

2022 Environmental Grants Data Landscape Snapshot

Prepared for:
Environment Funders Canada
www.environmentfunders.ca

Prepared by:
Ben McNamee, DARO
Allie McHugh, DARO
Hussain Alahmr, DARO



DARO

Contents

- Methodology2
- Data Collection2
- Analysis2
- Environmental Categories and Keyword Development.....3
- Included and Excluded Search Terms3
- Notes on Analysis Data and Graphs5
- 2022 Grant Data Analysis7
- 2022 Grant Data Member Submissions11
- Appendix A: Data Fields Collected from EFC Members12
- Appendix B: Environmental Categories Search Terms13
 - Conservation13
 - Climate Change.....14
 - Nature Education.....15
 - Food and Agriculture15
 - Pollution and Toxics16
 - Waste Reduction16
 - Indigenous.....17



Methodology

Data Collection

In 2023, EFC reached out to its members with a request to share their environmental grants data for the 2022 calendar year. This data is being used to create the foundation for an open knowledge hub, where members will eventually be able to use keyword search to explore the database directly. For now, it is internal to EFC and is being used to better understand what is getting funded within the environmental philanthropy sector, where the gaps are, and how this is changing over time.

Data collection took place from July through September of 2023. We received data from 44 of our 75 members, for a total of 1,941 grants to create the foundation of our database. This initial data collection focused on establishing a baseline of data from our members to perform exploratory analysis. During data collection, we prioritized flexibility for members to submit data, with a big picture objective of seeing trends over time, rather than ensuring total accuracy of the data.

Analysis

The analysis for the first annual data collection provides information on where environmental funding is currently focused and is a starting point that we can build from as we continue to add to the database. As more members contribute their data year after year, we will be able to get a more accurate picture and see trends over time.

To create a keyword search, we rely on ***grant titles*** and ***grant descriptions*** to understand the focus of the grant. These two fields are the basis for our analysis and what we used to determine the key search terms that would be most useful for generating insights.

Environmental Categories and Keyword Development

To get an idea of the environmental initiatives that were funded in 2022, we categorized grants into seven big environmental categories:

- **Conservation**
- **Climate Change**
- **Nature Education**
- **Food and Agriculture**
- **Pollution & Toxics**
- **Waste Reduction**
- **Other (includes general operating and organizational support grants)**

In addition to the seven environmental categories, we also created a category for Indigenous-focused grants. Unlike the other seven categories, Indigenous grants are not a distinct category and tend to be more holistic in nature. Therefore, these grants purposely overlap with several of the categories listed above.

To develop these categories, we did an initial exploration of the database using keywords that we thought would be the most likely focus areas. For these first few broad categories, we developed an initial keyword search for each category and then reviewed how many grant titles and descriptions were returned for each keyword. We then reviewed the grant titles and descriptions for grants that were not captured in this process and created additional categories. We also reviewed the grants and our starting keywords to remove keywords that were too broad and overlapped with multiple categories, and keywords that only returned a few grants in the database. Through multiple iterations of refining the keywords and reviewing the results to make adjustments, we developed the eight categories and a list of relevant keywords that were distinct for each category.

Included and Excluded Search Terms

Grant descriptions contain some overlap between more than one category (for example, conservation grants could involve references to climate change adaptation or mitigation). While there is crossover in the terminology used in descriptions, most grants had a clear primary focus and did not actually belong in multiple categories, so **we categorized grants based on the main focus of the work.**

To create an effective search and capture the primary focus, we excluded key terms from other categories to limit the amount of crossover terminology used in grant descriptions that could lead to grants being miscategorized.

For example, **grants in both the conservation category and nature education category** use terms that reference conservation, restoration, and nature. However, almost all grants that included the terms “education”, “school”, or “learning”, in their description were primarily focused on nature education and not focused on contributing to broader conservation targets, even if the grant description included conservation activities. Therefore, to search for conservation grants, we excluded the three key terms that were distinct to nature education: “education”, “school”, and “learning”. This helped us ensure those grants are correctly categorized as nature education, and not as both nature education and conservation.

