reduction/diversion)

The Community Environmental Fund was widely advertised for proposal submissions in the late fall of 2012, and the application package was made available on the Regional website. By the January 31, 2013 deadline, 36 diverse proposals were received from a wide variety of local applicants. Staff has reviewed the applications based on their fit with the eligibility criteria for the Fund, and where necessary, followed up with applicants to clarify that component cost items are appropriate and consistent with criteria approved by Council for applicants in general, and schoolyard greening projects in particular.

The projects cover a range of environmental activities, and are anticipated to involve many community stakeholders such as local schools from elementary to university level, three Area Municipalities, individual researchers, *rare* Charitable Research Reserve, charitable and non-profit organizations, and the Waterloo Stewardship Council. Together, it is anticipated that hundreds of the Region's citizens of all ages will be involved in implementing the projects which will not only foster a culture of sustainability and environmental stewardship, but also nurture new skills and develop community capacity.

**Funding Allocation**Stewardship Grants

Twenty four applications under the Stewardship Grant stream are recommended for approval at this time as follows:

Saginaw Public School	School Greening Project	\$3,000
Elmira District Secondary School	Snyder Street Greening Project	\$3,000
Cambridge City Green/City of Cambridge	Cambridge Stewardship	\$5,401
Hillcrest Public School	Graduation Forest	\$2,500
Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate Institute	Sports Field Restoration	\$3,000
Woolwich Environmental Enhancement Committee	Tree Nursery Project, Elmira	\$1,978
University of Waterloo	Ecoregional Restoration Research	\$500

House of Friendship	Eby Village Urban Greening Project	\$8,422
St. Teresa of Avila Elementary School	Creative Outdoor Play Project	\$3,000
Waterloo Stewardship Council	Restoration of Tallgrass Prairie	\$3,452
Coronation Public School	Outdoor Classroom	\$3,000
Crestview Public School	Greenspace Enhancement	\$3,000
FutureWatch Environment Development/Education	Green Diversity Project	\$10,000
Edna Staebler Public School	Junior Grove Project	\$2,486
Wilfrid Laurier University	Wetland seed collection	\$5,000
Matthew & Donna Monteyne	Naturalization of 248 Woolwich	\$1,000
Bluevale Collegiate Institute	School Ground Greening Project	\$2,000
Southridge Public School	Southridge Naturalized Garden	\$2,000
City of Waterloo	Environmental Reserve Project	\$16,430
<b>rare</b>	ECO Centre Heritage Garden	\$5,200
<b>rare</b>	Ecological Landscape Restoration	\$12,200
10,000 Trees Project Inc.	City Shade Strategy	\$9,472
St. Peter Catholic School	School Ground Greening Initiative	\$1,995
Baden Community Association	Foundry Greensway Project	\$3,000

The recommended funding levels for the 24 stewardship projects range from \$500 to \$16,430. They have been grouped by size category in Table 2. It will be seen that all but two of the projects were for \$10,000 or under. There is a concentration of projects in the \$2,500 to \$5,000 category due to eleven schoolyard greening projects, where the maximum allowable request is \$3,000.

### Recommended Environmental Stewardship Grants by Dollar Amount

Amount Requested	No.
≤ \$1,000	2
\$1,001 - \$2,500	6
\$2,501 - \$5,000	9
\$5,001 - \$10,000	5
\$10,001 - \$20,000	2
\$20,001 - \$35,000	0
\$35,001 - \$50,000	0

The three largest recommended grants are for \$16,430 to the City of Waterloo for the second phase of the naturalization of the Laurel Creek Corridor, \$12,200 to the **rare** Charitable Research Reserve for landscaping the recently installed North House and \$10,000 to the FutureWatch Environment and Education Partners Green Diversity Project, which will familiarize New Canadians with local environmental issues and involve them in stewardship project. Seventeen of the 24 recommended stewardship stream projects comprising 63.4% of the recommended dollar allocations are intended to fund in whole or in part the planting of native trees in the rural and urban areas of the Region.

The recommended allocations will significantly assist with a variety of environmental projects some of which may not have been undertaken or which would have been initiated at a smaller scale without the assistance of the Community Environmental Fund. The recommended Regional grants will be leveraged by financial and/or in-kind contributions from the applicants. Staff has calculated that for every dollar of the recommended Regional stewardship stream grants, \$ 7.74 will be invested in the projects by the proponents. Therefore the recommended grants from the Region's Community Environmental Fund will yield an additional investment of approximately \$858,990. This amount is skewed, however, by the 10,000 Trees application, which will involve a major investment in the development of an app to document and help manage the urban forest. Without this application, the multiplier would still be \$3.80 for every Regional dollar invested.

