

Communications Plan: FAQ

Enbridge Ecofootprint Grant Program FAQ

What is Enbridge's commitment to the grant program?

The program will provide funding to help protect and restore the natural environment. Communities in North Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin along Line 3 Replacement Project may be eligible to receive grants in varying amounts. The Ecofootprint Grant Program will award a total of \$1 million in 2017.

What are the priorities of the environmental stewardship grant program?

The Ecofootprint Grant Program awards grants for the preservation and restoration of ecosystems and habitats in areas along the Line 3 Replacement Project. The key program priorities include:

- Improve and/or protect surface water and/or groundwater quality in watersheds crossed by projects;
- Advance research and science related to threatened and endangered species and/or declining populations;
- Foster environmental post-secondary education and stewardship;
- Improve research related to the transportation of crude oil as it relates to the environment; and
- Focus on environmental areas or issues that are most relevant to local communities.

What are the eligibility requirements for grant applicants?

- Eligible applicants include: non-profit 501(c)3 organizations (or their international equivalents); Native American tribes; state government agencies; local governments; and post-secondary academic institutions.
- Ineligible applicants include: individuals, US Federal government agencies and private for-profit firms.

Is there a minimum/maximum amount that can be requested for an individual grant?

There is a total of \$1 million available for grant awards this funding cycle. Individual grant awards will be made for projects having total project cost of at least \$25,000. Proposals with a total project cost under \$25,000 will not be considered.

What is the geographic focus for the projects and/or grant applicants?

Projects and/or grant applicants must be located in counties or watershed (6-digit HUC) crossed by the following counties and 6-digit HUC watersheds:

Counties	Watersheds (6-digit HUC)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pembina, ND• Kittson, MN• Marshall, MN• Pennington, MN• Red Lake, MN• Polk, MN• Clearwater, MN• Hubbard, MN• Wadena, MN• Cass, MN• Crow Wing, MN	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Upper Red (090201)• Lower Red (090203)• Mississippi Headwaters (070101)• St. Croix (070300)• St. Louis (040102)• Southwestern Lake Superior (040103)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aitkin, MN • Beltrami, MN • Itasca, MN • Saint Louis, MN • Carlton, MN • Douglas, WI 	
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When will the Request for Proposal be available?

Applicants may access the RFP and submit a proposal by visiting www.minnesotarcd.org/grants beginning Dec. 1, 2016. At that time we anticipate that approximately \$1 million will be available for grant awards through this funding cycle to those who qualify and meet the program criteria.

What is the timeline for submitting an application?

- Dec. 1, 2016 – Application period begins
- Jan 23, 2017 – Applications received prior to this date will be reviewed for completeness prior to the deadline (Jan. 27, 2017)
- Jan. 27, 2017 – Application period ends
- March 15, 2017 – MARC&D announces awards
- April 28, 2017 – Grant agreements must be finalized

How do applicants submit a proposal/apply?

All application materials will be available online at MARC&D www.minnesotarcd.org/grants. Directions for completing the application are posted on the site.

Will applicants be required to secure a match of cash or contributed goods and services?

While Enbridge is not requiring that grant applicants secure a match of cash or contributed good and services, we are encouraging each applicant to demonstrate a 1:1 leverage of matching funds that may include cash, in-kind contributions of staff and volunteer time, work performed, materials and services donated or other tangible contributions to the project objectives and outcomes. Project proposals that demonstrate a match of 1:1 will receive a 10 percent bonus during proposal review.

What is the time frame requirement for a grantee to complete a project?

Anticipated completion time for funded projects will typically be two (2) years following finalization of a grant agreement. Projects may be a discrete part of a longer-term project, provided there are definable outcomes for the proposed phase of the overall effort. The project narrative should include a clear timetable or schedule for project completion.

How will the grant application be evaluated?

A steering committee consisting of Enbridge and MARC&D reviewers will use the following criteria as a strong basis for project selections. However, project selections also will be based on other considerations, such as availability of funding, proximity to proposed pipeline projects, geographic balance, and balance among project types. In addition, selections may be based on how proposed activities would advance goals of established regional, tribal, state and federal conservation plans.

All proposals will be screened for relevance, accuracy, completeness and compliance with funding source policies established by Enbridge and MARC&D. Proposals will then be evaluated based on the extent to which they meet the following criteria. The most-competitive applications will demonstrate:

- Close alignment with funding priorities
- Clear definition of activities and anticipated ecological results
- Proximity to proposed pipeline projects
- Strong technical merit
- Competitive project costs
- Experienced project teams and partner engagement
- Plans for pre- and post-implementation monitoring to document habitat improvements and other project outcomes
- Project connections to other local conservation projects and plans
- Likelihood to complete the project within the given timeframe

Are there resources available for questions or to provide assistance with the grant application?

MARC&D is working with Enbridge to administer the environmental stewardship grant program and will serve as a resource for applicants. Contact MARC&D at (218) 464-6737 ext. 701.