

# Advancing a Sustainable Future: A Profile of Environmental Philanthropy

## 2016 Data Update



May 2018

# Acknowledgements

The Canadian Environmental Grantmakers' Network (CEGN) would like to thank the Sitka Foundation and the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation for their generous support of the 2016 environmental grant database update.

We would also like to thank our members and other funders and organizations who took time to provide their grants data for this report. Willingness to share data is vital to the success of this project. We hope the information provided in this report will inspire more funders to participate in the future, thereby increasing the comprehensiveness of our research.

Finally, we would like to thank our Environmental Researcher, Jonathan Nikodem, for his efforts in conducting research and creating this report and our Membership Services Manager, Sandy Hoang, for overseeing the project.



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# Foreword

The Canadian Environmental Grantmakers' Network (CEGN) is a membership group of more than 60 funders from across Canada and the United States. Our members represent a diverse group of funders from private, public, and community foundations, as well as corporate foundations and both federal and provincial funding programs. With our members we work to strengthen the impact of philanthropy in support of an environmentally sound and sustainable future for Canadians. CEGN does this by catalyzing collaboration, building and sharing knowledge, and growing investments for a sustainable Canada.

Since its formal establishment in 2001, CEGN has played a leading role in collecting and analyzing the patterns of environmental grantmaking in Canada having issued reports for the years 2002, 2007, 2012, and 2014. Now in its 5th edition, our database update report has expanded to include data from more funders than ever before along with the addition of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals within its framework. These reports provide valuable data for funders as to the extent and focus of environmental grantmaking across a range of issues and geographies in Canada.

In addition to this report, CEGN has updated its interactive online environmental grants database tool. Users can perform customized searches by issue area, granting strategy, keywords and location. Funders are able to see their own place in the spectrum of environmental philanthropy and identify gaps and overlap that they may want to address with their granting activity. This tool follows our commitment to increase knowledge sharing; allowing not only members and funders, but the general public access to the tool.

The CEGN environmental grants database tool and reports have become important resources for our network. Together they promote data-driven strategic decision-making to ensure successful outcomes for the environment and high-impact investments. With the support of our members and other funders, CEGN will continue to be the leader in the collection, analysis, and application of data for Canadian environmental philanthropy.

We hope you enjoy this report and find it informative. As always, we encourage you to send us any questions you may have and welcome your feedback.



Burkhard Mausberg

Chair of the Board  
Canadian Environmental  
Grantmakers' Network



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# Executive Summary

This report by the Canadian Environmental Grantmakers' Network provides a summary of grantmaking in support of initiatives and organizations which work towards an environmentally healthy and sustainable Canada. It provides analysis based on a range of issues, funding strategies, funding dollars, and geographic distribution to assess the state, trends, and gaps in environmental philanthropy across the country. In this report, 3,304 grants were analyzed amounting to \$116.5 million from 105 funders. Though not exhaustive, this represents our largest cohort of funders to date.

## Top 5 Funded Issues and Strategies



The top five funded issues are: *Biodiversity and Species Preservation*; *Coastal and Marine Ecosystems*; *Freshwater Ecosystems*; *Terrestrial Ecosystems and Land Use*; and *Energy*, respectively. This accounts for 70% of funding in 2016, totalling \$74.5 million across 1,971 grants.



The top five funded strategies are: *Direct Activity*; *Education/Youth Organizing*; *Research*; *Public Education/Awareness*; and *Capacity Building*, respectively.

## Grant Distribution: Most/Least Funded Regions

British Columbia and Ontario are the most funded provinces with 75% of funding

Atlantic Canada is one of the least funded regions with NB, NL, NS and PEI receiving only 2.5% of funding



## Grant Size: Most/Least Popular Grant Size



## Comparison with U.S. Funders

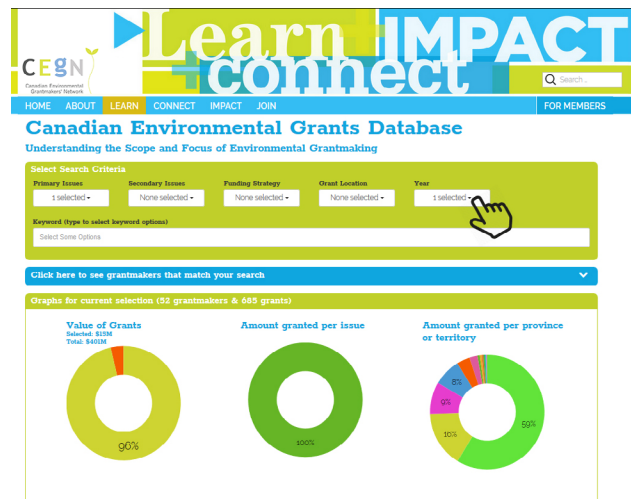
The Environmental Grantmakers Association (EGA) in the United States, with which we share our taxonomy, recently published the 6<sup>th</sup> Volume of their *Tracking the Field*<sup>1</sup> report. In their analysis, they also found *Biodiversity and Species Preservation* to be the most funded issue area. Also in their top five were *Freshwater/Inland Water Ecosystems* and *Terrestrial Ecosystems and Land Use*. We find greater differences with our sister organization in their funding strategies. EGA ranks *Advocacy/Organizing/Movement Building* and *Stewardship/Acquisition/Preservation* as their two most funded strategies. However, *Research (Scientific/Environmental)* does appear in their Top 5, as it does for Canada, as well.

# Introduction

As part of the Canadian Environmental Grantmakers' Network's (CEGN) commitment to knowledge building, we have completed the latest update of our biannual series of reports which assess the landscape of environmental philanthropy in Canada. This report provides a summary of environmental grant data gathered for the year 2016. With an aim to expand on the 2014 update we have collected grant data from 105 organizations (48 of which are members). In 2016, this population of funders gave a total of 3,304 grants with a combined worth of \$116.5 million.

With this update, we are pleased to introduce the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into our analysis. The 2030 Agenda is the follow up to the Millennium Development Goals and is designed to end poverty, reduce inequalities and address climate change. This ambitious agenda, which was adopted in 2015 by 193 countries, is comprised of 17 goals and 169 targets. CEGN is highlighting these goals as we believe the philanthropic sector has a critical role to play in the successful achievement of the SDG targets.

The purpose of this report and our interactive grants database (found at [www.grants.cegn.org](http://www.grants.cegn.org)) is to provide an overview of environmental grantmaking in Canada. Our online database tool (pictured right) includes grants data from 2011, 2012, 2014 and now 2016. With this tool users can perform custom searches based on a number of parameters. Together, these resources identify gaps and trends in funding while determining which issues receive the most and least priority, which granting strategies are used and the geographic distribution of environmental philanthropy. With these resources, CEGN seeks to inspire collaboration amongst funders to address funding gaps and ensure high-impact grantmaking.



Data collection and sharing has been a key component of CEGN's mandate since our inception in 2001 and we are committed to remaining a leader in providing high-quality research to inform environmental philanthropy for years to come.

# Scope of the Data & Methodology

Data for this report came from two main sources: voluntary submissions from environmental grantmakers and publicly available grant information from the websites, annual reports and granting reports published by funders.

Grants have been coded according to 15 broad environmental issues and 12 granting strategies in addition to the location of the projects. Definitions of the various issues and strategies can be found in the following section of this report. To ensure accuracy of the data and consistency with earlier versions of this report the taxonomy has remained the same, with minor adjustments as environmental issues have evolved or been newly prioritized. The taxonomy is similar to those used by our sister affinity groups: the Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network, the Environmental Funders Network (United Kingdom) and the Environmental Grantmakers Association (United States).

In this latest grant database update, CEGN is highlighting the importance of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the role that philanthropy can play in helping to achieve them. While all 17 goals are not related to our taxonomy several are directly aligned with our 15 broad issue areas. We have thus added an SDG tag to grants which are aligned with the goals to begin building a dataset that quantifies the amount of work being done in our communities to address these ambitious global targets.

It is important to note that this report only includes a portion of environmental grantmaking in Canada and is not a comprehensive assessment of the philanthropic sector. Although it is the aim of CEGN to increase the number and consistency of funders participating in this research, its voluntary nature means that the population of funders is not identical for every update. With this update, we were able to achieve a 76% overlap in funders from the 2014 update while securing data from 24 new funders.

Although grant data for the Green Municipal Fund (GMF) of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) was collected and input into our database, we have not included the GMF data in our analysis. While FCM is a member of CEGN, the grantmaking by the GMF is very different from our other members in terms of magnitude and its focus on municipalities. These grants were thus excluded to avoid skewing the data as GMF provides large amounts of funding to municipalities which would disproportionately bolster the funding dollars of our *Sustainable Cities and Communities* issue area. In 2016, the GMF invested \$9,959,897 across 71 grants.

