



FUNDING

APPLICATION GUIDE & FAQ

Biodiversity • Water • Climate

2026-2027

Eeyou EcoFund

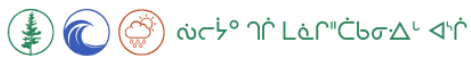
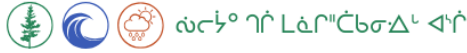


Table of contents

1. What is the Eeyou EcoFund?	2
2. Key Dates and Funding Cycle	2
3. Before You Apply	3
4. Funding Streams	3
5. Who Can Apply?	4
6. Project Eligibility	4
7. Funding Amounts and Allocation Rules.....	5
8. Project Types: Local, Regional, Phase, and Multiple Submissions	5
9. Eligible Expenses.....	6
10. Ineligible Expenses	6
11. Fund-Specific Nuances.....	7
12. Examples of Eligible Projects.....	8
13. Secretariat Support Before Submission	8
14. How to Apply	9
15. Supporting Documents	9
16. Target Alignment.....	10
17. How Applications Are Reviewed	13
18. Evaluation Criteria	13
19. Payment Schedule.....	14
20. Reporting and Accountability	14
21. Communications and Visibility.....	15
22. Applicant Checklist.....	15
23. Frequently Asked Questions.....	16
24. Contact.....	19



Eeyou EcoFund



Application Guide & FAQ

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1. What is the Eeyou EcoFund?

Rooted in Cree values and supported through Nation-to-Nation agreements with the Gouvernement du Québec, the Eeyou EcoFund is a Cree Nation Government program supporting Cree-led environmental action across Eeyou Istchee.

The Fund brings together three funding streams under one application, review, and governance process:

- Biodiversity Conservation
- Water Protection and Management
- Climate Action and Resilience

All projects must be Cree-led and must benefit Cree people, lands, waters, wildlife, communities, culture, knowledge, or way of life. Projects must also align with at least one eligible target or objective under the selected funding stream.

One platform. Three funding streams.

A project must be submitted under one funding stream only. If a project could fit more than one stream, contact the Secretariat before applying so the strongest alignment can be confirmed.

2. Key Dates and Funding Cycle

Applications may be developed at any time. Formal review follows the intake cycle and committee schedule.

Application deadline	Review period	Estimated funding timing
June 15	Summer review cycle	Funding expected around September
September 15	Fall review cycle	Funding expected around December
January 15	Winter review cycle	Funding expected around April

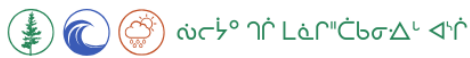
Applicants should plan for approximately 90 days from the intake deadline to expected funding release. This timeline may vary depending on application completeness, clarifications, committee review, internal approvals, contribution agreement signature, and payment documentation.



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Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)
Grand Conseil des Cris (Eeyou Istchee)

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7. Funding Amounts and Allocation Rules

Project type	Description	Current cap
Local project	One community, one trapline, one site, or one local area of work.	Up to \$200,000 per project
Regional project	Multi-community, territory-wide, or broader regional relevance.	Up to \$500,000 per project

- Funding caps apply per project, not per applicant.
- Each project must be submitted under one funding stream only and cannot be funded under multiple EcoFund streams for the same activities or expenses.
- The Secretariat and Committees may recommend a lower amount than requested where appropriate based on project scope, budget, readiness, annual funding availability, or stream-specific requirements.
- Some funding is organized by fiscal year and may not carry over automatically. Applicants should submit strong, complete, and ready-to-review applications before the posted intake deadlines.
- Additional stream-specific funding considerations are outlined in Section 11.

8. Project Types: Local, Regional, Phase, and Multiple Submissions

8.1 Local project

A local project is focused on one community, one trapline, one site, or one local area of work. Examples include a community water monitoring project, a trapline-based biodiversity mapping initiative, a local youth land camp, or a community trail stewardship project.

8.2 Regional project

A regional project benefits or involves more than one community, a broader territory, a regional institution, or a multi-community governance or knowledge process. Examples include a regional monitoring network, a multi-community climate risk mapping project, or a regional biodiversity data platform.

8.3 Project phase

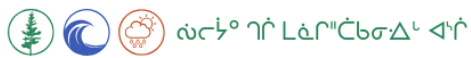
Applicants may apply for a new phase of an existing project if the phase has clear new activities, deliverables, budget, and outcomes. A later phase is not automatically approved and must be reviewed on its own merits.