Conservation grant search example: **Terms that searched the grant titles and descriptions**

Search Terms Included
Land
conserv' (to capture conserve, conservation, conserving)
natur' (to capture natural, nature)
protect' (to capture protection, protecting)
steward' (to capture stewarding, stewardship)
Habitat
restor' (to capture restore, restoration, restoring)
Biodiversity
Wildlife
Tree
Species
Ecosystem
Biodiversity

Search Terms excluded	Rationale for exclusion
education, school, learn	Exclude grants focused on nature education
food, agriculture	Exclude grants focused on food and agriculture
health, pollution, water quality	Exclude grants focused on pollution and toxics

For each grant category search, we excluded the top terms from other categories with significant overlap that created too much noise in the grant data. Terms were only excluded for one of the categories that had overlap. For example, if we excluded nature education terms from the search for conservation grants, we did **not** exclude conservation terms from the nature education search.

Grants in “Other” are grants that are not captured by the seven environmental categories. These grants have a broad environmental focus, are designated as core support, or did not have detailed enough grant titles and descriptions to be categorized by key search terms.

The Indigenous category is the only category created with multiple focuses of work, including “Other”, and we did **not** exclude words from the Indigenous category keyword search because it crosses over with other categories.

You can read the full list of included and excluded keywords for each in Appendix B.

Notes on Analysis Data and Graphs

Overlap counting in locations: Grants can be organized in the database by “geographic focus”, which includes International, USA, Canada and the Canadian provinces as locations. Grants can have multiple locations of focus, and this is reflected in each total award value breakdown per location. For example, the USA data shows grants amounting to over \$33 million. This largely reflects contributions from a single foundation toward Arctic conservation and were coded by the funder as being focused on both North America and Canada, which we categorized as Canada and the USA.

Overlap counting in environmental categories: The environmental categories are mostly distinct, but there is a small amount of overlap between categories (less than 20%). This reflects the fact that there are grants that are designed to achieve outcomes in multiple areas. For example, an IPCA located in an ecosystem that is also one of the largest carbon sinks in the world may be deliberately put in both the Conservation and Climate Change categories. This is reflected in each total award breakdown per category. If a \$30,000 grant is categorized as Conservation and Climate Change it will be reflected in the total grants awarded to Conservation AND Climate Change.

Member-to-Member Giving: Within the database, grants that EFC determined to be member-to-member giving are grants that are an EFC member organization awarded to another EFC member organization. This member-to-member giving is divided into two categories: programming and regranting.

Grants are categorized as programming if the EFC member receiving the grant is the organization carrying out the programmatic work to fulfil the grant. Grants are categorized as regranting if the EFC member receiving the grant is not the organization carrying out the programmatic work and would therefore grant the money to another organization. Grants categorized as regranting might be double-counted in the analysis if both EFC members – the granter and the grantee – submitted data for the same funds that flowed from the granter to the grantee.

The member-to-member giving grants are included in this analysis. There are 37 grants in the database that are tagged as member-to-member giving for a total of \$10,628,000, or roughly 6% of the total amount of grants received. There are 15 tagged as programming, totalling \$3,565,000 and 22 tagged as regranting, totalling \$7,063,000. The majority of the \$10,628,000 is from three grants: one grant for approximately \$3,000,000 and two grants that are each approximately \$1,000,000.