### Sustainability Grants

A total of 12 applications were received under the Sustainability Grant stream plus one more that overlapped with the fund criteria for the Stewardship Grant stream with a total grant request value of

approximately \$109,000. Seven applications under the Sustainability Grant stream are recommended for approval at this time as follows:

The Working Centre	Bikesharing Network	\$15,000
Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate Institute	Rain water harvesting	\$10,000
Conrad Grebel	Electric Vehicle charging station	\$5,000
Transition KW	Climate Change Adaptation Toolkit	\$5,000
Alternatives Journal	Environmental Excellence Film Festival	\$5,000
THE MUSEUM	Kids Inspiring Change	\$5,000
My Sustainable Canada	Informed Energy Star purchases	\$5,000

The recommended funding levels for the 7 sustainability projects range from \$5,000 to \$15,000. They have been grouped by size category in Table 1. It can be seen that most of the projects were for \$5,000 or under. The projects recommended for approval at this time are summarized in Appendix B and equal the full \$50,000 available within the fund for 2013. Appendix C includes the projects that are not recommended for funding at this time for reasons specified in the summary. Moreover, the amount of the requests received exceeded the availability of financial resources within this grant stream.

#### Recommended Sustainability Grants by Dollar Amount

Amount Requested	No.
≤ \$1,000	0
\$1,001 - \$5,000	5
\$5,001 - \$10,000	1
\$10,001 - \$20,000	1
>\$20,000	0

The recommended allocations will significantly assist with a variety of environmental sustainability projects some of which may not have been undertaken or which would have been initiated at a smaller scale without the assistance of the Community Environmental Fund. The recommended Regional grants will be leveraged by financial and/or in-kind contributions from the applicants. Staff has calculated that for every dollar of the recommended Sustainability Grants stream, \$ 2.44 will be invested in the projects by the proponents. Therefore the recommended grants from the Region's Community Environmental Fund will yield an additional investment of approximately \$122,000.

#### Conclusion

In reviewing the applications, staff has followed up with applicants to further clarify details of their proposals, and ensure they are in the appropriate granting stream and that individual component items in the proposed project budgets are appropriate and comply with the guidelines earlier approved by Council for applications in general and for schoolyard greening projects in particular. Staff is now recommending that the 31 projects listed in summary form in Attachments A and B be funded (this includes one application that overlaps both Stewardship/Sustainability grant streams and is counted as two projects). All 24 stewardship applications received and seven of the 12 sustainability applications are recommended for funding. Six sustainability applications summarized in Appendix C are not recommended for funding for reasons specified in the summary. Furthermore, the amount of the requests received by the sustainability stream exceeded the funds available at this time.

Subject to approval by Regional Council, successful recipients will receive formal letters specifying the total amount of the grant and the items for which it may be used. The letter will be accompanied by an agreement, prepared with the assistance of Legal Services, by which the recipients commit to abide by the terms and conditions of the grant. Before payments are authorized, staff will continue to verify that the agreed upon works have been accomplished by reviewing brief reports completed by the recipients, conducting a site inspection where necessary, or receiving copies of studies or research.

**Area Municipal Consultation/Coordination**

The application package was circulated to all Area Municipalities. The Cities of Cambridge, Kitchener and Waterloo along with the Township of Woolwich have all submitted successful applications at various times.

**CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN:**

This initiative supports Focus Area 1 - Environmental Sustainability Actions: Develop and implement an integrated funding program to support community-based environmental initiatives and work in partnership with various stakeholders to develop policies and programs to provide shade (e.g. tree canopy) in our communities.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The approved 2013 Planning, Housing and Community Services Capital program (project 22027) provides \$200,000 for projects that enhance Environmental Stewardship. The recommended allocations in the Environmental Stewardship stream will be funded from this project. The 2013 Corporate Resource operating budget provides \$50,000 for the Community Sustainability initiatives.