8.4 Multiple submissions

Applicants may submit more than one project at once. Each application must stand alone and demonstrate that the applicant has the staff, partners, time, and financial capacity to deliver all proposed projects if more than one is approved.



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9. Eligible Expenses

Eligible expenses must be directly tied to the approved project. Common eligible expenses may include:

- Salaries and benefits for staff assigned to the project
- Interns, trainees, or youth participation support
- Professional fees, where justified and preferably designed to build Cree capacity
- Honoraria for Elders, Tallymen, Knowledge Holders, land users, youth, or community participants
- Opening and closing ceremonies linked to the project
- Workshops, meetings, training, and community engagement
- Travel, meals, and lodging connected to project activities
- Vehicle, boat, snowmobile, helicopter, or other transport rental where needed for project delivery
- Field equipment, tools, safety gear, monitoring equipment, tablets, software, or technical platforms
- Mapping, data acquisition, data management, monitoring, research, studies, and inventories
- Translation, interpretation, communications, signage, educational materials, and public information
- Permit or authorization costs connected to the approved project
- Administrative costs directly linked to the project, within applicable stream limits

Administrative costs are generally eligible up to 10% where directly tied to the project, subject to applicable stream rules. **Additional stream-specific expense nuances are outlined in Section 11.**

10. Ineligible Expenses

The following are generally ineligible:

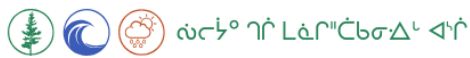
- Costs incurred before project approval, unless written confirmation is provided by Secretariat
- General operations not directly tied to the project
- Activities outside eligible project areas
- Purchase of land or buildings
- Major construction or infrastructure as the main purpose of the project, unless specifically permitted under the relevant stream
- Greenhouse gas offset purchases or offset credits
- Legal proceedings, litigation, fines, or penalties
- Political lobbying
- General promotion of an organization unrelated to the project
- Membership fees or subscriptions not directly tied to the project
- Costs already funded by another program for the same activity or expense
- Equipment or assets intended mainly for unrelated projects

Additional stream-specific ineligible expenses and limitations are outlined in Section 11.

Combining funds is allowed. Applicants may combine EcoFund support with other funding sources, provided there is no double funding for the same expense.



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14. How to Apply

Applicants must complete the online Eeyou EcoFund Application Form and upload the required documents. The application generally asks for:

- Applicant and organization information
- Confirmation that the project is Cree-led
- Funding stream
- Project type: Local or Regional
- Project location and map
- Project summary, need, activities, methodology, timeline, and deliverables
- Team, partners, and community involvement
- Target alignment
- Budget and budget justification
- Capacity, readiness, risks, and mitigation strategies
- Supporting documents
- Declaration and authorized signature

Project location

Applicants must clearly identify where the project will take place. Location information may include community, trapline number, land category, lake, river, island, camp, school, old post, gathering place, site name, coordinates, address, map, polygon, point, or area of interest.

15. Supporting Documents

Supporting documents help demonstrate readiness, community support, and feasibility. Relevant documents may include:

- Detailed budget
- Band Council Resolution or Board Resolution
- Proof of incorporation, NEQ, or Cree Business Registry information
- Letters of support
- Maps
- Photos
- Permits or authorizations
- Quotes
- Workplans or technical notes
- Partner confirmations

Not every document is required for every project. If a document is pending or not applicable, explain this in the application.



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16. Target Alignment

Applicants must select a primary target or objective under the selected funding stream. Applicants may also select a secondary target or objective where relevant. Alignment should be explained in plain language: which target the project supports, what activities contribute to that target, and what result the project is expected to produce.

The Eeyou EcoFund’s Nature / Biodiversity, Water, and Climate funding streams are made possible through the financial support of the Gouvernement du Québec. As the Cree Nation Government’s flagship environmental funding platform, the Eeyou EcoFund administers these funds in collaboration with Québec to support Cree-led projects, Cree priorities, and Cree values, while also contributing to Québec’s related strategic environmental objectives.

For more information on the Québec targets and objectives linked to each stream, applicants may consult the [2030 Nature Plan](#) for the Biodiversity stream, the [Plan national de l’eau](#) for the Water stream, and the [2030 Plan for a Green Economy](#) for the Climate stream*.