# Definitions: Issues

## Biodiversity and Species Preservation

This is a broad category, focused on work that protects particular species. It includes: botanic gardens and arboretums; research on botany and zoology; protection of birds and their habitats; marine wildlife; protection of endangered species; and protection of important biodiversity hotspots, including the use of refuges, reserves and other habitat conservation projects; and wildlife trusts.

## Climate and Atmosphere

Most of the funding in this category is given to work on some aspect of climate change. Also included in this category are the issues of acid rain, air pollution, and local air quality.

## Coastal and Marine Ecosystems

As the name suggests, this category includes both the open ocean and coastal wetland systems. These systems include fisheries; aquaculture; coastal lands, deltas, and estuaries; marine protected areas; and marine pollution (such as marine dumping).

## Energy

The Energy category includes alternative and renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and conservation, fossil fuels, hydroelectric schemes, the oil and gas industries, and nuclear power. It is often paired with "Climate and Atmosphere."

## Environment and Health

Grants tagged "Environmental and Health", encompass grants that work toward an environment that supports public health. While many of the other issue areas impact health, these grants are more specifically targeting environmental factors through a health-focused lens. "Environmental and Health" may be related to improving health through the food system (reduced toxics in food, healthier eating, etc.), water quality, or through air quality.

## Environment and Social Justice

"Environment and Social Justice" grants are for the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, colour, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

## Freshwater/Inland Water Ecosystems

This category covers lakes and rivers; canals, reservoirs, and other inland water systems; groundwater contamination and water conservation; and wetlands.



## General Environment

There remain grants that are hard to allocate to specific categories, generally because they take the form of core funding to an organization that works on a wide range of different issues or because they are environmental projects covering a wide range of issues. Some grants provided to generalist regranteeing organizations are included in this category as it is not possible to identify which issues will be supported when the funds are regranted.

## Sustainable Consumption and Production

This category covers: reducing consumption levels; redefining economic growth; waste reduction; sustainable design and production; recycling and composting; and all aspects of waste disposal, including incinerators and landfills. Within this category is a sub-section devoted to mining.

## Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems

Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems is a very broad category. It includes organic and other forms of sustainable farming; training and research to help farmers; control of the food chain; initiatives opposed to factory farming; horticultural organizations and projects; education on agriculture for children and adults (e.g. city farms); opposition to the use of genetically modified crops and food irradiation; food safety and the genetic diversity of agriculture (including seed banks); and soil conservation.

## Sustainable Cities and Communities

Grants included in this category support urban green spaces and parks, community gardens, built environment projects, and community-based sustainability work.

## Terrestrial Ecosystems and Land Use

As with “Biodiversity & Species Preservation”, this is a broad category encompassing land purchases and stewardship; national or regional parks; landscape restoration and landscape-scale conservation efforts; land use planning; tree planting, forestry, and reducing deforestation.

## Toxics

This category covers all the main categories of toxics impacting the environment and human health, including hazardous waste; heavy metals; pesticides; herbicides; radioactive waste; persistent organic pollutants; household chemicals; other industrial pollutants; and noise pollution.

## Trade and Finance

The Trade & Finance category encompasses work on corporate-led globalization and international trade policy; efforts to reform public financial institutions (such as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund); similar work directed at the lending policies of private banks; initiatives around the reduction of developing country debt; and local economic development projects and economic re-localization, such as micro-finance organizations.

## Transportation

This category includes all aspects of transportation systems, including public transport systems; transport planning; policy on aviation; freight; road-building; shipping; alternatives to car use and initiatives like car pools and car clubs; the promotion of cycling and walking; and work on vehicle fuel economy.

# Definitions: Strategies

## Advocacy and Campaign

This is a broad category that combines related strategies that promote public support, strengthen networking and outreach, build or enhance constituency, generate momentum, build effective leadership, or increase collaboration amongst parties.

## Capacity Building

This category is only for general support grants or grants that are given to strengthen the grantee as an organization. Grants to enhance a specific program do not fall under this category.

## Communications & Materials Development

The Communications and Materials Development category covers work targeted specifically at enhancing the ability of grantees to communicate effectively. It also includes the creation of a grantee's communication tools, such as webcasts or interactive websites.

## Education and Youth Organizing

Education grants focus on environmental education for children inside and outside the classroom. This category is also for coaching or training services for educators. It also includes informational services and experiences for the public and youth specifically, such as science or environmental camps.

## Direct Activity

This category covers work that has a direct impact on the physical environment where the grant is made, such as tree planting, shore restoration and wetland rehabilitation.

## Stewardship and Land Acquisition

This category is for purchasing space (land, estuaries, etc.) or rights of use to protect land, improve management, restore ecosystems, or eradicate invasive species. Land protection may also be achieved through mechanisms such as conservation easements.

## Litigation

Grants marked litigation focus on legal support and assistance for expert legal counsel relating to environmental protection.

## Market Transformation

This category is for grants that support the transformation of goods/services in a way that lessens their impact on the environment. Market transformation includes designing new innovative products, developing sustainable technologies, building channels to market environmentally-friendly products and changing consumer behaviour.

## Public Education and Awareness

This category is for building a broader understanding of environmental issues and the value of nature. This category is similar to the “Education and Youth Organizing” category, but specific to educating adults.

## Public Policy/Analysis

This category is primarily aimed at the development of standards, improving policy management practices, reforming policy at any level, support for any international agreements, and/or participation in regulatory processes.

## Research (scientific/environmental)

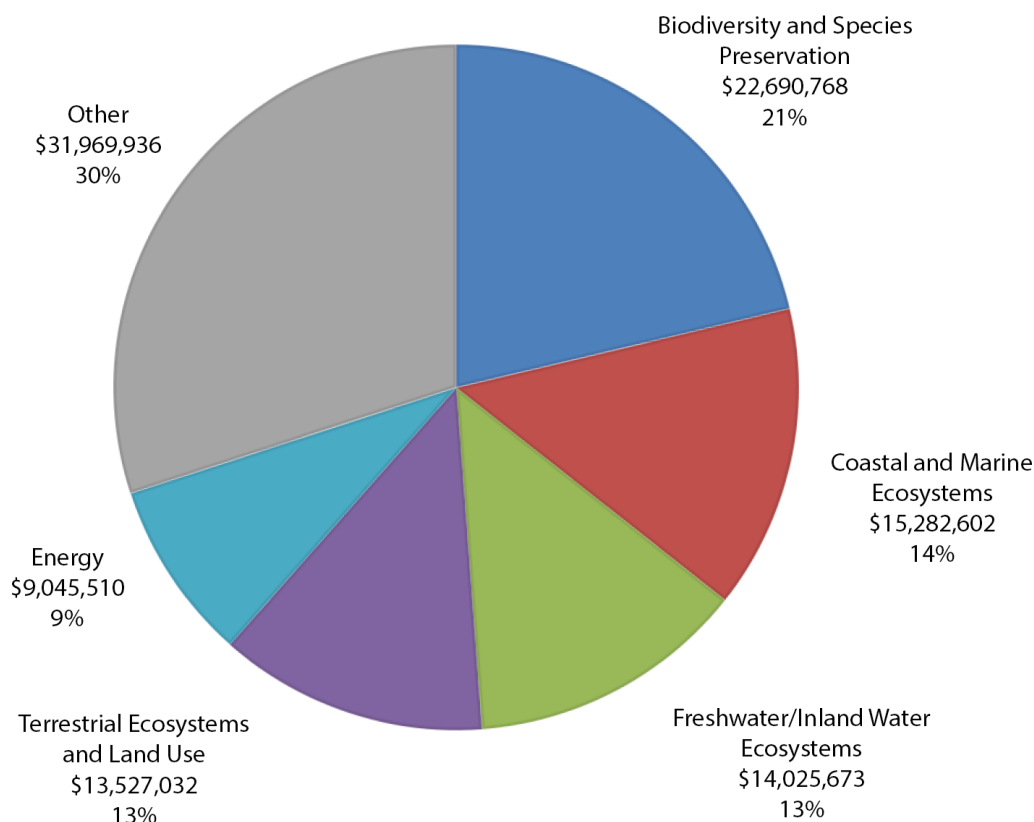
This category is used for grants that build a knowledge base or develop a device. This includes: conducting a study, assessment, investigation, or developing information and jumps in technology.

## Other

This category includes grants that have not been specified in the above activities. This includes awards, campaigning, conference, conservation agreements, fundraising, membership, regranting, scholarship/bursary, travel and certification.

