



Vaudreuil-Dorion

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Ecoprojects Community Fund Up to \$5,000 towards the completion of an environmental project

Vaudreuil-Dorion, April 22, 2022 – As we celebrate Earth Day today, the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion is launching an appeal to citizens, non-profit organizations and public institutions across its territory who are interested in implementing an environmental project benefitting the community. Those who would like to take part have until June 1st to submit their project to the Environmental Department. The initiatives selected will be awarded up to \$5,000 to carry out the project.

The Ecoprojects Community Fund is part of the City's Strategic Plan 2020 > 2025 entitled *Habité par ma ville*, which promotes citizen participation. It aims at encouraging initiatives that promote the environment and the importance of protecting it through actions that support the issues included in the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion's Environmental Policy, namely the protection of water resources, urban agriculture, residual materials, adapting to climate change, biodiversity and natural environments.

"We feel it is important to allow citizens and organizations to create environmental projects. We are all increasingly aware that making a real difference in our community requires the participation of everyone. The Ecoprojects Community Fund is a great opportunity for all those who are concerned about environmental issues to take action with the help of financial support from the City," commented Mayor Guy Pilon.

Following are some examples of projects that could be submitted for consideration under the Ecoprojects Community Fund:

- Creating pollinator-friendly gardens, urban and nutrient-rich forests and tree planting across properties that are connected
- Workshops on environmental topics (e.g. residual materials, zero waste, etc.)
- Community clean-up projects
- Funding of an environmental education program (e.g. Safe Cycling, Carbone Scol'ERE)
- Planning and presentation of a lecture or event on environmental topics
- Purchase of a collective compost bin
- Planning and presentation of workshops to learn how to repair broken devices and promote zero waste in the community
- Purchase of zero waste equipment for a public institution or non-profit organization
- Creating a bicycle-sharing system
- Installations to reduce environmental pollution (e.g. rain gardens)

Full details related to the Ecoprojects Community Fund, as well as corresponding forms, are available on the City's website in the Environment section.

Environmental Policy: Assessment and next steps

In the spring of 2018, the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion launched its very first Environmental Policy, which stretched until 2022. The policy included 122 measures spread over five main strategic guidelines:

- Protection and use of drinking water – Wastewater and storm water management
- Agriculture – Urban planning – Land development – Residual materials
- Climate change – Environmental health – Energy efficiency
- Biodiversity – Natural environments – Access to nature – Recreational tourism
- Green City – Municipal Administration

Over the years, a verification and internal audit approach has enabled us to assess the City's position in terms of the commitments contained in its Policy. Although 2022 is not yet over and actions are still underway, the City has recently taken the time to assess the progress of its 2018-2022 Environmental Policy with the object of proceeding to update its Policy for the coming years. The outcome of the very positive assessment illustrates that 52 of the 122 planned measures included in the Policy have been completed while the remaining 70 are in progress. The public is invited to consult the full details of the report on the City's website at ville.vaudreuil-dorion.qc.ca, Environmental Policy section.

Citizens will be asked to vote in the coming months as part of the process that will lead to the new version of the Policy. Bear in mind that the Environmental Policy is a fundamental tool to demonstrate the City's commitment to protecting the environment and provide assistance for making informed decisions. Concrete action plans with realistic timelines will also be developed to support this new Policy.