**OTHER DEPARTMENT CONSULTATIONS/CONCURRENCE:**

Legal Services and Finance are involved in the administration of this fund.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Appendix A - Summary of Stewardship Projects Recommended for Approval  
Appendix B - Summary of Sustainability Projects Recommended for Approval  
Appendix C – Community Environmental Fund Applications Not Recommended for Approval

**PREPARED BY:** *Chris Gosselin*, Manager, Environmental Planning  
*David Roewade*, Sustainability Planner, Corporate Resources

**APPROVED BY:** *Rob Horne*, Commissioner of Planning Housing and Community Services  
*Gary Sosnoski*, Commissioner, Corporate Resources

**APPENDIX A**  
**STEWARDSHIP GRANTS RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL – FEBRUARY 26, 2013**

**Project Number****2013-01 Saginaw Public School Greening Project – Phase 2 (Categories 1,3,5) - \$3,000**

The Saginaw Public School Greening Project seeks to create shaded areas with armour stone rocks on the schoolgrounds as places where students, and particularly all-day kindergarten students, can sit, chat, read, or participate in passive play. Students and local Scouts will care for the trees after they are planted. The total estimated cost of this project including in-kind contributions is \$9,000. It is recommended that up to \$3,000 be allocated to the Saginaw Public School Greening Project – Phase 2 project for the purchase and installation of planting materials, armour stone, and soil amendments.

**2013-02 Elmira District Secondary School Snyder Street Greening (Categories 2,4,7) - \$3,000**

This project is intended to create greenspace along the barren rear of the school property and provide a shaded seating area where students wait for their buses. It will also help educate students in landscaping and horticulture. As part of their learning experiences, senior students will be involved in the design and construction, and planting of the project, and in the process will learn about the importance of urban greenspace. The total estimated cost of this project including in-kind contributions is \$ 9,256. It is recommended that up to \$3,000 be allocated to the Elmira District Secondary School Snyder Street Greening Project for the purchase and installation of planting materials, topsoil, and soil amendments.

**2013-03 Cambridge City Green Stewardship Projects (Categories 1,2,4) - \$5,401**

Cambridge City Green has for many years carried out environmental stewardship projects in the City of Cambridge. These projects have involved many Cambridge citizens of all ages and backgrounds as well as local businesses, schools, and community organisations. This year, eleven projects are planned throughout the City. They will involve the planting of native trees in parks, along watercourses, on schoolgrounds, in the Dumfries Conservation Area, and on private lands. The total estimated cost of this project including in-kind contributions is \$64,948. It is recommended that up to \$5,401 be allocated to the City of Cambridge City Green Stewardship Projects for the purchase of planting materials.

**2013-05 Hillcrest Public School Soccer Field and Graduation Forest (Category 2) - \$2,500**

Hillcrest Public School is undergoing an expansion to accommodate full-day kindergarten. This has resulted in significant alteration to the schoolyard and relocation of the soccer field. It is proposed to create a naturalized seating area in association with an existing treed area which can accommodate spectators of soccer games and serve as an outdoor classroom. This area is also adjacent to a well-used City of Cambridge community trail. In addition, trees will be planted in the general area for each graduating class. The total estimated cost of this project including in-kind contributions is \$3,000. It is recommended that up to \$2,500 be allocated to the Hillcrest Public School Soccer Field and Graduation Forest project for the purchase and installation of armour stone rocks and native species of trees.

**2013-08a Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate and Vocational School Sports Field Restoration (Categories 2,4) - \$3,000**

Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate and Vocational School (KCI) is planning to develop its newly renovated sports field. This will entail the planting of native trees and shrubs. The planting will increase the tree cover in the downtown area, especially in light of the fact that some of the front lawn area will be used to accommodate the development of the Rapid Transit. Part of the project will involve the installation of a rain-harvesting system. This component has been addressed as Item 2013-08b in the Sustainability grants. The total estimated cost of this project including in-kind contributions is \$29,350. It is recommended that up to \$3,000 be allocated to Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate and Vocational School Sports Field Restoration project for the purchase and installation of native trees and shrubs.

**2013-09 Township of Woolwich Environmental Enhancement Committee (TWEEC) Tree Nursery Project, Elmira (Category 2) - \$1,978**

The Township of Woolwich Environmental Enhancement Committee (TWEEC), which has been appointed by Township Council, has been planting trees in various areas of Woolwich Township along roadsides trails, and on other public lands. These projects have involved significant numbers of citizens of all ages as well as local schools, scouts, and church groups. This was funded in part by the Community Environmental Fund (Projects 2012-15, 2012-16). TWEEC is now proposing to establish a small tree nursery in order to produce small-size planting stock to naturalization projects.