2022 Grant Data Analysis

Total \$ Grants Received

Total # Grants Received

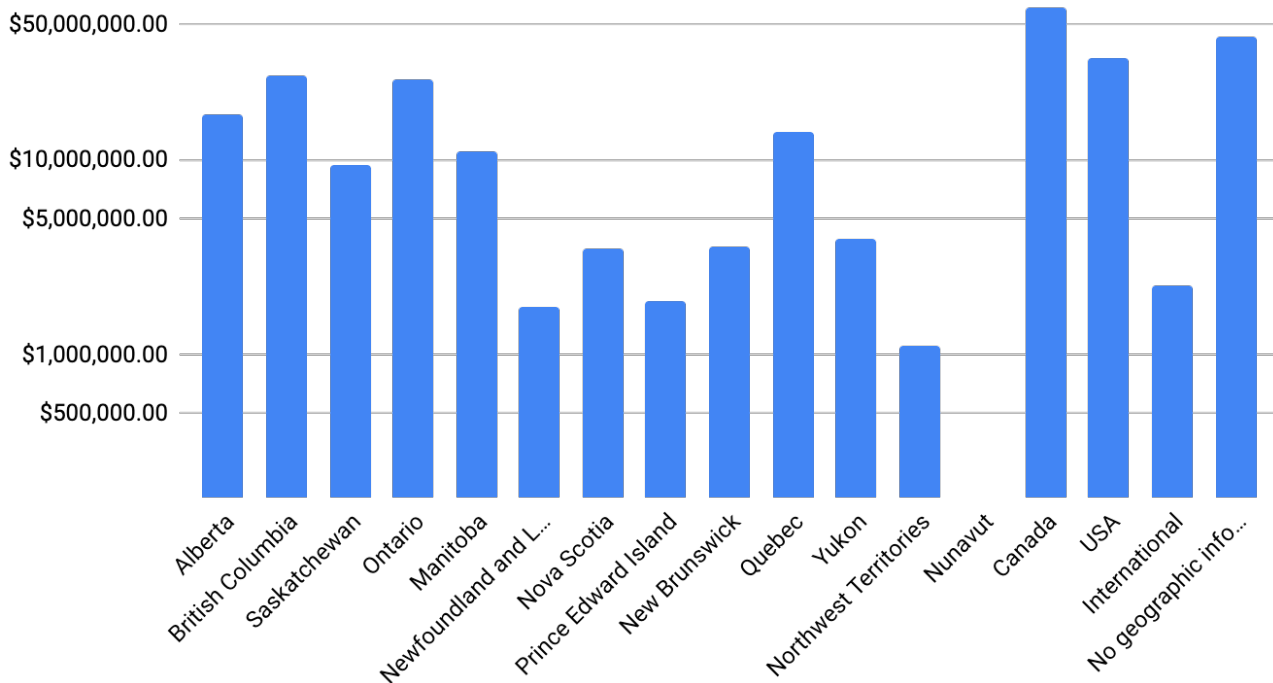
Total # Data Submissions

\$183,626,078.04

1,941

44

Chart 1. 2022 Grant Dollars by Geographic Focus



Notes on Chart 1. Overlap counting in locations: Grants can be organized in the database by “geographic focus”, which includes International, USA, Canada and the Canadian provinces as locations. Grants can have multiple locations of focus, and this is reflected in each total award value breakdown per location. For example, the USA data shows grants amounting to over \$33 million. This largely reflects contributions from a single foundation toward Arctic conservation and were coded by the funder as being focused on both North America and Canada, which we categorized as Canada and the USA.

