

# BECU Foundation Green Equity Initiative Grant Program: Official Rules

## PROMOTER/SPONSOR

BECU Foundation  
12770 Gateway Dr  
Seattle, WA 98168

## ENTRY

The BECU Foundation is requesting proposals for the Green Equity Initiative Grant Program: an environmental sustainability grants program seeking to fund public charities that support workforce development and entrepreneurs focused on renewable energy, circular innovation (waste-to-use), and environmental and climate justice. By partnering with local organizations, the BECU Foundation can become a funder in support of the expansion of entrepreneurship focused on green jobs and initiatives. This grant program will award applicants whose proposals have an emphasis on job creation, business to business partnerships, and micro lending.

## ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible, an organization must be an Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) public charity that focuses on environmental sustainability issues in Washington state and other BECU service areas. Applicants need to demonstrate that they reach and serve urban and rural communities, in particular Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) neighborhoods experiencing environmental injustice or workforce exclusion by providing innovative solutions and financial assistance.

Applicants can apply for one of three tracks:

1. Track 1 – Addressing Climate Change through New Technologies
2. Track 2 – Elevating Circular Innovation (waste-to-use)
3. Track 3 – Supporting Workforce Development Focused on Renewable Energy and Environmental Sustainability

### Track One: Addressing Climate Change through New Technologies

Up to three awards of between \$50,000 and \$150,000 will be made to support public charities to enhance their operational capacity through the implementation and utilization of new technologies and solutions to address climate change and environmental injustice in local communities across Washington state. Public charities should do one of the following:

- Advance **environmental and climate justice solutions** in the state
- Encourage **mental health and climate activism**
- Commit to addressing multifaceted, intersectional aspects of **climate justice** that disproportionately impacts **rural** and **BIPOC communities**

To be considered, the **Addressing Climate Change through New Technologies** grant proposal must include the following information:

- Proposal Narrative, including:
  - Organization's Mission Statement
  - Project title and description for this initiative, including a description of the problem that will be solved by

- implementing new technology and local solutions to climate change.
  - Description of why this organization is uniquely qualified to implement new technology, solution, and policy to solve this problem.
  - Description of at least one similar, successful project the organization has undertaken and why it was successful.
  - Description of how your organization is addressing the root cause of the problem.
  - Commitment to collaboration and partnership.
- Clear description of how funds would be used to research technologies and solutions, and confirm organizational readiness for implementing the new technology:
    - Project strategy and timeline
    - Criteria the organization will use to assess organizational readiness for implementing the innovative technology (*A report on activities, showing that the organization has met these criteria, as well as a plan for implementation, testing, utilization, and evaluation of the new tool will be required.*)
    - Project budget, including other sources of funding, if applicable
    - Description of the measurement and evaluation plan that would be used to measure the effectiveness of the innovative technology and solutions, if implemented.

Submit your proposal questions to: [socialimpact@becu.org](mailto:socialimpact@becu.org) using the subject line “*Green Equity Initiative Grant Submission – Addressing Climate Change through New Technologies.*” Grant submission deadline is July 8, 2022, at 11:59pm PT.

Awardees will be required to submit a formal report, along with a mid-year progress report, which can be provided in writing or through a meeting with a BECU Foundation representative.

### Track Two: Elevating Circular Innovation.

Up to three awards of between \$50,000 and \$150,000 will be made to support public charities that manufacture product and innovative solutions from ‘waste’ or recycled materials. Public charities should do one of the following:

- Commit to **Waste-to-Resource** (upcycle waste to energy by incineration, gasification, anaerobic digestion, and pyrolysis)
- Commit to finding ways to **Reuse** (reusing products to extend their lifecycle)
- Commit to using **Bio-based Materials** (products made from renewable resources reducing the negative impact on the environment)

To be considered, the **Elevating Circular Innovation** grant proposal must include the following information:

- Proposal Narrative, including:
  - Organization’s Mission Statement
  - Project title and description for this initiative, including a description of the problem that will be solved by deploying funds or loan capital and/or delivery of high-quality assistance to entrepreneurs.
  - Description of why this organization is uniquely qualified to solve this problem.
  - Description of at least one similar, successful program the organization has undertaken and why it was successful.
  - Commitment to circular innovation, specifically unique ways of making capital available
  - Description of how your organization is addressing the root cause of the problem.
  - Commitment to collaboration and partnership.
- Clear description of how funds would be used
  - Program strategy and timeline
  - Description of the organization’s process/program for funding and providing varied assistance.
  - Project budget, including other sources of funding, if applicable

- Average number of people employed by organization or entrepreneur
- Description of the measurement and evaluation plan that is used to measure the effectiveness of the program. (*A report showing that the organization has implemented this measurement and evaluation plan and achieved desired outcomes will be required.*)

Submit your proposal questions to: [socialimpact@becu.org](mailto:socialimpact@becu.org) using the subject line “*Green Equity Initiative Grant Submission – Elevating Circular Innovation.*” Grant submission deadline is July 8, 2022, at 11:59pm PT.