# Distribution of Funding

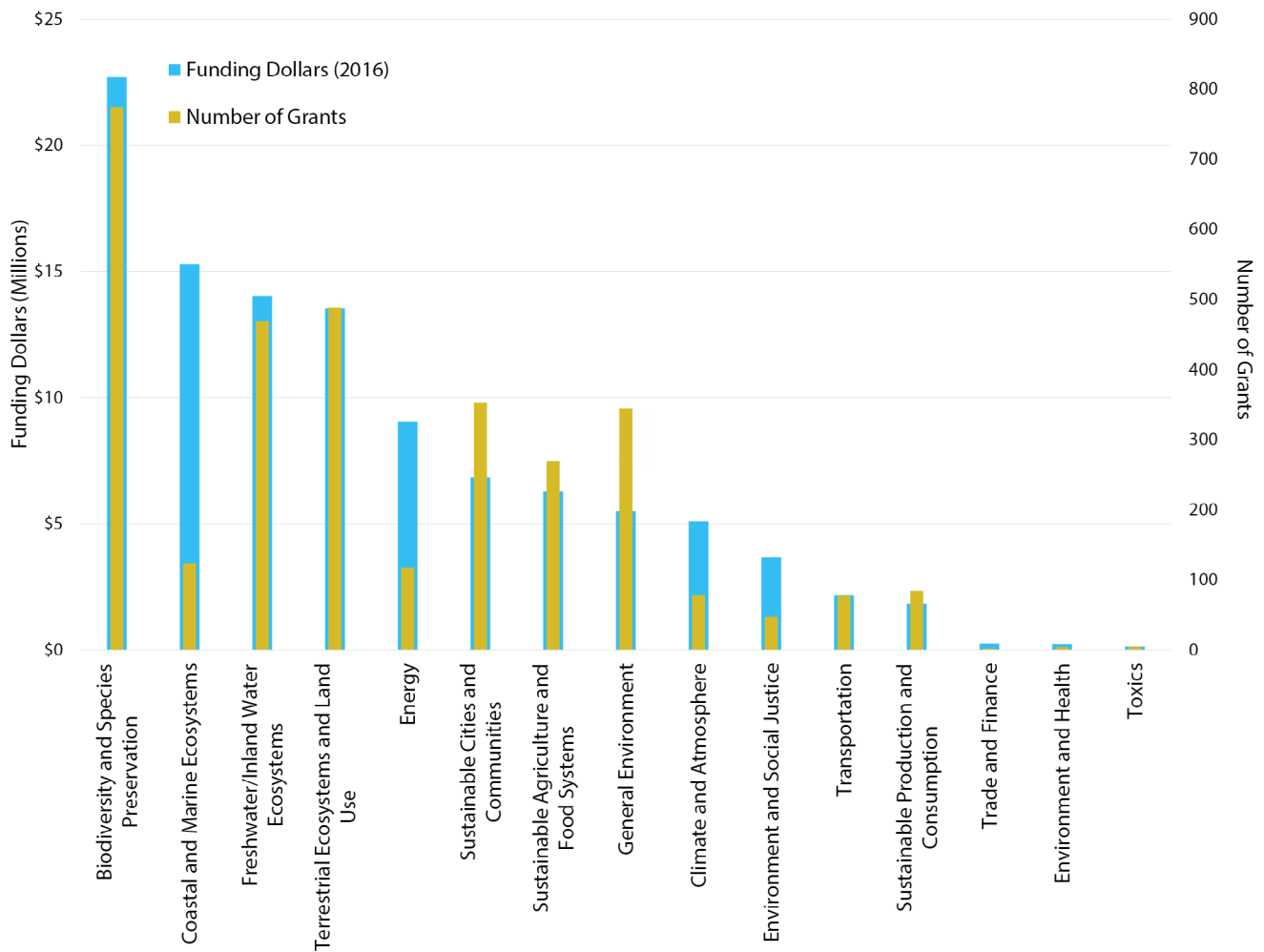
## Funding by Primary Issue



In 2016, the majority of funding (70%) was given to *Biodiversity and Species Preservation*; *Coastal and Marine Ecosystems*; *Freshwater/Inland Water Ecosystems*; *Terrestrial Ecosystems*; and *Land Use and Energy*, respectively. This follows a similar trend to our 2014 database update in which four of these five issue areas also ranked as the top-funded issues.

In this update, *Biodiversity and Species Preservation* takes the top spot from *Coastal and Marine Ecosystems* as the top funded issue area, receiving 21% of funding. *Freshwater/Inland Water Ecosystems* and *Terrestrial Ecosystems and Land Use* remain fairly close again in 2016. For 2016, we find the *Energy* category joining the Top 5 most funded issues for the first time, displacing *General Environment/Multi-Issue*.

# Number of Grants & Funding Dollars



Assessing primary issues simply by the number of funding dollars can provide an incomplete view of the support that these issues receive. By viewing them from both funding dollars and number of grants, we can see that there are considerable discrepancies between the two. An example of this can be seen between the water issue categories. Although *Coastal and Marine Ecosystems* received more funding than *Freshwater/Inland Water Ecosystems*, the latter received almost four times as many grants, at 469 compared to 123 for *Coastal and Marine Ecosystems*.

Here we can also see that issues such as *Sustainable Cities and Communities* and *Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems* receive a high number of grants compared to Top 5 issue categories such as *Coastal and Marine Ecosystems* and *Energy*. Although there is less funding, this reveals that there is considerable support for projects, initiatives and groups supporting these issues.

Again in 2016 we have found low support for issues related to Environment & Health and Environment & Social Justice receiving just 3.6% of funding and 1.5% of grants

# Funding by Issue Groups

The interrelated nature of environmental issues means that many of our taxonomical categories pair well together. As such, we have created five issue groups to understand which overarching issues are most funded. These five groups are: *Energy and Climate*; *Land*; *Water*; *Health and Justice*; and *Systems*.