Chart 2. Percentage of 2022 Grant Dollars Awarded by Geographic Focus

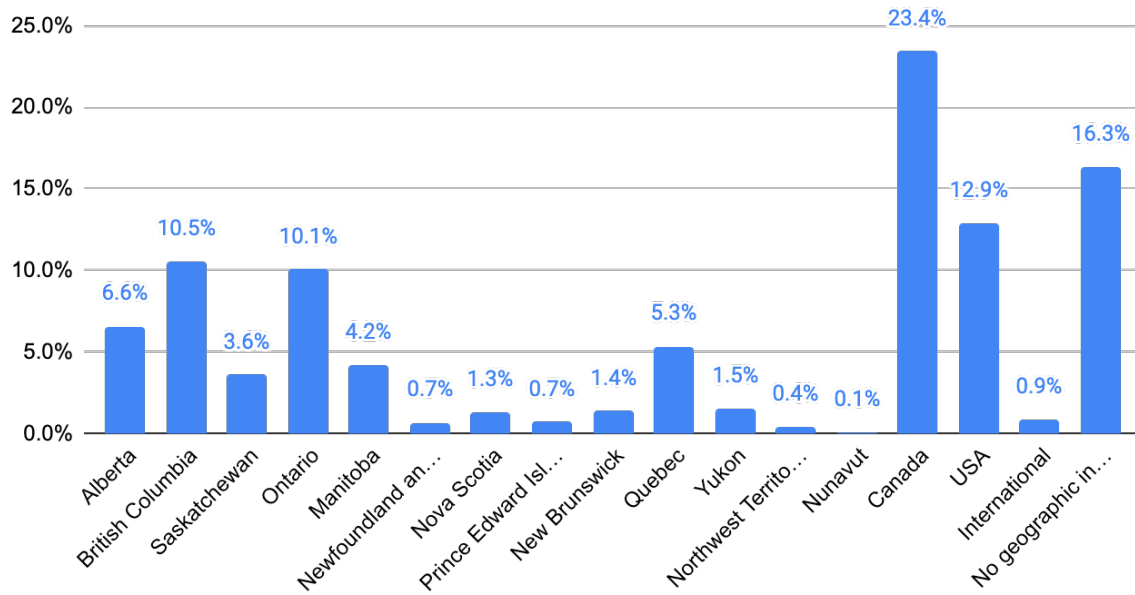
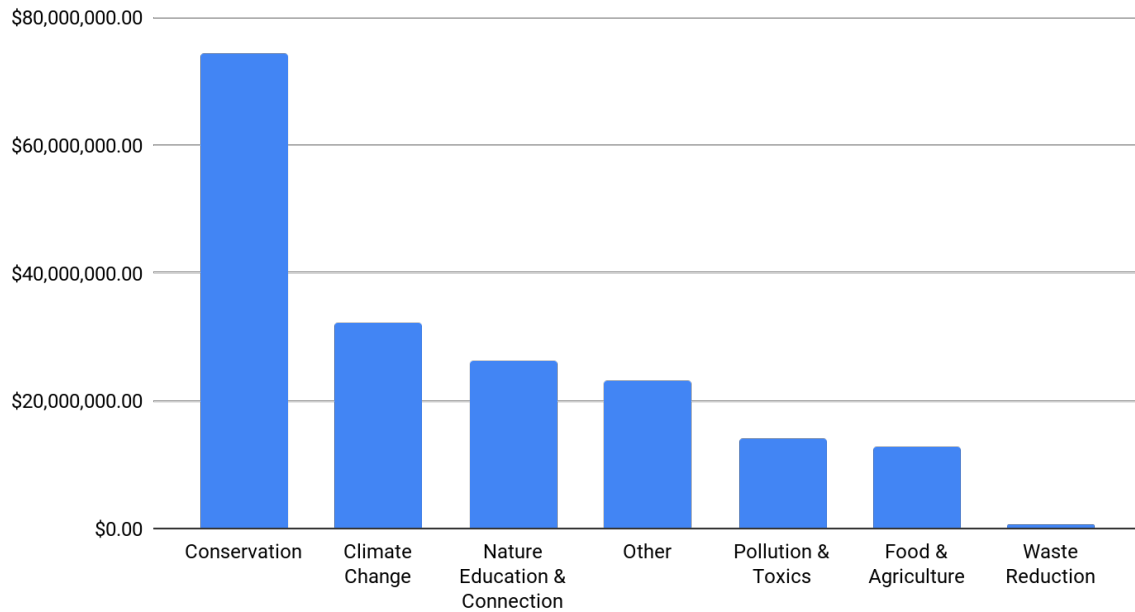
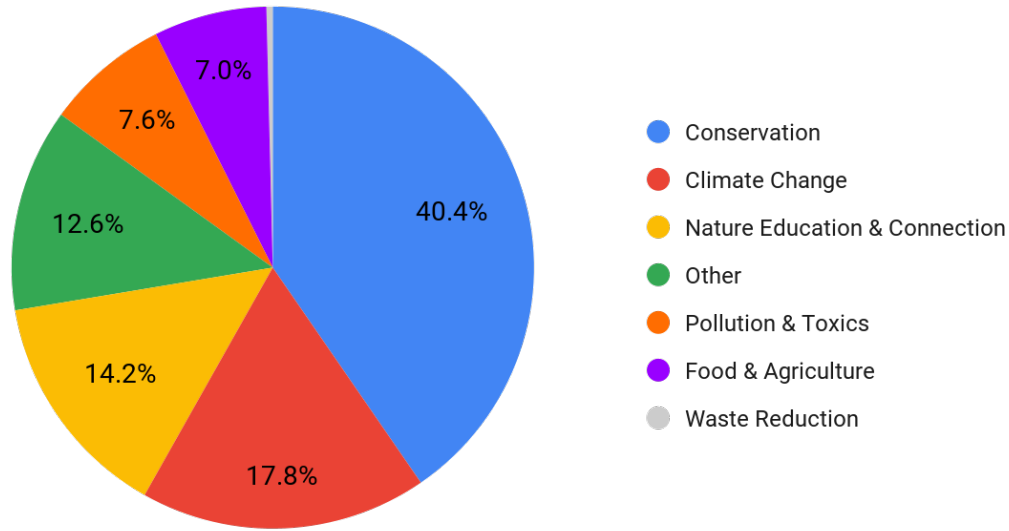