This would be located on Township-owned land near a Regionally-designated Significant Woodland in the industrial area of Elmira. This project will be undertaken in collaboration with the Elmira District Secondary School which would produce seedlings. A previous grant to the school from the former Environmental Stewardship Fund (Project 2010-05) has helped modernise the greenhouse watering system. The total estimated cost of this project including in-kind contributions is \$10,146. It is recommended that up to \$1,978 be allocated to the Township of Woolwich Environmental Enhancement Committee (TWEEC) Tree Nursery Project for the purchase of materials necessary to crate the tree nursery.

**2013-10 Assessment of Public Perception of ecological restoration initiatives in urban neighbourhoods (Category 5) -\$500**

Today a variety of ecological restoration and naturalization initiatives are being undertaken in our urban areas. It is anticipated the future Urban Greenland Strategy will further contribute to this trend. To promote such initiatives, it will be essential to gauge public perception of naturalization projects as well as residents' willingness to adopt new landscaping practices. Graduate student Kathy Szymczak is undertaking a master's thesis at the University of Waterloo to survey the attitudes of residents in neighbourhoods in the inner city, older suburbs, and newer suburbs of Waterloo. The total estimated cost of this project including in-kind contributions is approximately \$2,300. It is recommended that up to \$500 be allocated to Kathy Szymczak at the University of Waterloo to cover the costs of preparing and administering the surveys required for this research.

**2013-12 House of Friendship Eby Village Urban Greening Project (Category 4) - \$8,422**

The House of Friendship is proposing an Urban Greening Project on its Eby Village property in Downtown Kitchener. It is proposed to create a green oasis on the front and rear portions of the site. This would involve planting a vegetable garden and fruit trees in the sunny front area of the building and creating a native woodland garden in the shadier rear of the building. Although relatively modest in area, a project of this nature can contribute to the overall objective of creating more urban greenspace and can teach residents about various aspects of land stewardship. Eby Village provides supportive housing to 64 single low-income individuals living with various physical and mental challenges. A significant proportion of the residents have been actively involved in the planning to date, and are in effect taking ownership of the project. A key requirement of the project is a part-time co-ordinator during the planning and implementation stage. The total estimated cost of this project including in-kind contributions is \$ 96,698. It is recommended that up to \$8,422 be allocated to Eby Village for planting stock, a 35 week part-time Urban Greening Project contract co-ordinator, and the production of educational materials for the residents.

**2013-13 St. Teresa of Avila Elementary School Creative Outdoor Play Project (Categories 2,4) - \$3,000**

St. Teresa of Avila Public School is planning on naturalizing the school's play area in order to improve student outdoor learning and development. The project includes native tree planting, placement of landscaping stones, development of stone pathways and establishment of a butterfly garden. The initiative will provide more shade and opportunities to hold classes outdoors thereby increasing opportunities for environmental education and outdoor play. In addition, students will be provided stewardship opportunities by assisting with watering, mulching, and tending to the butterfly garden. The total estimated cost of this project including in-kind contributions is \$62,671. It is recommended that up to \$3,000 be allocated to Creative Outdoor Play Project for the purchase and installation of trees, plants mulch and landscaping stones.

**2013-14 Restoration and management of the tallgrass prairie within the Branchton Swamp Complex (Categories 1,4,5) - \$ 3,452**

The east bank of the Grand River in North Dumfries Township contains one of the best concentrations of tallgrass prairie habitat in the Region. This is associated with the Galt Moraine within the Dumfries Carolinian Environmentally Sensitive Landscape. In recent years, the Waterloo Stewardship Council has worked with local landowners, and in particular Waynco Sand and Gravel, to restore some of this rare habitat type through prescribed burns. The Waterloo Stewardship Council is now planning to restore and manage additional tallgrass prairie and associated wetland communities within the Branchton Swamp Complex. Much of this area is Provincially Significant Wetland and part of Environmentally Sensitive Policy Area 67. The proposed work will complement the earlier stewardship work on the Waynco property and help enhance local ecological linkages. In the past, the Region has funded activities of the Waterloo Stewardship Network when it was under the auspices of the Ministry of Natural Resources. Recently, however, the Province has ceased funding stewardship networks, and the Waterloo Stewardship Council has now incorporated as a charity and is raising funds from other sources. The total estimated cost of this project including in-kind contributions is \$ 12,796. It is recommended that up to \$3,452 be allocated to the Waterloo Stewardship Council to carry out the restoration and management of the tallgrass prairie and associated wetland habitat within the Branchton Swamp Complex.