## Energy and Climate



Climate and Atmosphere



Energy



Transportation

## Land



Terrestrial Ecosystems and Land Use



Biodiversity and Species Preservation

## Water



Coastal and Marine Ecosystems



Freshwater/Inland Water Ecosystems

## Health and Justice



Environment and Health



Environment and Justice



Toxics

## Systems



Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems



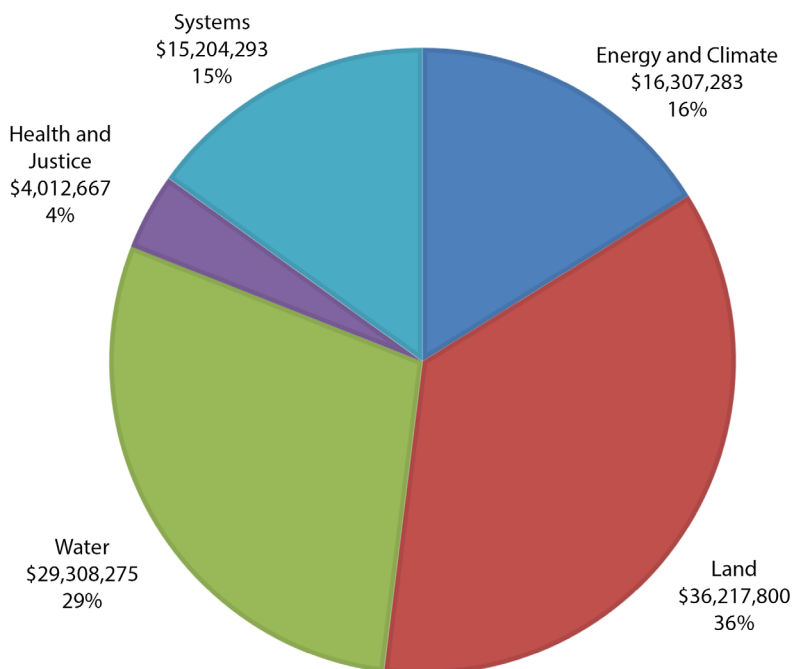
Sustainable Production and Consumption



Sustainable Cities and Communities



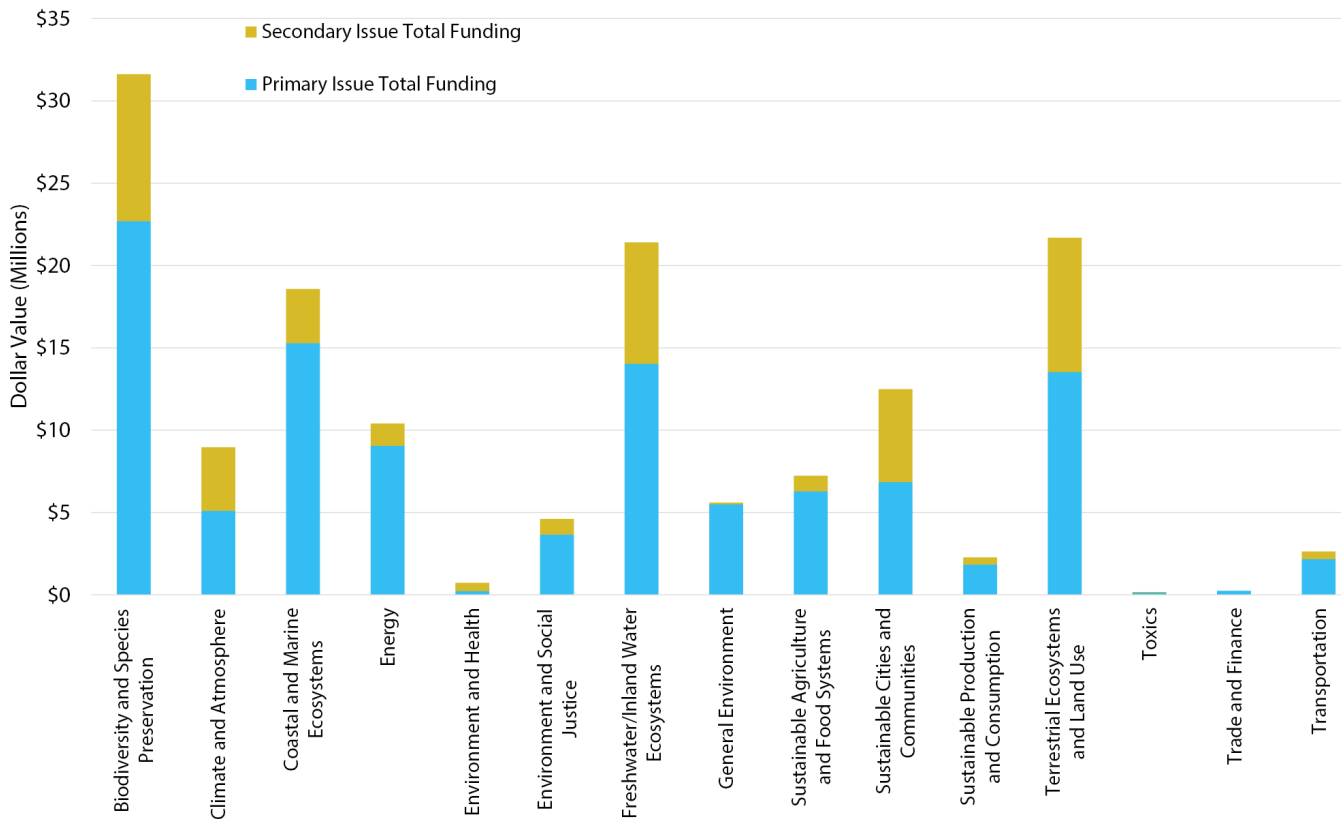
Trade and Finance



In 2016, the *Land* group replaces the *Water* group as the most funded issue group receiving 36% of funding. We also find *Energy and Climate* making significant gains with 16% of funding in contrast to 9% in 2014 and 2012. Major agreements such as the Paris Climate Accord and the international adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015 may be contributing to this upswing in funding. The *Systems* group sees little change with a slight drop to 15% from 17% in 2014. While still the lowest funded issue group, *Health and Justice* has doubled its share of funding from 2% in 2014 to 4% in 2016. While this group still receives a small amount of funding proportionally, this growth is encouraging.

## Primary & Secondary Issue

As many grants are multi-focused in nature due to the interrelated nature of environmental issues we also code grants with their secondary focus to ensure the full spectrum of funding an issue receives is captured. Viewing the data with both primary and secondary funding produces minor changes in issue ranking with *Sustainable Cities and Communities* leading *Energy* to round off the top five.

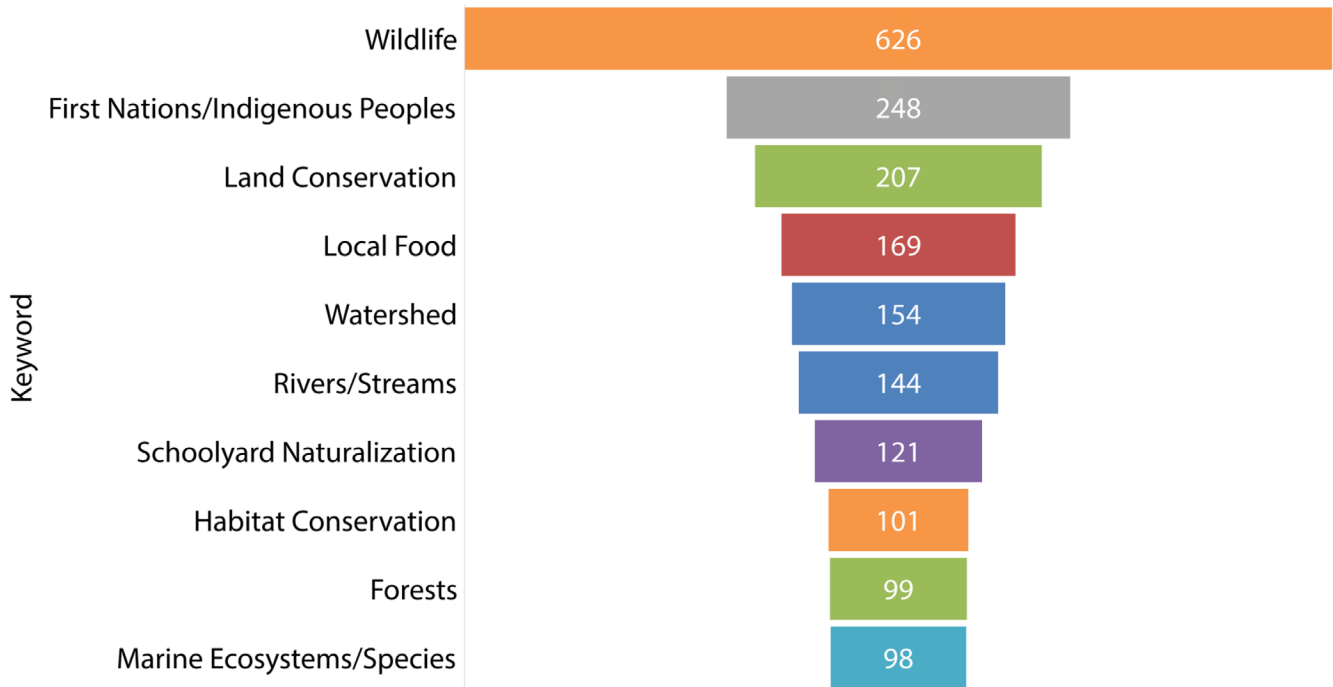


*Biodiversity and Species Preservation* remains the most funded issue by a considerable margin when funding as a secondary issue is included. *Terrestrial Ecosystems and Land Use* then moves up as the second most funded issue; this issue is often paired with *Biodiversity and Species Preservation* which may explain why it becomes the second most funded issue with secondary funding included, moving ahead of the water issues.

For the most part, other issue areas receive relatively modest increases when including secondary funding in the total. One exception to this is *Environment and Health* which more than doubles when secondary funding is included. This discrepancy is problematic when considering that issues such as water and air pollution which have great impacts on human health. These impacts disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, minorities and Indigenous Peoples. There is still room for growth and focus in these areas.

## Top Issue Keywords

In addition to being categorized by issue and granting strategy, grants are given keyword tags which relate to the issue in finer detail. For example, within the *Biodiversity and Species Preservation* issue area, we have an *invasive species* tag which is attached to grants that focus on addressing this issue through a multitude of strategies from physical removal to education on the importance of reducing the number of invasive species in our ecosystems. Below we have the ranking of the top 10 most frequent keyword tags.



