

WESTERN SUSTAINABLE IMPACT FUND

Overview

Western is committed to promoting the three pillars of sustainability by supporting social, economic, and environmental initiatives. The \$1 Million Western Sustainable Impact Fund (WSIF) encourages projects that uplift the sustainability goals outlined in Western's [Strategic Plan](#).

The President's Advisory Committee on the Environment and Sustainability (PACES) identified the fund as a way to support on-campus projects that are innovative, high-impact, and which address the many aspects of sustainability. Applications are open to all students, staff, and faculty at Western, and the campus community is encouraged to explore their bold and brave ideas to support Western's sustainability priorities.

The Western Sustainable Impact Fund (WSIF) will support up to \$500,000 in projects a year, for the next two years. Individual projects between \$500 and \$30,000 are eligible. All funding received through the current round of submissions must be spent within one year of award.

In order that the WSIF can support initiatives from a broad community base, applicants should consider proposing only their most impactful ideas. No more than two projects can be submitted by an individual or group.

Proposed projects should be related to advancing environmental, economic, and social sustainability at Western. Some of the key goal areas of sustainability and climate change at Western are:

- Advancing sustainability across campus including work that supports any of the UN Sustainability Development Goals
- The promotion of sustainability knowledge across campus through teaching and learning and research
- The advancement of operations that relate to areas such as transportation, biodiversity, and waste management
- The engagement of the campus community through the incorporation of areas such as health and wellness, and equity, diversity, and inclusion

To learn more, please visit the [Western Sustainability](#) webpage.

How to Apply

Project proposals are to be submitted through the [online application form](#).

Call for proposal opens:	Monday, October 7 th , 2024
Application Deadline:	Monday, Nov 18 th , 2024 at 11:59pm EST
Review and Adjudication Process	December 2024
Announcement of Funding to Recipients	January 17, 2025

Eligibility

Any Western University student, staff or faculty member can submit a project proposal. All proposals must have the support from a Western University faculty or staff leader.

Criteria

When evaluating applications, the following criteria will be used to determine which projects will receive funding:

Campus Sustainability & Impact

Successful projects will take place on Western's campus and must align with institutional priorities and be related to advancing environmental, economic and social sustainability at Western. Awards under this program are intended to provide funding for projects which have ability to scale across the University or beyond. Proposals should clearly identify the impact that the project will have on the campus community.

Project Feasibility

Proposals should be technically feasible in the identified timelines and funding requests should match the project outcomes. Projects should demonstrate a clear ownership and identify long-term maintenance or business plans. In the project plan, teams must include a clear plan for how the team will work together throughout the entire project period.

Other Considerations

Capstone Projects: Capstone projects that advance sustainability on campus may be eligible for funding. However, as the intent of the WSIF is to support lasting change. The project must be standalone or have an identified partner to maintain the project outcome after the capstone is completed.

Capital Projects: The Western Sustainable Impact Fund is not intended to support capital investments to advance sustainability on campus. These types of project requests should be directed through faculties and departments to Facilities Management as part of [Western's Capital Planning, Design and Development Program](#).

Curriculum Development: The WSIF will not fund projects related to core curriculum development, for which there are already established programs through the [Centre for Teaching and Learning](#). However, faculty or departments who have projects that integrate sustainability across teaching and learning can apply for WSIF Funding.

Eligible Expenses

Eligible Expenses can include:

- Staffing costs (i.e. co-op students, part-time staff, etc.)
- General supplies (workshop materials, paper)
- Marketing materials (printing, advertising)
- Incentives (prizes, give aways)
- Event expenses (i.e. food, venue rental, audio-visual, speaker gifts)

Ineligible expenses include:

- Ongoing operational costs (i.e. staffing/wages for pre-existing position)
- Donations
- Alcohol
- Hospitality for project team & volunteers (i.e. food, gifts other than for event expenses)
- Conference attendance (i.e. airfare, conference fees)

Please note that all expenses must comply with existing Western University policies and procedures, in particular:

- Policy 1.48 Environment and Sustainability
- Policy 1.49 Contract Management and Signing Authority
- Policy 2.8 Procurement of Materials and Services
- Policy 2.16 Travel and Expense Reimbursements

Final Reporting

All successful applicants will be required to submit a project completion report to the Office of Sustainability within 3 months of the completion of the project detailing the project outcomes, including successes, challenges and how funds were spent