Chart 3. 2022 Grant Dollars by Environmental Category



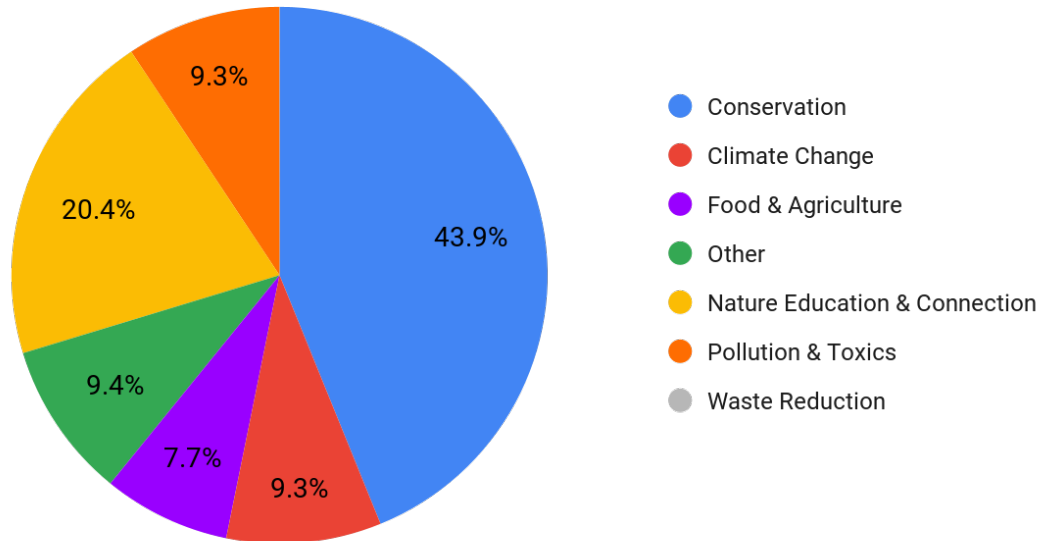
Notes on Chart 3. Overlap counting in environmental categories: The environmental categories are mostly distinct, but there is a small amount of overlap between categories (less than 20%). This reflects the fact that there are grants that are designed to achieve outcomes in multiple areas. For example, an IPCA located in an ecosystem that is also one of the largest carbon sinks in the world may be deliberately put in both the Conservation and Climate Change categories. This is reflected in each total award breakdown per category. If a \$30,000 grant is categorized as Conservation and Climate Change it will be reflected in the total grants awarded to Conservation AND Climate Change.

Chart 4. Percentage of 2022 Grant Dollars by Environmental Category



Notes on Chart 4. Grants in “Other” are grants that are not captured by the seven environmental categories. These grants have a broad environmental focus, are designated as core support, or did not have detailed enough grant titles and descriptions to be categorized by key search terms.

Chart 5. Breakdown of Categories of Investment in Indigenous-Focused Grants



Notes on Chart 5. Breakdown of Indigenous-Focused Grants: 23.3% of the total 2022 grant dollars submitted have an Indigenous focus. This breakdown looks at the grant dollars by environmental categories through the lens of Indigenous-focused grants. For example, for all 2022 grants awarded that included an indigenous focus, 44% of those grants were for conservation.

Other category: This category represents grants that are only Indigenous-focused and do not overlap with other environmental categories.

Chart 6. Percentage of 2022 Grant Dollars Awarded by Geographic Location and Environmental Category