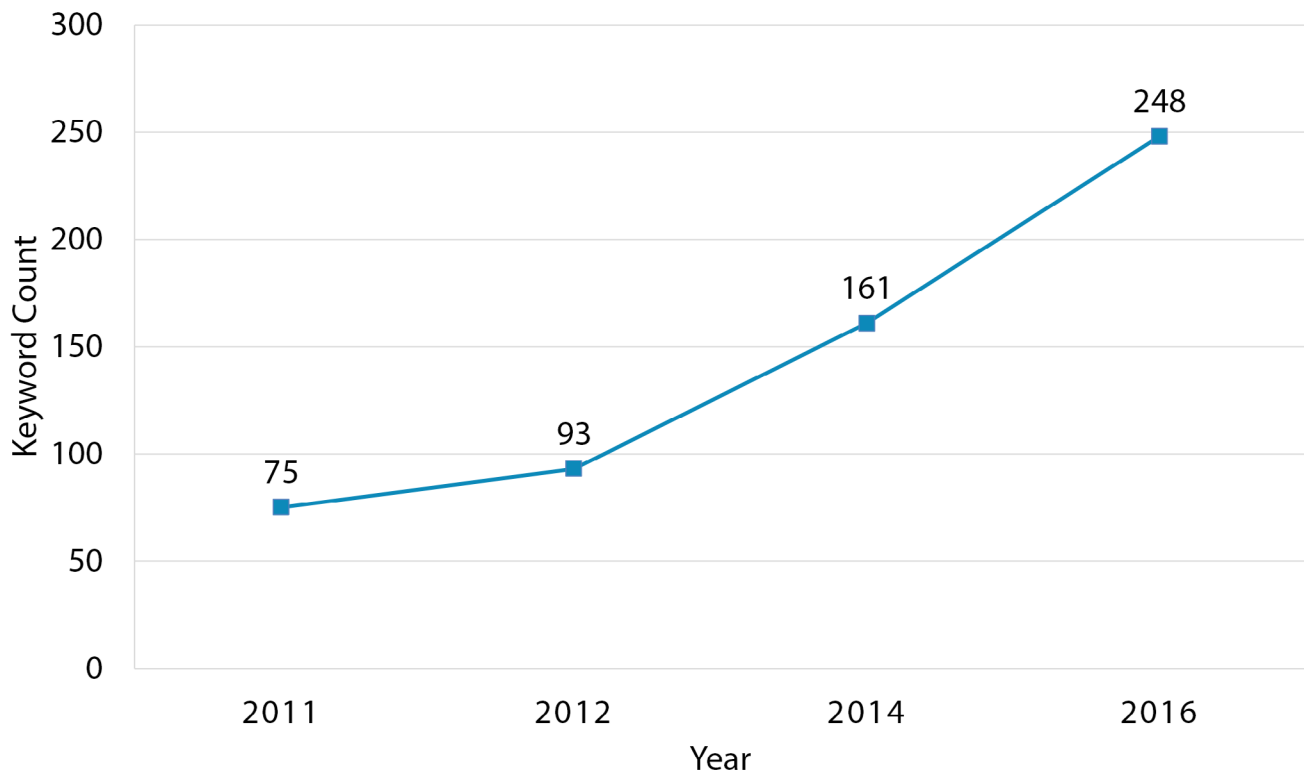
In this latest update we see a slight shift in keyword frequency with several keywords recurring from last year and a few gaining in popularity. Once again the *wildlife* keyword is the clear leader, appearing 626 times with our *First Nations/Aboriginal/Métis/Inuit/Indigenous Peoples* seeing the second most occurrences, as was the case in the last update. Other keywords which appeared most frequently in both this update and the 2014 update are: *Conservation [Preservation, Protection]*; *Watershed*; *Rivers/Streams*; and *Habitat Conservation*, all of which saw increases in frequency. Only *Schoolyard Naturalization* saw a decrease in frequency of the keyword. While the keyword placed in the top 10 in both 2014 and 2016, it dropped from 186 occurrences to 121.

In 2016, we see the emergence of new top keywords such as *Local Food*, *Forests*, and *Marine Ecosystems/Species*. *Local Food* jumps up the rankings as the *Agriculture and Sustainable Food Systems* issue area made considerable gains in funding dollars and number of grants in this latest update.

Our online database tool ([www.grants.cegn.org](http://www.grants.cegn.org)) can use keywords to perform custom searches. This allows users see the scope of granting activities in Canada which address the issues for which they are most passionate.



## Keyword Highlight: *First Nations/Aboriginal/Métis/Inuit/Indigenous Peoples*



CEGN, along with a number of our members and partners, signed the *Philanthropic Community's Declaration of Action* in support of Indigenous Communities at the close of the Truth and Reconciliation Hearings in June of 2015. As part of honouring that commitment we continue to track environmental grants which benefit Indigenous Peoples and Communities.

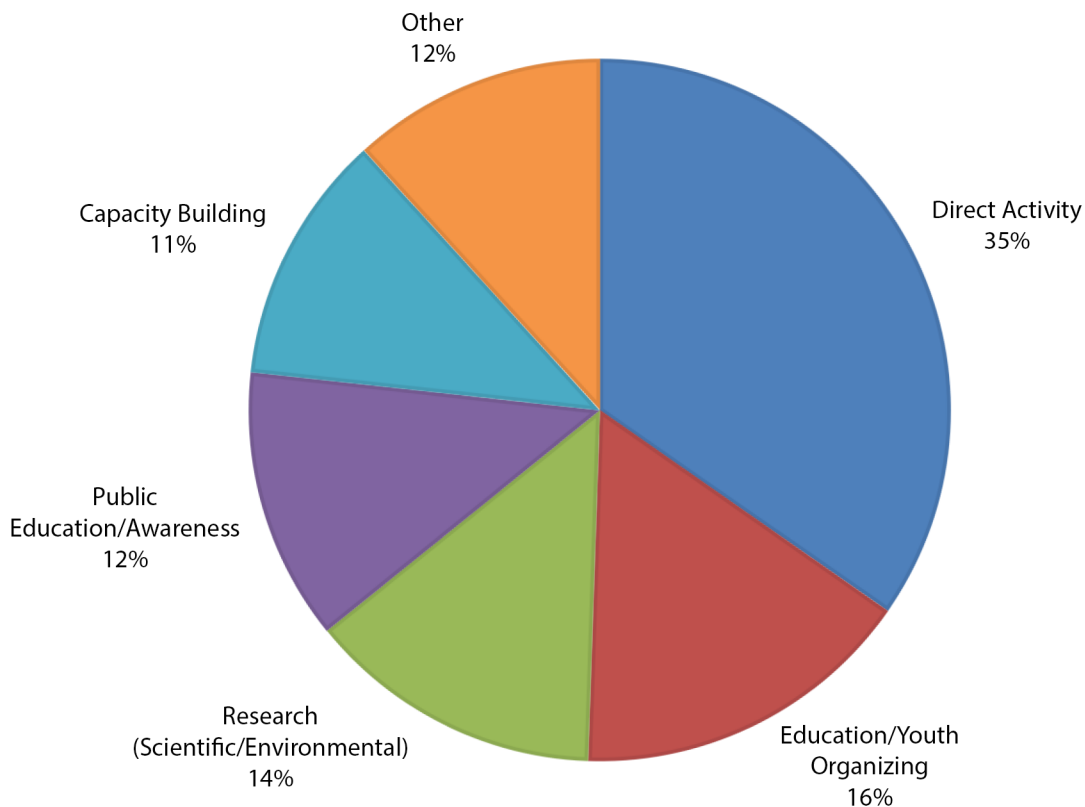
In this latest update we have a 54% increase in grants that support and benefit Indigenous Peoples. In addition, we see 248 instances of our *First Nations/Aboriginal/Métis/Inuit/Indigenous Peoples* keyword tag, in contrast to 161 in 2014. There is, however, a slight decrease in funders which supported these types of grants with 36 in 2016 and 38 in 2014. Although this overall increase in keyword tag is encouraging and indicates growing support for Indigenous Peoples and Communities, these 248 grants represent only 7.5% of grants collected and coded in the 2016 update.

It is important to note that our taxonomy and database do not distinguish between grants that are given to organizations and projects that benefit Indigenous Peoples; are Indigenous led; or those which simply incorporate Indigenous knowledge and partnerships. Here we find an opportunity to increase the depth of our analysis in future reports to better track granting in this area.

# Strategies Funded by Grantmakers

## Top Funding Strategies

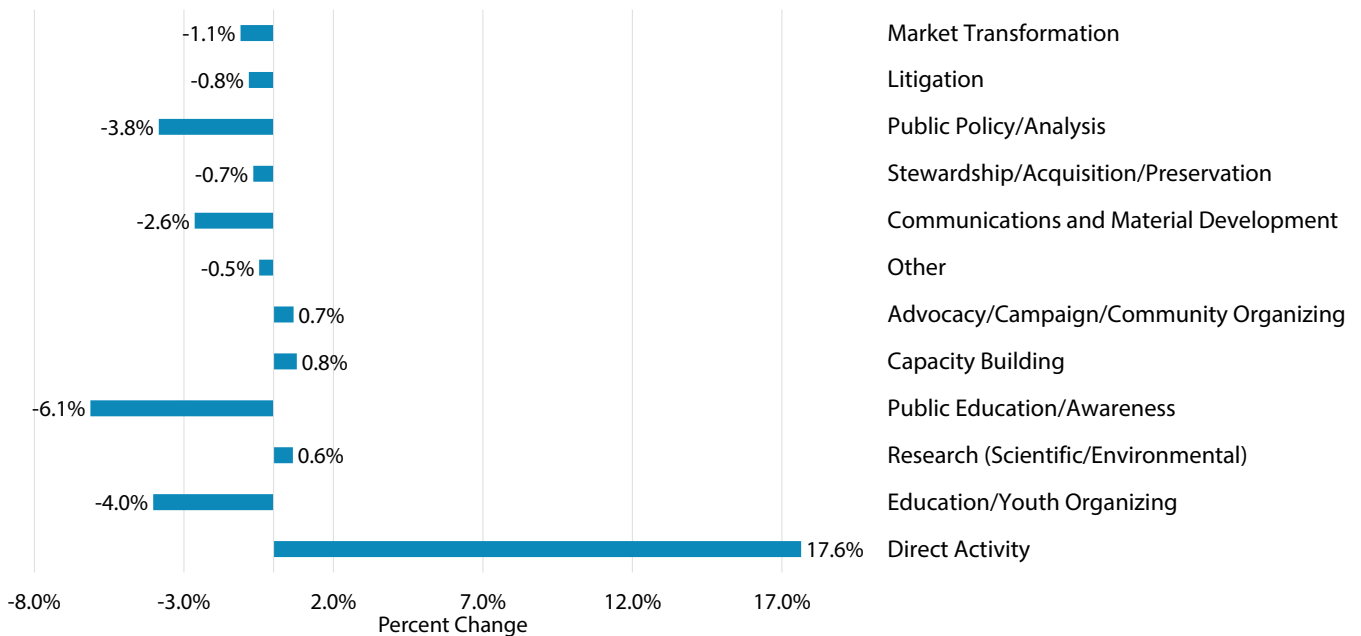
A key component of this research is to track the strategies supported by grantmakers in addition to the issues they fund. Understanding what grantmakers fund is vital to building an overview of environmental philanthropy in Canada.



