

Executive Summary

This report by the Canadian Environmental Grantmakers' Network (CEGN) provides an analysis of grants awarded for Canadian environmental initiatives in 2014. In total, 3,299 grants worth over \$111 million given in 2014 by 98 funders are reflected in this updated version of the database. An in-depth analysis of the data to identify funding amounts, issue priorities, geographic distributions and grantmaking strategies was conducted to build a better understanding of environmental grantmaking activities in Canada.

The key findings highlighted in this report are as follows:

Top Issues Funded by Grantmakers

- The top five most funded issues represented 74% of total funding in 2014. These issues are:
 1. *Coastal and Marine Ecosystems*
 2. *Terrestrial Ecosystems and Land Use*
 3. *Fresh Water/Inland Water Ecosystems*
 4. *Biodiversity and Species Preservation*
 5. *General Environment/Multi-Issue*
- *Coastal and Marine Ecosystems* was the most funded issue, receiving a total of \$21,205,527 for any issue in 2014.
- The *Water Issue Group*, representing *Coastal and Marine Ecosystems* and *Fresh Water/Inland Water Ecosystems* issues, received the highest proportion of funding (39%) in 2014.
- *Sustainable Communities/Cities* was the most prevalent secondary issue supported by funders.

Strategies Funded by Grantmakers

- The top five strategies funded were:
 1. *Education/Youth Organizing*
 2. *Public Education/Awareness*
 3. *Direct Activity*
 4. *Research*
 5. *Capacity Building*
- *Education/Youth Organizing* (20%) and *Public Education/Awareness* (19%) were the two most common strategies used by funders in 2014.
- *Market Transformation*, *Litigation* and *Stewardship/Acquisition/Preservation* were the least common strategies supported by funders.

Funding by Grant Size

- Smaller grants of \$5,000 or less were the most common in 2014, comprising 46% of grants given.
- Only 6% of all environmental grants in 2014 were greater than \$100,000.

Geographical Distribution of Grants

- British Columbia (BC) continued to be a hub of environmental funding in Canada, receiving 47% of total grant dollars in 2014.
- Ontario received the second greatest proportion of grant support with 29%. After BC and Ontario, a significant disparity in distribution occurs as Alberta places third in Canada with 8% and Quebec fourth with only 3% of overall funding.
- An obvious gap in funding exists as all other provinces and territories (Saskatchewan, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon) received a mere 7% of grant support combined.

Comparison with U.S. Funder Trends

Comparing CEGN's results with those of our sister affinity group the Environmental Grantmakers Association (EGA) revealed some similarities in trends. The following comparisons are based on EGA's report, "Tracking the Field: Volume 5 Analyzing Trends in Environmental Grantmaking".¹

- For both CEGN and the EGA, the issues of *Coastal and Marine Ecosystems*, *Fresh Water/Inland Water Ecosystems* and *Biodiversity & Species Preservation* were reported to be among the top five most funded issues.
- Both CEGN and EGA reported a drop in funding of roughly 10% for *Advocacy/Organizing/Movement Organizing* from the earlier grants' analyses.
- Among the biggest differences between findings for CEGN and EGA is the top funded strategy. *Education/Youth Organizing* was the #1 strategy in Canada in contrast to *Advocacy/Organizing/Movement Building* in the U.S.
- Another difference is the amount of funding that goes towards the strategy of *Stewardship/Acquisition/Preservation* as it is the second most funded strategy in EGA's findings but only the tenth most funded strategy in CEGN's data.

¹ Drawn from Environmental Grantmakers Association's Tracking the Field: Volume 5 Analyzing Trends in Environmental Grantmaking

We anticipate that the key findings in CEGN's grants research will help catalyze discussion and inform future environmental grantmaking. By building and sharing knowledge, this research serves CEGN's mandate to strengthen the impact of philanthropy for a more sustainable future for Canadians.