



Environmental Research Program Seeding Grant Guidelines For Applicants

Closing Date: 5pm 10 February 2012

What are seeding grants?

PLEASE NOTE that this is not a small grants program.

This program provides funding for a component or components of a project that need to be tested and resolved before a full project can be developed for funding (by the Trust or other funding body). Only projects that are testing a novel concept, technique or indicator will be considered. Applications that do not meet these criteria will be deemed ineligible. Projects seeking to use funds to commercialise existing technologies, for ongoing monitoring or ongoing research are also ineligible.

If the Technical Committee deems a seeding grant application to be, in fact, a small research grant application, and if it has merit and its category is being offered in 2012 under the Major Research Grant program, it may be considered under that program. Applicants in that category will be invited to submit a full application that will be considered along with other invited applications. The funding amount applied for cannot exceed that in the original Seeding Grant application.

Application process

Applying for an Environmental Research seeding grant is a one-stage application process.

Grants to a maximum value of \$20,000 are available for 'proof of concept' projects. **Seeding grant projects must be completed within 12 months.**

Program objectives

The objectives of the Environmental Research Program are to:

- generate new knowledge or information to facilitate local solutions to environmental problems
- discover new methods of operation for NSW industries that are less harmful to the environment
- provide knowledge about general environmental problems

Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for an Environmental Research Program seeding grant:

- your EOI and Application must be relevant to one of five **project categories** outlined below
- your **organisation** must be eligible – see table below:

Community organisations	Research Institutes (public and private)
<p>Community organisations including community groups, incorporated associations (community or industry associations incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 1984), cooperatives, non-profit organisations incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) as applied in NSW.</p> <p>Note: Community organisations that are not incorporated, are eligible to apply, but only if they arrange for the grant to be administered by a Council or other non-profit organisation.</p>	<p>Includes universities and government organisations that have the requisite capabilities and responsibility to undertake research programs.</p> <p>Note: The Trust will NOT fund Research Funding Institutes.</p>

Non-profit organisations incorporated under the Corporations Act must provide proof of their non-profit status:

- A certified copy of the company's latest extract of particulars issued by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) indicating their non-profit status; or
- A certified extract of the company's constitution that includes provisions that:
 - prohibit the company from making any distribution - whether in money, property or otherwise – to its members during the course of its operations
 - prohibit from making any distribution – whether in money, property or otherwise – to its members on dissolution
 - ensure profits made by the organisation are used to carry out the organisation's purposes

A maximum of three applications per organisation is permitted for each category.

Individual researchers from Universities and statewide organisations should not submit their application directly to the Trust. The Trust will only accept applications from Universities if they are submitted via their Research Grants Office to ensure that the above limits are not exceeded. This also applies to statewide organisations, who should submit their applications via their Head Office/Chief Executive Officer.

Project categories for 2012

Grants will be to a maximum value of \$20,000 for the best proposals across any of the following categories:

1. Climate Change

Research relating to, for example (but not limited to):

Priority areas for climate change impacts and adaptation:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate systems, such as past and present climates and investigating extreme events • Social and biophysical responses, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Human health and social impacts, especially on landuse systems and human settlement e.g. from bushfires, extreme weather events and water and air quality ○ Biophysical impacts and responses e.g. for the coastal zone, rivers and freshwater resources, marine systems, soil and land systems, native vegetation and terrestrial biodiversity. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sectoral and regional risks, such as regional impacts and risk of emergencies that require responses • Adaptive capacity, in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assessing capacity of ecosystems to adapt to climate change impacts ○ Research into techniques and cost effective options for managing the impacts of climate change |
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2. Biodiversity and Conservation

Research relating to, for example (but not limited to):

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threats to biodiversity, including pests and weeds • Conservation planning • Terrestrial and Marine Parks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terrestrial or aquatic ecosystem function • Restoration ecology |
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3. Integrated Landscape Management

Research relating to, for example (but not limited to):

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural resource management of soils, water, vegetation, etc. Landscape management that improves ecological sustainability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Links between pressures and environmental impacts Effectiveness of natural resource management activities
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4. Environmental Pollution

Research relating to, for example (but not limited to):

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts of environmental contaminants Impacts of air, water, or land pollution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts of noise pollution Methods of decontamination and pollution mitigation
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5. Resource Efficiency and Sustainability

Research relating to, for example (but not limited to):

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste avoidance and reuse Resource recovery, especially innovative methods of sorting and processing waste Environmental impacts of alternative waste management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste management to avoid pollution Improving efficiency of resource utilisation Increasing sustainability, e.g. energy or water conservation
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Assessment criteria

Each application will be assessed by the Environmental Research Technical Committee (with the assistance of relevant experts where required), who will assess your application against the following Assessment Criteria:

- Relevance.** Is the overall research concept this project will support one that will fill a strategically significant gap in knowledge that would otherwise be likely to impede environmental decision-making in New South Wales within the foreseeable future?
- Merit of the research.** Will this project provide sufficient evidence that the overall research concept can be achieved? Is it well considered and will it employ sound methodology? Will it employ competent staff? Does it provide value for money?
- Potential for success.** Given the objectives, methodology, estimated budget and time frame, what is the likelihood of success of the project?

Checklist and submission details

Submission details

<input type="checkbox"/> Include all the information that is sought in this form but do not include attachments (unless it is evidence of your non-profit status, where required).		
<input type="checkbox"/> Submit your application by the closing date – 5pm 10 February 2012 .		
<input type="checkbox"/> Submit your entire application by ONE of the methods below. (i.e. DO NOT email AND post)		
Email to: (preferred method)	info@environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If emailing your application, please email the application form as a Word document (DO NOT PDF).
Post to:	The Administrator Environmental Trust PO Box 644 PARRAMATTA NSW 2124	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If posting your application please send 2 copies of your application form to the Trust. Do not bind or staple your application.
Hand deliver to:	Environmental Trust Level 2, 1 Fitzwilliam St PARRAMATTA NSW 2150	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If hand delivering your application please deliver 2 copies of your application form to the Trust. Do not bind or staple your application or attachments.

Acknowledgement of receipt of applications

You should expect acknowledgement of your application within 2 weeks of the closing date. This confirmation will include a unique reference number, which should be provided in all correspondence to and from the Trust. If you do not receive acknowledgement within 2 weeks, please contact the Environmental Trust on (02) 8837 6093.

Note: If you **email** your application, the Trust will acknowledge receipt of your email within 2 working days. If you have not received notification of receipt of your email within this time, it is your responsibility to contact the Trust to ensure that your email has been received.

Notification of grant decisions

The Minister for the Environment, as Chairperson of the Trust, will publicly announce the successful applicants. This is expected to occur in June 2012. Applicants will also be notified in writing. Note that you should plan to begin your project between 1 July 2012 and 1 December 2012.

Who to contact if you need further help

If you require further help with your application, please contact the Program Administrator by phone on (02) 8837 6093 or by email at: info@environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au.

Any application that is late, incomplete or ineligible will not be considered.

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