The top five granting strategies in 2016 are the same as those found in our 2014 report. However, in 2016 we find *Direct Activity* taking the top spot from *Education and Youth Organizing* and *Research* ranking ahead of *Public Education/Awareness*. The top five reveal considerable support for strategies which build and spread knowledge about environmental issues with *Education/Youth Organizing*; *Research*; and *Public Education* amounting to a 42% share of granting activities in 2016.

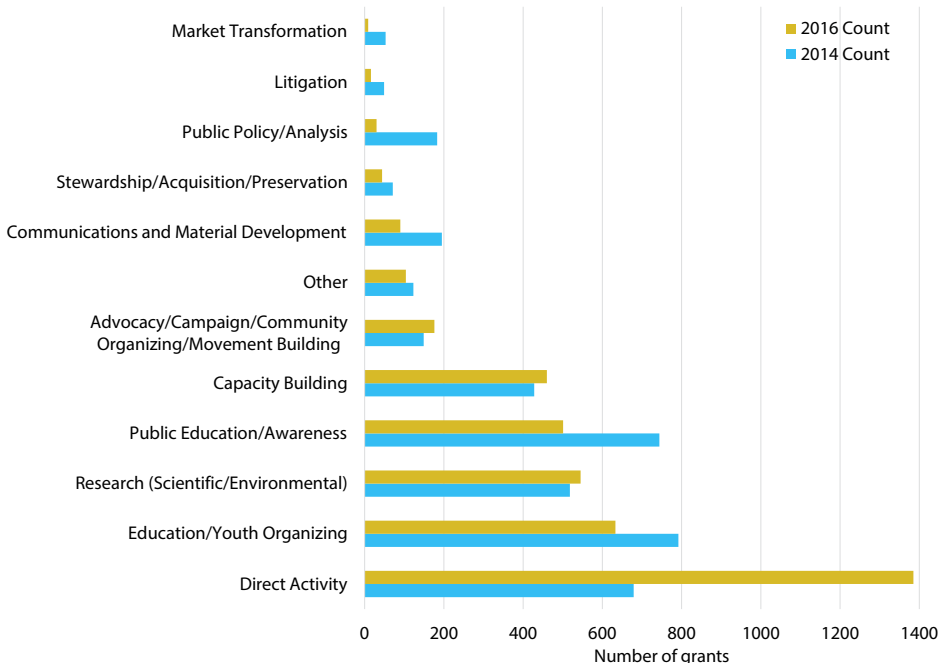
Strategies which receive less support include: *Advocacy/Campaign* (4.4%); *Other* (2.6%); *Communications and Material Development* (2.3%); *Stewardship/Aquisition/Preservation* (1.1%); *Public Policy/Analysis* (0.8%); *Litigation* (0.4%); and *Market Transformation* (0.2%)

## Strategies: Percent Change



The majority of strategies saw relatively minor increases or decreases in proportional share from 2014 to 2016. *Direct Activity* saw the greatest gains with a 17.6% increase. *Public Education/Awareness* saw the greatest loss with -6.1%. Funding for *Education and Youth Organizing* also showed a loss of -4%. While both education strategies saw the biggest losses they still receive enough support to remain in the top five most funded strategies. *Advocacy/Campaign; Capacity Building; and Research* received insignificant increases while *Market Transformation, Litigation, Stewardship/Acquisition/Preservation, and Other* saw negligible decreases.

## Strategies: Number of Grants



Comparing the number of grants for each strategy, against data collected for our last report, shows that most strategies saw decreases in number of grants, since 2014, while *Direct Activity* more than doubled in 2016

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are an ambitious set of goals adopted in 2015 by 193 countries to end poverty, reduce inequalities, and address climate change over the next 15 years. These 17 goals and 169 action-oriented targets are the follow up to the Millennium Development Goals and go further to address the root causes of the biggest issues affecting sustainable development around the world<sup>2</sup>.

As the SDGs cover a wide spectrum of sustainability issues, they align well with CEGN's research taxonomy. For example, the *Life on Land* SDG works towards ensuring the protection of our terrestrial ecosystems and sustainable use of their resources. It also includes targets designed to protect species and reduce extinctions. These targets are directly aligned with our taxonomical categories: *Biodiversity and Species Preservation*; and *Terrestrial Ecosystems and Land Use*, which seek to address these very issues.

The data collected and analyzed quantifies the number of projects and granting dollars that are being allocated to the SDGs in Canada. This provides valuable insight into the on the ground action-oriented strategies supported by funders and helps to fill a gap in SDG tracking data while highlighting the vital role philanthropy is playing in achieving the targets. Throughout the 2030 Agenda, CEGN members and other funders will be playing a critical role in advancing to the SDG objectives.

The top 3 funded SDGs in our research are *Life on Land*, *Clean Water and Sanitation* and *Life Below Water*.



SDG15 seeks to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems and works well with our taxonomical categories: *Biodiversity & Species Preservation* and *Terrestrial Ecosystems & Land Use*.



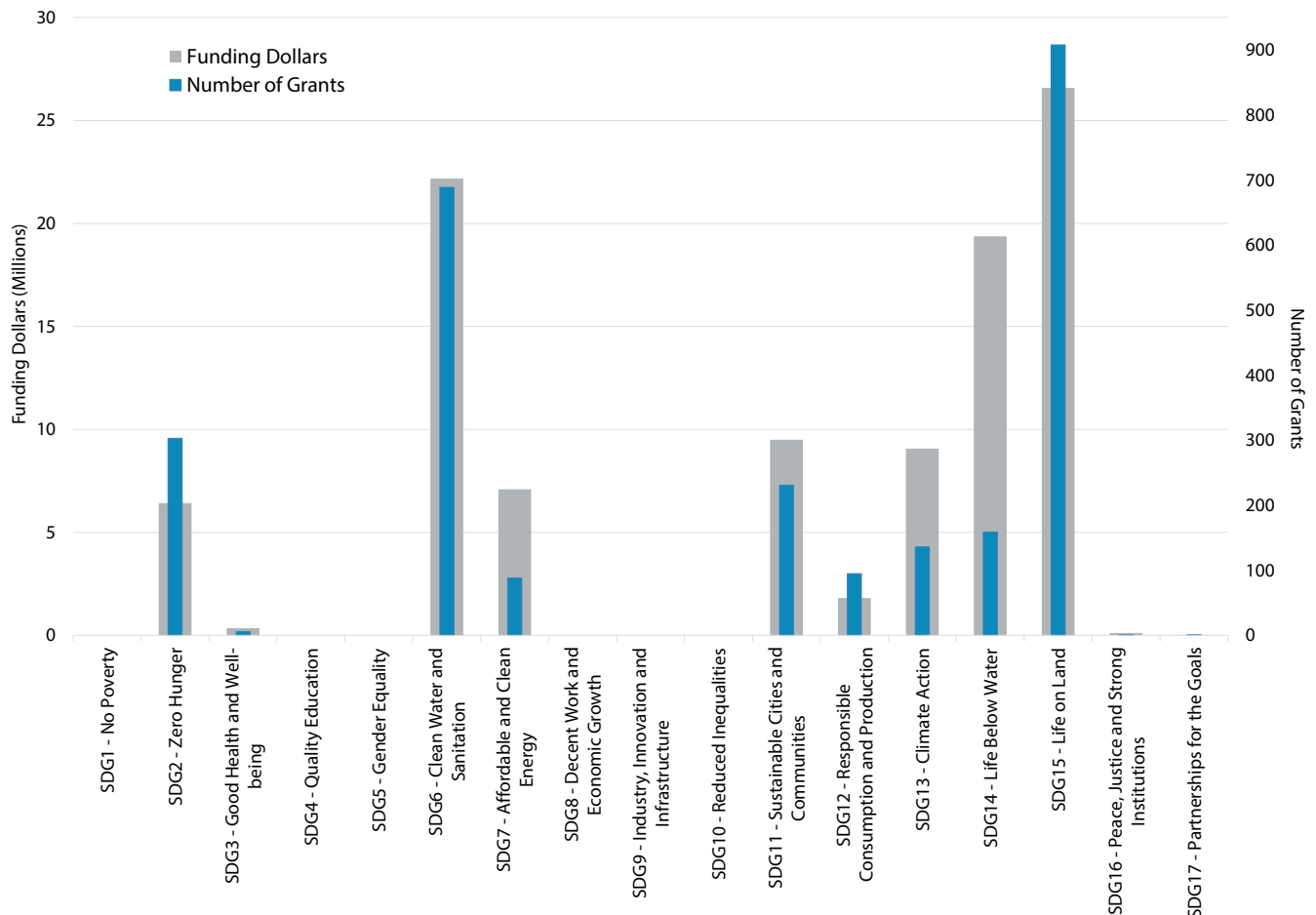
With targets aimed at improving water quality, protecting freshwater ecosystems, and water resource management this SDG falls in line with our *Freshwater/Inland Water Ecosystems* issue area.