**2013-15 Coronation Public School Outdoor Classroom (Category 4) - \$3,000**

Coronation Public School is planning the development of an outdoor classroom. The project will include tree and shrub planting as well as placement of landscaping stones. The project will involve staff, students, parents and other community members in terms of volunteer labour and ongoing stewardship of the area. The overall goal is to engage students in environmental stewardship through outdoor learning. The total estimated cost of this project including in-kind contributions is \$6,554. It is recommended that up to \$3,000 be allocated to Coronation Public School Outdoor Classroom for the purchase and installation of trees, mulch and landscaping stones.

**2013-17 Crestview Public School Green Team (Categories 1, 2) - \$3,000**

Crestview Public School is planning to enhance green space at the school to promote outdoor play and environmental stewardship for students. The project includes adding trees to existing areas to create shaded groves; placing benches and landscaping stones for seating; and establishing berms for active play. It is anticipated that staff, students and parents will contribute to ongoing stewardship activities for the site. The total estimated cost of this project including in-kind contributions is \$7,000. It is recommended that up to \$3,000 be allocated to Crestview Green Team for the purchase and installation of trees and landscaping stones.

**2013-19 FutureWatch Environment Development and Education Partners Green Diversity Project (Categories 4, 7) - \$10,000**

The Green Diversity Project helps New Canadians become more aware of local environmental issue and enable them to participate in environmental stewardship activities. Recently Newcomer Environmental Committees have been established in Kitchener and Waterloo. The group has also been producing hard copy and digital informational material in Arabic, Spanish, and Urdu to reach New Canadians. The programme also takes groups of participants to natural areas or other sites of environmental significance where they can become acquainted with local environmental conditions and issues and even become involved in stewardship activities. A similar programme operates in the City of Guelph, where it has been financially supported by the City. The total estimated cost of the Waterloo Region project including in-kind contributions is \$28,783. It is recommended that up to \$10,000 be allocated to the FutureWatch Environmental Development and Education Partners Green Diversity Project to cover the costs of outings, project co-ordination, and the preparation of informational materials.

**2013-20 Edna Staebler Public School Junior Grove Project (Categories 1,2) - \$2,486**

Edna Staebler Public School is planning to plant a grove of trees in the schoolyard. The overall goals of the project are to add shade to a new and rather barren playground; create an inviting area where students can sit, play and learn; and involve students in the naturalization project. Project

activities will include tree planting and placement of landscaping stones in addition to ongoing stewardship of the area. The total estimated cost of this project including in-kind contributions is \$11,036. It is recommended that up to \$2,486 be allocated to Edna Staebler Junior Grove Project for the purchase and installation of trees and landscaping stones.

**2013-24 Wetland Seed Collection and Characterisation Project (Category 5) - \$5,000**

Two professors at the Biology Department at Wilfrid Laurier University are studying the biology of native and invasive species in our wetlands. This will have a practical application in assessing environmental impacts upon wetlands, addressing invasive wetland species and restoring degraded wetlands with appropriate native species. As part of this research, the professors are planning to establish a seed collection of wetland and riparian plants found in Waterloo Region determine seed germination and seed storage characteristics of these species, and analyse and document those characteristics. This information will fill in some knowledge gaps about wetland vegetation, and thereby be useful in designing wetland stewardship, rehabilitation and restoration plans. Detailed microscopic analysis of seed will permit identification of seeds from the seedbank in wetland soil samples and in sediments. The information will be curated through the university's herbarium where it will be available to interested researchers. Students will be involved in the collection of seed using appropriate collecting protocols and most aspect of the project. The total estimated cost of this project including in-kind contributions from the university is \$12,000. It is recommended that up to \$5,000 be allocated to the Wilfrid Laurier University Biology Department for supplies, microscopy expenses, and wages for students involved in the work.

**2013-25 Naturalization of 248 Woolwich Street, Kitchener (Category 4) - \$1,000**

The Monteyne family own a one acre agriculturally-zone property in the northeastern area of Kitchener not far from Kiwanis Park and the Grand River. They also live in proximity to a Regionally-designated Significant Woodland. For a number of years, they have been transforming the property using "permaculture" design principles. The rear portion of the property abuts an area now undergoing development as a new subdivision. A new stormwater management facility has been constructed behind the property. They plan to naturalize the rear portion of the property to create habitat for wildlife which are being displaced by the rapid residential development of the general area. The property is very visible from Falconridge Drive, and the family generally welcomes attention from neighbours who are curious about the family's land stewardship practices. They are planning to erect signage at the edge of the property to describe their land stewardship objectives. They will also share their experience through social media. In addition, they are planning to provide Bluevale Collegiate student volunteer opportunities. The total estimated cost of this project including in-kind contributions is \$15,804. It is recommended that up to \$1,000 be allocated to the Monteyne family naturalization project at 248 Woolwich Street, Kitchener for the purchase of seeding mixtures for the wetland, meadow and woodland edge and for the purchase of locally appropriate native tree and shrub species. Projects on private properties are eligible to receive stewardship stream grants.

