Environmental STUDENT ACTION CHALLENGE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What kind of projects will be funded?

Projects must do at least one of the following:

- Reduce human impact on the natural environment; or
- Restore or enhance an aspect of the natural environment.
- Reduce the carbon footprint of a group;

How do we apply?

Apply by completing an application form at
https://www.alberta.ca/environmental-student-action-challenge.aspx

When is the deadline?

The deadline to submit an application is 4:30 p.m. on October 17, 2021.

Who can submit a proposal?

Any team of kindergarten to grade 12 students attending school in Alberta that have an adult supervisor and principal support may apply.

How much funding is available?

Approximately five awards of up to $500 and ten awards of up to $1,000 are available, although the numbers might change based on the quality of the applications.

Where does the funding come from?

Funding for these grants comes from the Government of Alberta's Ministry of Environment and Parks.

What is the difference between applying for a grant of up to $500 and a grant up to $1,000?

The process for applying for the two grants is the same, but more detail is expected in applications for grants of $500–$1,000. Projects for grants of $500-$1,000 are also expected to have a larger environmental impact and further reach than projects for grants of up to $500.

Is this an individual or team challenge?

This is a team challenge for groups of two or more. Individual applications are not eligible.

How will different grades be evaluated? For example, is a kindergarten project proposal evaluated in the same way as a grade 11 project proposal?

Projects will be assessed with participant grade levels in mind. Students in higher grade levels are expected to include more elements of research and deeper scientific reasoning in their proposals.

What can teams spend the money on?

You can spend the money on project materials and supplies. You cannot spend the money on things like guest speakers, or items for which you already have funding.

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How many projects can be funded per school?

A maximum of two projects may be funded per school.

If my students develop a project that has the potential to go on past the end date, will we get ongoing funding?

The project may continue beyond the end date of May 31, 2021 though only unique additions to the project may be funded in subsequent years. If the project will be expanded on or added to in subsequent years, a new proposal can be submitted for consideration under the program. Students can also look for additional funding through community grants or corporate sponsorship to fund unique components of the project.

Are there any reporting requirements?

Yes. All grant recipients must provide a short project reflection in June. Grant recipients of awards of $500-$1,000 are expected to report on their projects in the form of a short (max 2-minute) video, submitted in early May. Full reporting details can be found in the Application Handbook in the "Important Documents" section.

Can we ask people who aren't on our project team to help us with our project?

Yes! Collaboration with other groups and individuals is encouraged. Please note that the Student Action Challenge does not fund guest speakers or presentations.

What types of projects are most likely to win?

Projects that have a large and measurable environmental impact, involve many people (both students and community members), have a legacy component, are unique, and are well articulated are most likely to be awarded funding. To increase your chances please include detailed information in your project application.

How can teachers support the Student Action Challenge?

Encourage your students to submit an application to participate as a class or student group. You can help your students with their application, but the applications and the projects should be student-driven.

Where can I find detailed information in the Student Action Challenge?

More information on the Student Action Challenge is available in the Application Handbook under "Important Documents". The Application Handbook includes everything you need to know, including the evaluation rubric. If you have additional questions please email Student.Action@gov.ab.ca.