Addressing marine pollution, managing fisheries and protecting marine species and ecosystems are a few of the SDG targets which mirror those in our own issue area of *Coastal and Marine Ecosystems*.

# Distribution of Funding

In order to begin building a dataset of funding aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we attached *SDG* keyword tags to grants which mirror with both the SDGs and our issue areas. Not all SDGs align with our taxonomy which focuses on environmental issues. As a result, important SDGs such as *No Poverty* did not get reported based on the scope of our research.



The distribution of funding of grants tagged with SDG keywords is similar to that of CEGN's taxonomy. The most funded SDGs are by a considerable margin, *Life on Land* receiving \$26.5 million; *Clean Water and Sanitation* receiving \$22 million; and *Life Below Water* receiving \$19 million. Together these three SDGs account for 66% of funding. Other well-funded SDGs are *Sustainable Cities and Communities*; *Climate Action*; and *Affordable and Clean Energy*.

Once again, we find little funding for issues such as *SDG3 - Good Health and Well-being* which includes targets to reduce negative health impacts related to air, water and soil pollution.

As with the funding distribution of CEGN's issue areas, there is a discrepancy in the number of grants and granting dollars. An example of this can be seen between SDG2 - Zero Hunger and SDG14 - Life Below Water where SDG2 received twice as many grants, but a third of the funding of SDG14.

# Geographic Distribution

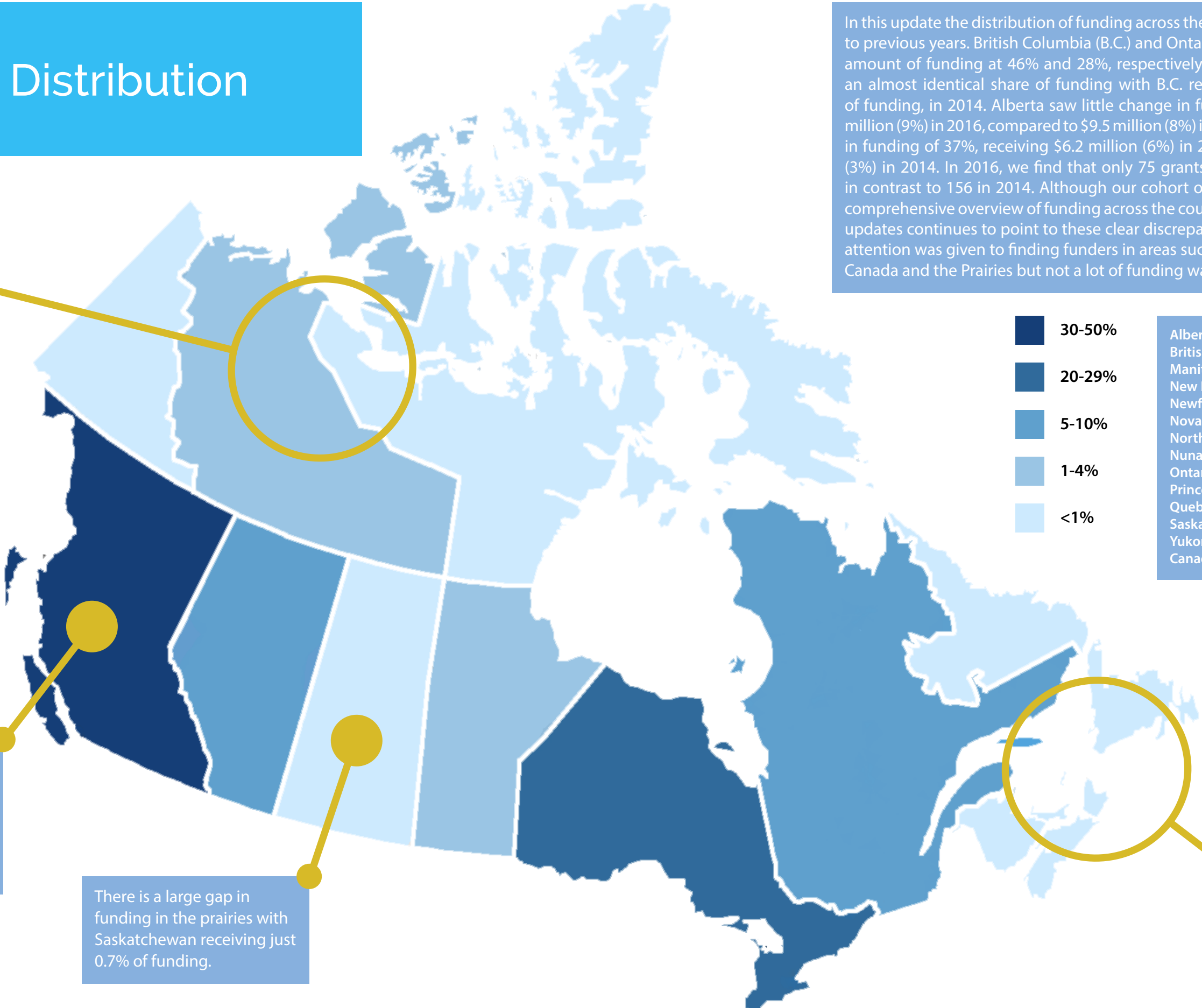
In this update the distribution of funding across the country follows a similar trend to previous years. British Columbia (B.C.) and Ontario received a disproportionate amount of funding at 46% and 28%, respectively, totalling \$80.5 million. This is an almost identical share of funding with B.C. receiving 47% and Ontario 29% of funding, in 2014. Alberta saw little change in funding for 2016 receiving \$9.7 million (9%) in 2016, compared to \$9.5 million (8%) in 2014. Quebec saw an increase in funding of 37%, receiving \$6.2 million (6%) in 2016 in contrast to \$3.9 million (3%) in 2014. In 2016, we find that only 75 grants were tagged as Canada-wide in contrast to 156 in 2014. Although our cohort of funders does not represent a comprehensive overview of funding across the country, our reporting over several updates continues to point to these clear discrepancies. With this update, special attention was given to finding funders in areas such as Northern Canada, Atlantic Canada and the Prairies but not a lot of funding was identified.

As with Atlantic Canada, Northern Canada receives a small proportion of funding at only 2.3% in 2016.

Following the trend of previous reports, British Columbia is again the most funded province receiving 47% of funding dollars in 2016.

There is a large gap in funding in the prairies with Saskatchewan receiving just 0.7% of funding.

Atlantic Canada remains one of the least funded areas, receiving only 2.5% of funding since last reported in 2014.