Awardees will be required to submit a formal report, along with a mid-year progress report, which can be provided in writing or through a meeting with a BECU Foundation representative.

### **Track Three: Supporting Workforce Development Focused on Renewable Energy and Environmental Sustainability**

Up to three awards of between \$50,000 and \$150,000 will be made to support the development and implementation of cost-saving clean energy solutions that also improve the health of the planet and people particularly in low- and moderate-income communities. Public charities should do one of the following:

- Commit to HVAC, Building Electricity, and **Renewable Energy**
- Actively helping communities develop and implement **cost-saving clean energy solutions**
- Implementing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion practices to **diversify the workforce** in renewable energy and environmental sustainability

To be considered, the **Renewable Energy and Environmental Sustainability** grant proposal must include the following information:

- Proposal Narrative, including:
  - Organization’s Mission Statement
  - Project title and description for this initiative, including a description of the problem that will be solved by funding research on clean energy solutions.
  - Description of why this organization is uniquely qualified to solve this problem.
  - Description of at least one similar, successful program the organization has undertaken and why it was successful.
  - Commitment to renewable energy.
  - Description of how your organization is addressing the root cause of the problem.
  - Commitment to collaboration and partnership
- Clear description of how funds would be used
  - Program strategy and timeline
  - Description of the organization’s process/program for identifying clean solutions.
  - Project budget, including other sources of funding, if applicable
  - Number of communities or nonprofits or entrepreneurs supported each year
  - Average number of people employed by nonprofit or entrepreneur
  - Description of the measurement and evaluation plan that is used to measure the effectiveness of the program. (*A report showing that the organization has implemented this measurement and evaluation plan and achieved desired outcomes will be required.*)

Submit your proposal questions to: [socialimpact@becu.org](mailto:socialimpact@becu.org) using the subject line “*Green Equity Initiative Grant Submission – Renewable Energy and Environmental Sustainability.*” Grant submission deadline is July 8, 2022, at 11:59pm PT.

Awardees will be required to submit a formal report, along with a mid-year progress report, which can be provided in writing or through a meeting with a BECU Foundation representative.

## LIMITATIONS

Employees or agents of BECU, its affiliates, subsidiaries, advertising/promotional agencies, vendors, and the members of their immediate families or those persons living in the same household of such individuals are ineligible to enter. All federal, state, and local laws and regulations apply. Void where it is prohibited by law.

## GRANT SELECTION

Green Equity Initiative Grantees will be selected by a panel of judges based on the following criteria:

### 1. Mission

Alignment of the organization's mission with supporting environmental sustainability, circular innovation, renewable energy, and/or addressing climate change.

### 2. Scale and Impact

The potential scale and impact of the project, as demonstrated through a project proposal, annual budget, staff makeup, and clear explanation on need for funding to build capacity and/or innovative technologies.

### 3. Project/Program Area

Project and Program alignment with one or more tracks. The proposal should clearly outline how the award will be used to support and/or advance service, innovative solutions, and financial assistance to vulnerable urban and rural communities (i.e., BIPOC neighborhoods impacted by environmental injustice).

## WINNERS

Up to a total of nine (9) applicants (three for each track) will be selected for a one (1) year grant, subject to agreeing to any requirements and entering into any agreements as may be required by the BECU Foundation. Winners will be notified by email on August 26, 2022. Winners will have 15 business days from date of notification to contact email [socialimpact@becu.org](mailto:socialimpact@becu.org). Should the winner fail to comply with this requirement or otherwise be unable to accept the grant, the winner will forfeit the grant and it will go to the first selected alternate. In the event of non-compliance with these requirements, winner may be disqualified, and an alternate winner selected.

## FUNDING STRUCTURE

This grant program will award up to \$875k to nine selected applicants, with three applicants being selected for each track and each award ranging from \$50,000 to \$150,000. The amount of each award will be decided based on the scale of the project, and not based on the size of the organization. This is a one-year grant program. Funds will be disbursed in a lump sum to grantees. Selected grantees will need to provide an invoice in the amount of the grant, ACH (Automated Clearing House) form for direct deposit and complete the most recent version of the W9 form within 15 business days of notification they have been selected.

## CONDITIONS

By participating, applicants agree to these Official Rules and acknowledge and agree that the decisions of BECU Foundation shall be final and binding in all respects. By participating, entrants release BECU Foundation and its affiliates, subsidiaries, advertising/promotional agencies, and vendors, and the employees, officers, directors, and agents of any of the above organizations from all liability for any injuries, losses, or damages of any kind caused by an applicant's participation or applicant's acceptance, possession, or use/misuse of grant funding. Where legal, by accepting grant funding, a winning applicant grants permission to BECU Foundation to use their name, organization name, likeness, photograph, and statements for advertising/publicity purposes without further compensation.