**2013-26 Bluevale Collegiate Institute School Ground Greening Project (Categories 1,2,5,8) - \$2,000**

Bluevale Collegiate Institute is planning to replace portable classrooms at the school with a green space to be used by students and staff for educational and social gatherings. Remediation and naturalization of the space behind the school will include tree planting in addition to placement of mulch and landscaping stones. Trees will help to increase shade on school grounds and stones will be designed as a seating area. The total estimated cost of this project including in-kind contributions is \$11,300. It is recommended that up to \$2,000 be allocated to Bluevale Collegiate School Ground Greening Project for the purchase and installation of trees, mulch and landscaping stones.

**2013-27 Southridge Public School Naturalized Garden (Category 2) - \$2,000**

Southridge Public School is planning a naturalization project for a small courtyard at the school. Proposed work includes planting of native trees, shrubs and wildflowers in addition to placing landscaping stones for a seating area. The naturalized courtyard would be used as an educational resource for students and teachers to learn about ecology. The project will be implemented through the school's greening committee which will co-ordinate labour for the project and ensure long-term

stewardship of the area. The total estimated cost of this project including in-kind contributions is \$7,522. It is recommended that up to \$2,000 be allocated to the Southridge Naturalized Garden for the purchase and installation of trees, shrubs, wildflowers, mulch and landscaping stones.

**2013-28 Environmental Reserve Community Planting & Educational Project  
(Categories 1,4,5) - \$16,430**

The City of Waterloo and University of Waterloo have been collaborating with the Grand River Conservation Authority and other groups to enhance the natural corridor along Laurel Creek between the Laurel Creek Reservoir and Columbia Lake. Planting and naturalization is being carried out to widen the creek corridor in order to expand wildlife habitat and also to buffer the creek and improve surface water quality. In 2012, the Community Environmental Fund helped support this initiative, and as a result many Regional citizens were able to participate in the planting of trees and other stewardship activities along the corridor. The City has applied for further assistance in carrying out the planned 2013 activities. The total estimated cost of this project including in-kind contributions is \$ 33,834. It is recommended that up to \$ 16,430 be allocated to the City of Waterloo for the purchase of native p[lant material and also to assist with the busing of school students, and other costs for major event days.

**2013-31 Restoration of native vegetation along Blair Road adjoining the *rare* Charitable Research Reserve ECO Centre (Category 2) - \$5,200**

The recent completion of the *rare* Charitable Research Reserve ECO Centre in a heritage slit barn and 1840-vintage cottage on Blair Road has left the immediately adjoining area in need of landscaping. It is proposed to create a heritage garden using heirloom non-native garden plants around the house. In addition, it is also proposed to remove some non-native tree and shrub species along the front of the property and replace them with locally-appropriate native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers that will enhance the ecological quality and amenity value of this part of the Blair-Bechtel-Cruickston Environmentally Sensitive Landscape. The total estimated cost of this project including in-kind contributions is \$11,176. It is recommended that up to \$5,200 be allocated to the *rare* Charitable Research Reserve for the purchase and installation of native plant materials along Blair Road.

**2013-32 *rare* Charitable Research Reserve Ecological Landscaping around North House  
(Categories 1,4,7) - \$12,200**

In 2012, the Region approved a Community Environmental Fund sustainability grant to *rare* to assist with the relocation of the North House to its present prominent location on Blair Road. North House has attracted the attention of engineers, architects, and the general public as a demonstration project of more sustainable building technologies. It is now proposed to landscape the area around North House using locally-appropriate, water-efficient native plant species. The site is rather challenging due to the slope, the presence of natural springs, and the need to maintain an unobstructed path between the sun and the solar house. The total estimated cost of this project including in-kind contributions is \$30,669. It is recommended that up to \$12,200 be allocated to the *rare* Charitable Research Reserve for the purchase and installation of native plant materials, natural rocks and stone for the water feature/swale and for consulting fees for the design of the low-impact naturalized swale.

