

South King County Fund Environmental Grants Program

Background

- South King County Fund (SKCF) established in November 2018 to address:
 - Airport Noise
 - Environmental Health
 - Sustainability
- Eight Guiding Principals prioritize:
 1. Fund projects in the South King County area.
 2. Prioritize community input to inform Port decision making.
 3. Support Port equity policies and practices.
 4. Provide added benefit by adding to current Port programs to address airport noise, increased environmental health, and sustainability.
 5. Prioritize projects that are ready to proceed.
 6. Build on established programs and commitments to fulfill current obligations.
 7. Promote innovation.
 8. Encourage matching funds where possible.

Environmental Grants Program

- Proposal: new Environmental Grants Program, based upon the successful ACE model.
- Alignment with Fund Principals including:
 - Ready to proceed and adds benefit to a current program designed to increase environmental health and sustainability.
 - Fund projects exclusively in near-airport communities, with other locations considered on a case-by-case basis.
 - Prioritize community input and support Port equity policies and practices.

Next Steps and Timeline

- Staff has developed base program and are ready to proceed.
- Work with community partners to co-design an application process
- Network with community organizations, cities and non-profits to gather program feedback and to build awareness of the program
- Applications available in Summer of 2020.
- First round of grant recipients will be announced in early Fall

Appendix

Need for Environmental Investments

- COVID-19 and the ensuing economic crisis have hit community groups and environmental non-profits hard.
- Fundraising and community events have been canceled, budgets have been slashed, and organizations are struggling to meet their goals
- With residents sheltered at home, and with the increased stress of job loss and economic uncertainty, communities need safe and accessible green spaces now more than ever.

Airport Community Ecology Fund

- Since 2017, the Airport Community Ecology Fund (ACE) has funded 22 organizations to conduct 33 environmental improvement projects in Burien, Des Moines and SeaTac.
- Projects have had widespread and lasting community impacts including:
 - Healthy food access
 - Habitat restoration
 - Environmental education
 - Capacity building for community based organizations

ACE Program Continued

- The Port has distributed \$280,000 in small matching grants so far.
- Community groups have matched this with over \$2.6 million project value through volunteer time, public engagement, tree value, carbon reductions and other in-kind, cash and partner contributions.
- Spring 2020 funding round saw 11 applications totaling nearly \$100,000.