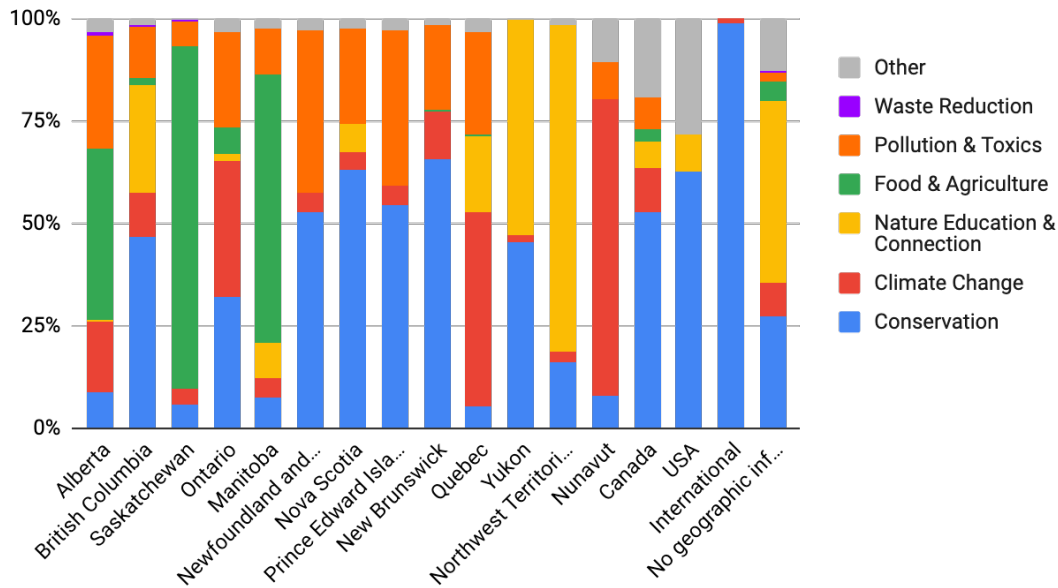
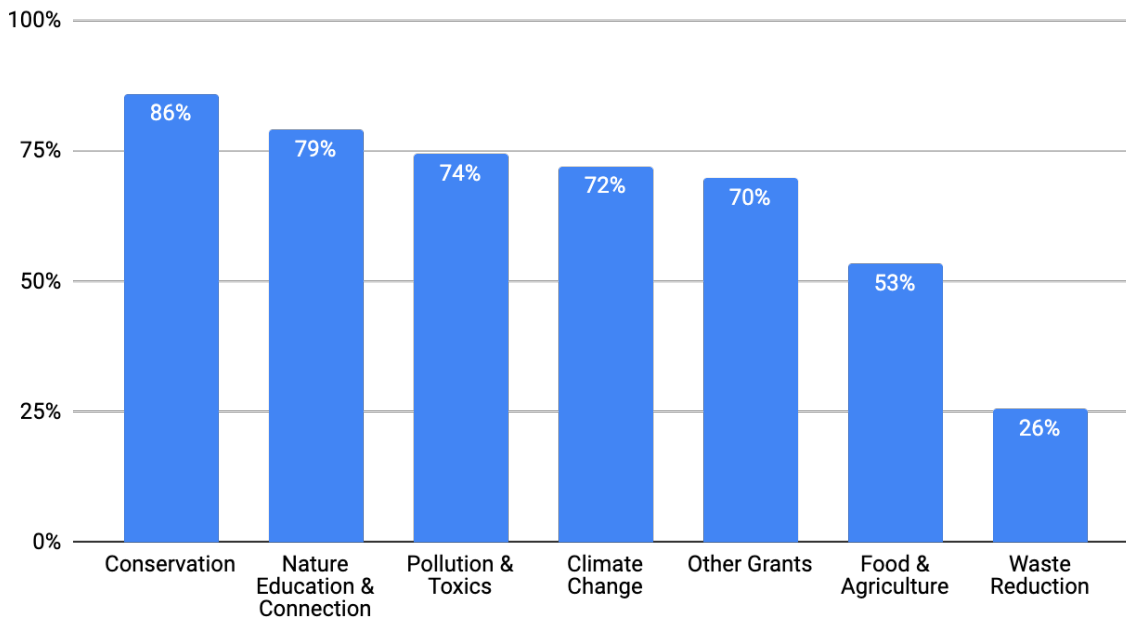


Chart 7. Percentage of Members Funding Environmental Categories



2022 Grant Data Member Submissions

Thank you to all members who submitted their data. The analysis contains data from the following members.

444S Foundation

Alberta Ecotrust Foundation

Banff Canmore Community Foundation

Chamandy Foundation

Chawkers Foundation

Chisholm Thomson Family Foundation

Coast Funds

De Gaspé Beaubien Foundation

Definity Insurance Foundation

Dickhout Family Foundation

Donner Canadian Foundation

Echo Foundation

Glasswaters Foundation

Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

Greenbelt Foundation

Ivey Foundation

Laidlaw Foundation

MakeWay Foundation

Meighen Family Foundation

Mott Foundation

Okanagan Basin Water Board

Ottawa Climate Action Fund (OCAF)

Peter Gilgan Foundation

Real Estate Foundation of BC (REFBC)