* For the Climate Stream, climate transition means shifting toward communities and systems whose normal functioning no longer contributes to climate change and that are resilient to an evolving climate. Climate Stream projects may relate to adaptation, mitigation, mobilization, knowledge transfer, outreach, or capacity building. Adaptation projects should consider observed and anticipated climate impacts. Mitigation projects should identify, where possible, how the project may reduce greenhouse gas emissions or energy consumption.

Climate Stream projects should contribute to one or more of the following sub-objectives: increasing resilience to climate impacts and supporting mitigation planning; building human resource capacity in mitigation and adaptation; and developing Cree expertise and know-how in climate change.

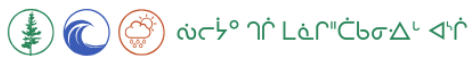
The following pages provide the target and objective tables for each funding stream.



16.1 Biodiversity Stream Targets

TARGET	TITLE	ORIENTATION
Target 1	Land Use Planning	To curb the loss of biodiversity through participatory planning and integrated development that respects the biodiversity of the entire territory of Quebec, with a view to fighting climate change and improving access to nature.
Target 2	Ecosystems Restoration	Undertake the restoration of 30% of priority degraded ecosystems to promote biodiversity and access to nature, in collaboration with local and Indigenous communities.
Target 3	Protected & Conserved Areas	Conserve 30% of Quebec’s terrestrial and 30% of marine environments by 2030 through effective management, ecological representativeness and connectivity of conserved sites, while improving access to nature.
Target 4	Threatened & Vulnerable Species	Protect threatened and vulnerable species in Quebec and advance their recovery through conservation and habitat protection measures.
Target 5	Invasive Species	Prevent the introduction of invasive alien species and pathogenic organisms associated with human activity, slow the spread of those already present, and limit impacts through control actions on priority sites.
Target 6	Agriculture & Aquaculture	Ensure sustainable agriculture and aquaculture practices through biodiversity-friendly approaches, including reducing nutrient loads and biodiversity risks associated with pesticide use.
Target 7	Forestry	Maintain sustainable forest management practices through responsible resource use and the preservation of ecosystem services for all people, including Indigenous and local communities.
Target 8	Access to Nature & Sustainable Harvest	Strengthen sustainable management and responsible use of harvested species and natural environments to maintain ecosystem integrity, sustain wildlife and plant populations, and improve access to nature.
Target 9	Governance	Strengthen the integration of biodiversity considerations and the multiple values of nature into government interventions and decision-making processes.
Target 10	Businesses & Investors	Support and encourage businesses and investors to take concrete action toward biodiversity conservation and sustainable practices.
Target 11	Sustainable Consumption	Strengthen Quebecers' ability to make sustainable consumption choices and encourage a greater contribution of economic activities to biodiversity conservation.
Target 12	Biodiversity Financing	Increase financial resources and investment mechanisms dedicated to biodiversity conservation and ecosystem resilience.
Target 13	Indigenous Leadership	Support Indigenous leadership, governance, knowledge systems, and initiatives in biodiversity conservation and stewardship.
Target 14	Mobilization	Mobilize stakeholders around biodiversity conservation and access-to-nature issues while supporting Quebec-wide and international cooperation initiatives in the area.

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16.2 Water Stream Targets

TARGET	TITLE	ORIENTATION
Target 1	Ensure quality water for the population	1.1 Protect drinking water sources for communities.
		1.2 Ensure access to sufficient quality water.
		1.3 Pursue compliance with infrastructure standards and improve practices across the territory.
		1.4 Pursue agro-environmental stewardship and industrial eco-responsibility.
Target 2	Protect and restore aquatic environments	2.1 Conserve and restore aquatic habitats.
		2.2 Protect species at risk.
		2.3 Increase the area of the protected aquatic network.
		2.4 Promote control of invasive exotic species.
Target 3	Better prevent and manage water-related risks	3.1 Strengthen the integration of climate change in water-related risk management.
		3.2 Improve water-related risk forecasting tools.
		3.3 Modernize dam management.
Target 4	Leverage the economic potential of water	4.1 Develop sustainable economic sectors related to water.
		4.2 Encourage the application of best environmental standards in commercial maritime transport.
		4.3 Support the development of water-related technologies.
		4.4 Promote access to water bodies and watercourses.
Target 5	Promote sustainable water use	5.1 Encourage the development and adoption of practices targeting water economy and sustainable use.
		5.2 Promote the reduction of use and the rejection of single-use plastics.
Target 6	Acquire and share better knowledge	6.1 Pursue and consolidate the acquisition of essential knowledge for the protection and management of water and aquatic environments, including for intergovernmental and international cooperation.
		6.2 Develop tools adapted to integrated water resource management and favorable knowledge sharing and dissemination.
		6.3 Consider research and expertise sharing in the field of water.
Target 7	Ensure & strengthen integrated water resource management	7.1 Consider integrated water resource management in Quebec.
		7.2 Pursue and strengthen intergovernmental and international cooperation to promote Quebec's interests and support integrated water management.
		7.3 Promote land use planning from a perspective of integrated regional and watershed-based water management.

