



**Minnesota Association of Resource
Conservation and Development Councils
(MARC&D) is administering the
Ecofootprint Grant Program**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

PROPOSAL DUE DATE: January 27, 2017, by 5:00 PM Central Daylight Time

OVERVIEW

Minnesota Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils (MARC&D) is proud to announce the continuation of the Enbridge Ecofootprint Grant Program. The program provides funding to help protect and restore the natural environment. Communities in North Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin along the Line 3 Replacement Project may be eligible to receive grants in varying amounts.

CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS FUNDING CYCLES

1. Funding in this cycle will be limited to the geographic region of the Line 3 Replacement Project. See map for specific area.
2. Priorities for funding will again place emphasis on the project's proximity to the Line 3 Replacement Project. Projects nearer the Line 3 Replacement Project will receive additional points in ranking.
3. Applications received by January 23, 2017, will be reviewed for completeness prior to the January 27 deadline.

FUNDING PRIORITIES

Project proposals must demonstrate that projects will achieve measurable results for one or more of these funding priorities:

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

GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS

To be eligible for funding, projects and/or grant applications must occur in counties or major watershed areas crossed by the Line 3 Replacement Project route.

Counties:

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Pembina, ND | Cass, MN | Saint Louis, MN |
| Polk, MN | Crow Wing, MN | Kittson, MN |
| Red Lake, MN | Aitkin, MN | Marshall, MN |
| Clearwater, MN | Carlton, MN | Pennington, MN |
| Hubbard, MN | Beltrami, MN | Douglas, WI |
| Wadena, MN | Itasca, MN | |

Watersheds (6-digit HUC):

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Upper Red (090201) | St. Croix (070300) |
| Lower Red (090203) | St. Louis (040102) |
| Mississippi Headwaters (070101) | Southwestern Lake Superior (040103) |

The eligible areas are depicted on the [Ecofootprint Grant Program Geographic Focus for Line 3 Replacement Project](#) map.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants include non-profit 501(c) (3) organizations, state government agencies, local governments, Native American tribes, and post-secondary academic institutions. Ineligible applicants include unincorporated individuals and private for profit businesses.

FUNDING AVAILABILITY

A total of \$1 million is available for grant awards in this funding cycle. Individual grant awards will be made for projects having total project cost of at least \$25,000. Projects with a total project cost less than \$25,000 will not be considered at this time.

Projects funded will be completed by 11/1/2018. The project narrative should include a clear timetable or schedule with project start and end dates defining the period during which all proposed work is accomplished, all requested funds are spent, and all matching contributions spent or utilized.

Grant payments will be made as reimbursement for direct costs incurred. Funds will not be advanced. Finance fees may be included as direct costs in project budget.

MARC&D reserves the right to negotiate award amounts and project deliverables prior to executing recipient agreements in order to fund high quality request components.

MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS

The ratio of matching contributions for projects will be a factor considered during the review process with projects meeting or exceeding a 1:1 match ratio being more competitive. Eligible match can be cash or in-kind contributions of staff and/or volunteer time, work performed, materials and/or services donated, or other tangible contributions to the project objectives and outcomes. Match may include contributions made during calendar year 2016 to an eligible project. The cost of land acquisition or easement on an eligible project site may qualify as match.

To be eligible, matching contributions must be:

- Verifiable from a grantee's records
- Not included as a contribution for any other project
- Necessary and reasonable for accomplishment of project or program objectives
- Allowable costs based on the program and funding source guideline
- Committed directly to the project and used during the allowable timeframe

INELIGIBLE USES OF FUNDS

- Neither grant funds nor matching contributions may be used to support political advocacy, fundraising, lobbying, litigation, terrorist activities or Foreign Corrupt Practices Act violations.
- Grantees may not use grant funds to influence ongoing efforts to comply with legal requirements, including permit conditions, mitigation and settlement agreements. However, grant funds may be used to support projects that enhance or improve upon existing baseline compliance efforts.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Each project proposal shall be ranked using the following project attributes:

- How the project aligns with funding priorities

- A clear definition of activities and anticipated ecological results
- Strong technical merit
- Competitive project costs
- Experienced project teams and partner engagements
- Plans for pre-and post-implementation monitoring to document habitat improvements and other project outcomes
- How Ecofootprint grant award funds can be leveraged or matched (applicants are encouraged to show 1:1 match)
- How the project complements existing conservation lands or restoration projects
- The applicant's capacity to accomplish the project in a set time frame
- Closeness to proposed Line 3 Replacement Project

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

Applicants shall identify any known or potential conflicts of interest with MARC&D or Enbridge, including affiliates and subsidiaries. Conflict of interests include: any employee or board member of the Applicant's organization having an affiliation with MARC&D or Enbridge; any involvement of the Applicant's organization in Enbridge project review or permitting; and any involvement of the Applicant's organization in legal or advocacy activities directly or indirectly related to Enbridge projects and operations. Failure to disclose a potential conflict of interest may result in early termination of any grant agreement.

TIMELINE

Dates of activities are subject to change. Please check the MARC&D website for the most current dates and information.

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|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Application period opens | December 1, 2016 |
| • Courtesy review for completeness up to | January 23, 2017 |
| • Proposal due date | 5:00 pm, January 27, 2017 |
| • Review period complete | March 15, 2017 |
| • Tentative award announcement to recipients | March 21, 2017 |
| • Recipient Agreements complete | April 28, 2017 |
| • Projects completed by | November 1, 2018 |

Proposals received after the due date (January 27, 2017) will not be considered during this grant cycle.

HOW TO APPLY

The Ecofootprint Grant Application Form will be used for all applications and is available at: www.minnesotarcd.org. All applications and attachments must be submitted electronically in PDF format.

Submitting documents

- All proposal documents will be submitted electronically in a pdf format to grant@minnesotarcd.org
- All files are to be converted to PDF format prior to submitting.
- Proposals received prior to January 23, 2017, will be reviewed for completeness, and to confirm the files are converted and legible as submitted. We encourage timely submittal of proposals for this review.
- A Q&A page will be maintained for questions received through January 25, 2017.
- Applications may be revised and resubmitted up to the due date. Note on email memo that this is a “revised document to replace (specify project name) submitted on (date).”

The Minnesota Association of Resource Conservation & Development Councils reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted. High quality projects may be negotiated to incorporate phases or other project modifications prior to contracting recipient agreements.

APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

For more information and assistance with this RFP, please contact:

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