**2013-34 10,000 Trees City Shade Strategy (Categories 4,5) - \$9,472**

10,000 Trees is a registered charity that has planted thousands of trees. This work has involved many volunteers and been carried out in partnership with the Grand River Conservation Authority, City of Waterloo, and various private sector businesses. Through this work, it has become apparent that there is a need to keep better track of our urban forest, Trees age and decline, and we are now coping with an infestation of Emerald Ash Borer. 10,000 Trees is now working with the Centre for Community Mapping (COMAP), a not-for-profit software research and development partner organisation supported by the Computer Systems Group of the University of Waterloo to build and maintain a mobile application to map and document individual urban trees in terms of their species, size, condition, and so forth and developed by the "Neighbourwoods" protocol and reporting methodology developed by Prof. Andy Kenney of University of Toronto. 10,000 Trees has shown

interest in the Region's emerging shade strategy, and wants to work in partnership with the Region along with its other partners to develop the app which will be very useful in implementing the Regional shade initiative and also be useful well beyond our borders. The total estimated cost of this project including in-kind contributions is \$ 482,550. It is recommended that up to \$9,472 be allocated to the 10, 000 Trees City Shade Strategy for the purchase of mobile hardware and for a technical writing consultant.

**2013-35 St. Peter Catholic School Green Panthers School Ground Greening Initiative (Category 2) - \$1,995**

St. Peter Catholic School received funding from the ESF in 2012 to undertake a greening initiative which included tree planting and placement of landscaping stones. Due to the success of this initiative, the school is planning on adding additional trees and seating to provide more shade thereby increasing the naturalized area available to students. The total estimated cost of this project including in-kind contributions is \$2,384.25. It is recommended that up to \$1,995 be allocated to Green Panthers School Ground Greening Initiative for the purchase and installation of trees, mulch, soil and landscaping stones. This allocation is consistent with the approved guidelines for subsequent applications for funding.

**2013-36 Foundry Greensway Project (Baden) (Categories 1,2) - \$3,000**

The Baden Community Association is planning to create a natural landscape on a piece of property owned by Wilmot Township at the entrance to Baden. The property is now undeveloped and has a few trees growing upon it. The Community Association plans to plant a few larger trees and garden as well as to create a link to the Wilmot Trails System. The total estimated cost of this project including in-kind contributions is \$9,249. It is recommended that up to \$3,000 be allocated to the Baden Community Association to assist with the purchase and installation of native trees, soil and soil amendments, and landscaping stones for this project.

**APPENDIX B**  
**SUSTAINABILITY GRANTS RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL – FEBRUARY 26, 2013**

**Project Number** (\* indicates recommended conditions on funding approval)

**2013-04      The Working Centre: Bikesharing Network (Category 6) - \$15,000**

Building on a successful pilot program in 2011, the Working Centre aims to further expand and test a bike share program with 100 bikes and 20 distribution stations. The Small City Bikeshare model is low cost and more flexible than traditional bike sharing programs. The goal is to improve sustainable modes of transportation as well as refine a model to be used by other small cities.

**2013-08b      Kitchener Collegiate Institute: Field Restoration with Rain Water Harvesting (Sustainability Category 6 and 7) - \$10,000 (Stewardship –Category 2 - \$3,000)**

This project has two components including the installation of a rainwater harvesting system to collect runoff from the field to water the turf and new plantings which will be a teaching tool for the whole community – this component is recommended to receive funding from the Sustainability Grant stream. The second component of the project includes the naturalization of a sports field across the road from KCI in the city core including native trees, shrubs & perennials to attract wildlife (animals, birds, insects), beautify the area, and provide areas of study for students and community members. This second component is recommended to receive partial funding from the Stewardship Grant (see Appendix A).

**2013-11\*      Conrad Grebel University College: Electric Vehicle Charging Station (Category 6) - \$5000**

This project aims to increase consumer use of electric vehicles with the implementation of an electric vehicle charging station available to the public. The charging station will be installed on the property of Conrad Grebel University College at the University of Waterloo main campus including signage visible from the adjacent high-traffic road. This builds on the presence of Community Car Sharing and GRT which are both already available on campus. It is recommended that a grant be allocated with the condition that the Region of Waterloo Community Environmental Fund be recognized on all signage.

**2013-16\*      Transition KW: Climate Change Adaptation Toolkit Education (Category 7) - \$5000**

Transition KW plans to develop a toolkit on climate change adaptation and resilience to empower the actions of our region's citizens. Local context will be reflected during its design phase through consultation with experts and community focus groups. Hardcopies and e-versions of the finished toolkits will be available in libraries, community centres and multicultural associations. It is recommended that a grant be allocated with the condition that use of the toolkit be tracked.