16.3 Climate Stream Targets

TARGET	OBJECTIVE	ORIENTATION
Target 1	Reduce GHG emissions & accelerate the energy transition	Reduce GHG emissions and accelerate the energy transition, including through electrification, renewable energy, and energy sobriety and efficiency.
Target 2	Adapt to the impacts of climate change	Adapt to the impacts of climate change to strengthen the resilience of Quebec society and limit the effects of climate change on the population, infrastructure, economy and environment.
Target 3	Support the transformation of society and the economy	Support the transformation of society and the economy to foster an inclusive transition based on collaboration, innovation and the commitment of all stakeholders.



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Extensions and delays

Applicants must contact the Secretariat as early as possible if the project is delayed or if the scope, budget, timeline, or deliverables need to change. Extension or carry-over requests should be submitted in writing before the project end date. Approval is not automatic and depends on the funding stream, fiscal year requirements, and project circumstances.

21. Communications and Visibility

Funded projects may be required to acknowledge the Eeyou EcoFund, the Cree Nation Government, and the relevant Québec funding support in public communications. Public communications may include posters, reports, social media, websites, signage, presentations, media releases, videos, and educational materials.

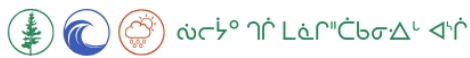
Photos, testimonials, names, faces, community stories, site locations, or Cree knowledge should only be shared publicly with proper consent. Applicants should identify any sensitive information that must remain confidential.

22. Applicant Checklist

- Completed all required sections of the online Application Form
- Confirmed that the project is Cree-led
- Selected the correct funding stream
- Selected Local or Regional project type
- Provided a clear project location and map
- Provided a project summary, activities, methodology, timeline, and deliverables
- Selected the primary target or objective
- Selected a secondary target or objective, if applicable
- Completed and uploaded the budget template
- Explained key budget assumptions
- Identified the project team and partners
- Explained community involvement and Cree knowledge, where applicable
- Identified risks and mitigation measures
- Attached relevant supporting documents
- Explained any pending permits, resolutions, confirmations, or authorizations
- Confirmed the declaration and authorized signature



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23. Frequently Asked Questions

Who can apply?

Eligible applicants include Cree communities, Cree Nation Government entities, Cree organizations, Cree institutions, Cree businesses, and Cree-led partnerships. Individuals cannot apply directly.

What does Cree-led mean?

Cree-led means that the project is directed, governed, and primarily controlled by a Cree entity, organization, community, or business. External partners may support the work but cannot replace Cree leadership.

Can a non-Cree organization partner on a project?

Yes. Non-Cree organizations may support a project as technical partners, advisors, consultants, researchers, or service providers, but the project must remain Cree-led.

Can a business apply?

Yes, if it is a Cree business and can demonstrate eligibility through a NEQ, the Cree Business Registry, or other acceptable documentation. The project must serve eligible EcoFund objectives and cannot simply support general business operations.

Where must projects take place?

Projects must generally take place in Eeyou Istchee or the Eeyou Istchee James Bay region. Projects involving Whapmagoostui, MoCreebec, the Eeyou Marine Region, coastal areas, islands, or shared jurisdiction should contact the Secretariat before applying.

Can projects take place in the Eeyou Marine Region?

Potentially, yes, if the project is Cree-led and connected to eligible targets, Cree stewardship, community benefit, and applicable jurisdictional requirements. Contact the Secretariat before submitting.

Can EcoFund cover travel outside Eeyou Istchee?

Generally, no. EcoFund does not cover applicant travel, meetings, conferences, training, or activities taking place outside Eeyou Istchee or the eligible project territory. Project activities must take place within the eligible territory and directly benefit Cree lands, waters, communities, stewardship, or environmental priorities.