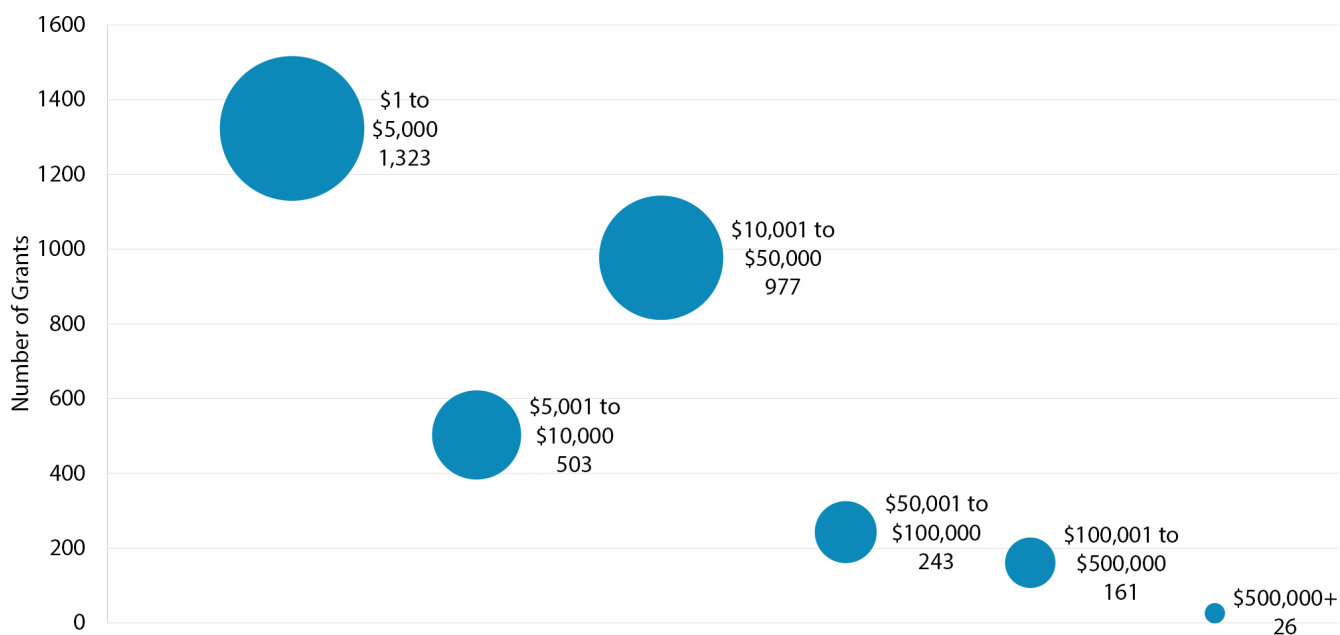


- 30-50%
- 20-29%
- 5-10%
- 1-4%
- <1%

Alberta	8.93%
British Columbia	46.73%
Manitoba	1.72%
New Brunswick	0.87%
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.50%
Nova Scotia	0.89%
Northwest Territories	1.01%
Nunavut	0.43%
Ontario	28.04%
Prince Edward Island	0.23%
Quebec	5.69%
Saskatchewan	0.68%
Yukon	0.84%
Canada-Wide	3.43%

# Funding by Grant Size

The grant data collected encompasses a wide spectrum of grant sizes. For 2016, individual grants ranging from \$75 to \$2,398,911 were coded and input into our database. This wide range of grant value is indicative of the diversity of the data collected and the differing strategies and capacities of the organizations surveyed. Over the years, the distribution of grants in each granting level has been relatively consistent.



In 2016, the most funded grant size was, as in previous years, the \$1-\$5,000 level. This update saw a slight drop in proportion for this grant size, from 46% in 2014 to 41%. The \$5,001-\$10,000 threshold sees a negligible increase to 16% from 15%. A slight increase in grants valued at \$10,001-\$50,000 is seen with a 4% increase in proportional share. The three highest value thresholds remain steady as well with only a 1% increase in the \$50,000-\$100,000 value range.

Once more we find a discrepancy in the number of grants and proportion of funding. Although the \$1-\$5,000 grant value threshold encompasses 41% of grants it accounts for only 3% of funding, totalling \$3.5 million. On the flipside, grants valued at \$500,000+, accounting for only 1% of grants or 26 individual grants, represent 22% of funding dollars in 2016. A more balanced distribution is found in the \$10,001-\$50,000 grant value range which represents 30% of grants and 25% of granting dollars.

A similar pattern in distribution of funding was found by the EGA in the U.S. where their top grant value threshold of \$1 million+ accounted for 32% of funding and only 1% of grants in their last report

# Opportunities & Next Steps

CEGN is committed to updating the Environmental Grants Database with the next update to focus on 2018 grants data. We will continue to generate knowledge for those involved in environmental philanthropy and will aim to engage new funders in order to broaden the scope of our research. Continued support from our members and other funders is essential for this task and much appreciated. With this and future reports, CEGN hopes to keep funders up-to-date on the gaps and trends that exist in Canada with a view to boosting the amount and impact of environmental philanthropy. Recent reports from Philanthropic Foundations Canada find that only 3%<sup>3</sup> of philanthropic giving in Canada is allocated to environmental causes. CEGN is committed to increasing this proportion and will continue to work to grow investments for a sustainable Canada.

CEGN will continue to support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to help ensure the success of the 2030 Agenda. Here we see an opportunity to deepen our analysis of the role philanthropy is playing in achieving the targets and the degree to which they are supported within the field.

We welcome comments and questions from readers on the analyses presented in this report and invite you to view our past reports on CEGN's website ([www.cegn.org/learn/reports](http://www.cegn.org/learn/reports)) and the grants data in the online searchable database ([www.grants.cegn.org](http://www.grants.cegn.org)). With this tool you can perform custom searches by applying filters to learn about environmental granting activities in Canada. We hope this tool will be of value to your own work.

If you have recommendations for future reports or how we can make the online database tool more useful for your work, please let us know. We are eager to build upon and improve these resources with every update.

Thank you for your continued interest and support.



# Appendices

## Appendix A: Member Participants

444S Foundation  
Alberta Ecotrust Foundation  
Alberta Real Estate Foundation  
Bullitt Foundation  
Carthy Foundation  
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation  
Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Family Foundation  
Coast Funds  
CS Fund  
de Gaspé Beaubien Foundation  
Donner Canadian Foundation  
Echo Foundation  
Federation of Canadian Municipalities -  
    Green Municipal Fund  
Fundy Community Foundation  
Glasswaters Foundation  
Ivey Foundation  
Joyce Foundation  
Max Bell Foundation  
McConnell Foundation  
Metcalf Foundation  
Mountain Equipment Co-op  
Oak Foundation  
Okanagan Basin Water Board  
Ontario Trillium Foundation  
Pacific Salmon Foundation  
RBC Foundation  
Real Estate Foundation of B.C.  
Suncor Energy Foundation  
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation  
Temagami Community Foundation  
The Atmospheric Fund  
The Calgary Foundation  
The Catherine Donnelly Foundation  
The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation  
The McLean Foundation  
The Midloch Foundation  
The Salamander Foundation  
The Schad Foundation  
The Sitka Foundation  
The Winnipeg Foundation  
Tides Canada  
Toronto Foundation  
Trottier Family Foundation  
Vancity  
Vancouver Foundation  
Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation  
Wilburforce Foundation  
Woodcock Foundation

## Appendix B: Other Funder Participants

Alberta Conservation Association  
Alberta Law Foundation  
Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada  
Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation  
Blennerhassett Family Foundation  
Carberry and Area Community Foundation  
Columbia Basin Trust  
Commission for Environmental Cooperation  
    North American Partnership for  
    Environmental Community Action  
Community Foundation for Kingston & Area  
Community Foundation of Grey Bruce  
Community Foundation of Newfoundland and  
    Labrador  
Community Foundation of PEI  
Community Foundation of Whistler  
Comox Valley Community Foundation  
Edmonton Community Foundation  
Fondation Hydro-Québec pour l'environnement  
Fonds d'action québécois pour le développement  
    durable  
Foundation of Greater Montreal

Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation  
Fredericton Community Foundation  
Freshwater Future  
Global Greengrants Fund  
Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund  
Greater Saint John Community Foundation  
Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation  
Hamilton Community Foundation  
Independent Electricity System Operator  
Conservation Fund  
Investment Agriculture Foundation of British  
Columbia  
Landscape Architecture Canada Foundation  
Law Foundation of BC  
London Community Foundation  
Lyle S. Hallman Foundation  
MacArthur Foundation  
Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship  
Sustainable Development Innovations Fund  
Mitsubishi Corporation Foundation for the  
Americas  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
Niagara Community Foundation  
North Shore Community Foundation

Ontario Community Environment Fund  
Ottawa Community Foundation  
Rockefeller Brothers Fund  
Stratford Perth Community Foundation  
Sudbury Community Foundation  
The Chawkers Foundation  
The Coca-Cola Foundation  
The Conservation Alliance  
The David and Lucile Packard Foundation  
The Johansen-Larsen Foundation  
The Youssef-Warren Foundation  
Thomas Sill Foundation  
Thompson Community Foundation  
Threshold Foundation  
Victoria Foundation  
Weeden Foundation  
Westshore Community Foundation Inc.  
WestWind Foundation

## Notes

1. Drawn from Environmental Grantmakers Association's *Tracking the Field: Volume 6 Analyzing Trends in Environmental Grantmaking* (2017)
2. For more information on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals visit:  
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>
3. Drawn from Philanthropic Foundations Canada's *A Portrait of Canadian Foundation Philanthropy* (2017)



Canadian Environmental  
Grantmakers' Network

CEGN works to strengthen the  
impact of philanthropic support  
for an environmentally sound  
and sustainable future for  
Canadians



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