**2013-18\*      Alternatives Journal: Waterloo Region Environmental Excellence Film Festival Education (Category 7) - \$5000**

Alternatives Journal aims to partner with Planet in Focus and local environmental NGOS and NFPS to present a series of 6 environmental films. A discussion panel will follow each film to encourage community dialogue relating to the film's topic. This free film festival hopes to educate, network and instill collaborative action. It is recommended that a grant be allocated with the condition that the post-film activity frames the discussion regarding local implications of the environmental issue.

**2013-21\*      The Museum: Kids Inspiring Change (Category 6) - \$5,000**

The project is to redevelop the current 'Kids Inspiring Change' education program to incorporate a sustainability component, be consistent with changes to the curriculum, increase experiential and hands-on learning and modernize lessons. The program will be expanded to include a water focus that is relevant to the Ontario education curriculum as well as the fall 2013 exhibition 'Surface Tension' which explores environmental, political, biological, economic and social impacts of our current water consumption. It is recommended that a grant be allocated with the condition that a local component be integrated into its programming (i.e. implications to Waterloo Region).

**2013-23 My Sustainable Canada: Energy Star Mobile App (Category 7/8) - \$5000**

My Sustainable Canada and its partners are working to develop a mobile application to help consumers make informed choices on the purchase of Energy Star certified appliances by providing energy savings comparisons with the associated cost savings. The project builds on the research and development (phase 1) and is now utilizing partnerships with local retailers as providers of information. The outcome is a user friendly application that will be available to anyone with a hand held mobile device or personal computer. This grant is requested to support its second phase of application refinement from a pilot stage to prepare for roll-out to the public.

**APPENDIX C**  
**COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL FUND APPLICATIONS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL**

**2013-06 St. Paul's University: Sensor Thermostat Implementation - \$15,000**

This project aims to reduce energy consumption with the installation of sensor controlled thermostats in residence rooms to give automated control over room temperatures. The installation of this standard equipment was deemed as more suitable for the University's facilities management budget. Therefore this project is not recommended because it does not fit the intent of the fund and the funds requested exceed the available financial resources.

**2013-07 New Hamburg Live! Festival of the Arts - \$6,150**

The project proposes to include an 'Arts in the Environment' segment in New Hamburg Live! Arts Festival with art submissions and literary contest to incorporate an environmental awareness and education aspect to the festival. Although staff recognizes the value that this initiative provides to the community, the environmental component of the event is a periphery. The request is primarily to run the arts event. Therefore this project is not recommended because it does not fit the intent of the fund.

**2013-22 Waterloo Farmers' and Crafters' Market Cooperative: Uptown Market - \$5000**

The Waterloo Farmers' and Crafters' Market Cooperative provides an outlet for local food producers, crafters, and entertainers to engage the local community. The sustainability component is periphery to the market and does not involve a direct education effort. Staff do not recommend funding since the budget is for the ongoing expenses of the market which has been running for four years now. Therefore this project is not recommended to receive a Sustainability grant at this time.

**2013-29 Global Youth Volunteer Network: Multicultural Community Gardens Community Engagement Project - \$4513**

The purpose is to build on the success of last year's Patchwork Community Gardens – Community Engagement Project and continue to focus on engaging members the diverse Waterloo Region community in environmentally sustainable urban agricultural practices. Staff do not recommend funding for this project as there is no significant change to the project which was funded by the 2012 Community Environmental Fund.

**2013-30 David Penny and Eli Winterfeld: DIG - \$7511**

The project is to create an urban garden on a private residence to be used to create an educational program with workshops on local food production and household goods as well as a mentorship program for 8 youth. This project is ineligible for funding under the Sustainability Grant Stream of the fund since the project is on a private property and the request exceeds the limits of the fund. Although the Stewardship Grant stream does fund appropriate projects on private property, this urban garden project does not fit the criteria within the Stewardship grant categories.

**2013-33 CREW's Kids and Community Power Saving Project Phase II - \$15,000**

CREW strives to reduce energy consumption within the region by instilling behavioural change through their Kids and Community Power Saving Project. Phase I of this project received funding from the Community Environmental Fund in 2012 which has yet to be implemented. In staff's review of the current proposal, there is no significant change in the intent of the Phase II of the project compared to the current Phase I. The Region has also provided significant funding for this Power Saving initiative prior to the establishment of the Community Environmental Fund and therefore it is recommended that this grant request is not approved.