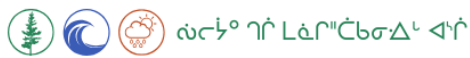
There may be limited exceptions where an external professional or service provider includes travel costs within an overall professional fee or service contract required to carry out eligible work on Cree lands. In such cases, the travel must be reasonable, directly tied to the approved project, and clearly included in the contract or invoice. Applicants should contact the Secretariat before including any travel-related cost that may fall outside Eeyou Istchee.

Can I submit more than one project?

Yes. Applicants may submit more than one project at the same time if each project is distinct and has its own application, budget, deliverables, and target alignment.



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Can Climate Stream projects support adaptation?

Yes. Adaptation projects are eligible where they aim to limit adverse climate impacts or strengthen resilience. Adaptation projects should consider both climate impacts already observed or experienced and anticipated future impacts.

Can a Climate Stream project be part of ongoing work?

Yes, if it is a distinct project, new phase, or expansion in scope. The Climate Stream cannot fund recurring activities or regular ongoing activities of an organization.

Can Climate Stream projects combine other funding?

Yes. A Climate Stream project may combine direct or indirect financial assistance from Québec or Canada. However, it may not receive support from another program or action funded by the Fonds d'électrification et de changements climatiques for the same project.

Can EcoFund support water or wastewater infrastructure?

The Water stream does not support major collective drinking water or wastewater infrastructure as the main activity. It may support source water protection, monitoring, planning, studies, risk mapping, knowledge tools, training, community engagement, minor project-related improvements, or specialized equipment.

Can EcoFund support equipment purchases?

Yes, if the equipment is specialized and directly required for the project, such as monitoring equipment, field tools, tablets, software, safety gear, sampling equipment, mapping tools, or communications materials.

Can EcoFund support honoraria?

Yes. Honoraria may be eligible for Elders, Tallymen, Knowledge Holders, land users, youth, or community participants where their role is directly tied to the project.

Can EcoFund support salaries?

Yes. Salaries and benefits are eligible where staff time is directly assigned to the project. Core organizational salaries unrelated to the project are not eligible.

Can EcoFund support consultants?

Yes. Professional fees may be eligible where the consultant is needed to deliver the project. Consultant costs should be reasonable and should not replace opportunities to build Cree capacity unless specialized expertise is clearly justified.

Can EcoFund pay administrative costs?

Yes, within applicable limits. Administrative costs are generally eligible up to 10% where directly tied to the project. For Climate Stream projects submitted by one or more members of a Cree Nation Government department, administrative expenses are not eligible unless specifically permitted under the applicable agreement.

What supporting documents should be attached?

Relevant documents may include a detailed budget, Band Council or Board resolution, proof of incorporation, NEQ or Cree Business Registry information, letters of support, maps, photos, permits, quotes, workplans, partner confirmations, or technical notes.



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Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)
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Do I need permits before applying?

Not always. If permits or authorizations are required but not yet secured, explain what is needed, who is responsible, and when the permit or authorization is expected. Applicants remain responsible for obtaining all required permits, approvals, and authorizations.

Will the Secretariat help me before I apply?

Yes. The Secretariat can provide guidance with stream selection, eligibility, target alignment, budget categories, supporting documents, application questions, and project readiness. Secretariat support does not guarantee approval.

What happens after I submit?

The Secretariat reviews the application for eligibility and completeness. Eligible applications are reviewed by the Selection Committee. The Steering Committee then confirms, modifies, or declines recommendations. Approved projects proceed to a Contribution Agreement before funds are released.

How long does the process take?

Applicants should plan for approximately 90 days from the intake deadline to expected funding release. The timeline may be longer if the application is incomplete or clarifications are required.

What are the possible decisions?

A project may be recommended, conditionally recommended, requested for resubmission, or rejected.

What reporting is required?

All funded projects must submit a final report within 45 days of project completion. Projects over \$50,000 generally require a progress report or mid-project update.

What if my project is delayed?

Contact the Secretariat as soon as possible. Changes to timeline, scope, budget, or deliverables may require written approval.

Can unused funds be carried over?

Carry-over is not automatic. It depends on the funding stream, fiscal year, project status, and approval from the Cree Nation Government. Some funding, particularly under the Water stream, may not carry over.

Can project results be shared publicly?

Yes, where appropriate and with consent. Applicants should identify any sensitive information, Cree knowledge, site locations, or cultural material that should remain confidential.

24. Contact

Eeyou EcoFund Secretariat

Email : ecofund@cngov.ca

Website: www.cngov.ca/ecofund

Applicants are encouraged to contact the Secretariat before submitting where eligibility, project location, stream selection, budget rules, permits, or supporting documents are unclear.



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