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

The Atmospheric Fund

The Calgary Foundation

The Catherine Donnelly Foundation

The Dragonfly Fund

The Foundation of Greater Montreal

The George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation

The Houssian Foundation

The Lawson Foundation

The McConnell Foundation

The McLean Foundation

The Schad Foundation

The Sitka Foundation

The Trottier Family Foundation

The Waltons Trust

The Winnipeg Foundation

Toronto Foundation

Weston Family Foundation

Wilburforce Foundation

Woodcock Foundation

Appendix A: Data Fields Collected from EFC Members

Data Field	Definition
Name of EFC Member	Name of Member organization
Business Number or Charitable number of EFC Member	Members will have either a business number OR a charitable number. Charitable numbers end in RR001. A business number is a nine-digit number with no letters.
Location of EFC Member	Head office (city, postal code)
Grant Title	Title of environmental grant awarded. We are interested in grant data for the Canadian sector.
Grant Identifier Number	Identifying number for the grant
Grant Dollar Value Awarded in 2022	Total dollar amount awarded for the grant
** if readily available** Grant Dollar Allocation	Grant Dollar Allocation of total grant awarded, per year (ex. year 1: 500000; year 2: 250000)
Grant Dollar Currency	Currency of the grant awarded (ex. CAD, USD)
Grant Start Date	Start date stipulated in the grant agreement
Grant End Date	End date stipulated in the grant agreement
Grant Description	Short paragraph about the grant awarded
Grant Geographic Focus	If available, whether the focus is national or provincial, and specific provinces. Include specific provinces if possible. Please include all applicable information for focus (ex. Canada, Alberta and British Columbia, if the focus is national, as well as within specific provinces).
Name of Grantee	Name of Grantee
Grantee Business Number or charitable number	Grantees will have either a business number OR a charitable number. Charitable numbers end in RR001. A business number is a nine-digit number with no letters.
Grantee Location	Head office (city, postal code)

Appendix B: Environmental Categories Search Terms

Conservation

Search Terms Included

- Land
- Conserv' (to capture conserve, conservation, conserving)
- Natur' (to capture natural, nature)
- Protect' (to capture protection, protecting)
- Steward' (to capture stewarding, stewardship)
- Habitat
- Restor' (to capture restore, restoration, restoring)
- Biodiversity
- Wildlife
- Tree
- Species
- Ecosystem

Search Terms Excluded

- Education
- School
- Learning
- Food
- Agriculture
- Health
- Pollution
- Water quality

Climate Change

Search Terms Included

Climate

Energy, wind, solar, geothermal, hydropower, & tidal

Building

Policy

Carbon

Greenhouse gas, GHGs

Emissions

Electric

Oil

Coal

Net-zero

Search Terms excluded

Conserv'

Protect'

Steward'

Restor'

Education

School

Learning

Health

Water quality

Nature Education

Search Terms Included

Education

School

Learning

Students

Outdoor

Teach

Children

Camp (with space before and after)

Camps

Search Terms Excluded

No terms excluded. Nature education terms were excluded from other categories.

Food and Agriculture

Search Terms Included

Food

Agriculture

Harvest

Farm

Farmer

Farming

Fruit

Search Terms Excluded

Education

School

Learning

Health

Pollution and Toxics

Search Terms Included

Health

Water quality

Pollution

Plastics

Toxins

Search Terms Excluded

Education

School

Learning

Waste Reduction

Search Terms Included

Repair

Reuse

Circular economy

Plastic

Recycling

Garbage

Reusable

Upcycle

Search Terms Excluded

Education

School

Learning

Climate

Indigenous

Search Terms Included

Indigenous

Nation (with space in before and after)

First Nation

Reconciliation

Sovereignty

Healing

Territories

Treaty

Search Terms Excluded

None. Crossover with other categories was expected.

About EFC

Environment Funders Canada is a national network of philanthropic foundations and other funders working individually and collectively to advance a healthy environment and a sustainable future for Canada. EFC catalyzes funders to respond to environmental crises with ambitious and innovative solutions. EFC **members** work with non-government organizations, community groups and other charitable organizations to support the development and delivery of programs that can make our communities healthier and more resilient, while protecting vital ecosystem services and the natural world.

About DARO

DARO helps leaders systematize and successfully implement their learning, data and technology strategies. DARO are ruthless pragmatists that deliver real-world, impactful results. Fascinated by the design and development of innovative systems that power change for good, the team at DARO help social sector organizations take advantage of the new open data movement to increase their individual and collective impacts in the areas of Digital Transformation, Data Strategy & Governance, Open Data & Data Sharing, Data & Information Architecture, and Evaluation & Measurement services.



Environment Funders Canada
c/o Foundation House
2 St. Clair Avenue East, Suite 300
Toronto, Ontario M4T 2T5
647.288.8891
www.environmentfunders.ca