



Apply Now for Funding

Four programs are now open to applications.

- **School Works** provides a wage subsidy for employers to hire high school and post-secondary students during the school year.
- **Social Grants** fund community or regional projects that positively impact social well-being and address social issues in communities.
- **Environment Grants** fund projects that advance environmental well-being in the areas of ecosystems, climate, water or environmental education.
- **Youth Grants** fund projects that directly benefit Basin youth and develop youth leadership, support youth engagement, or enhance employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for youth.



SunMine Commercially



More Supportive Housing Opens in

Operating

The 1.05-megawatt solar project is BC's first grid-connected solar facility, as well as Canada's largest project to use solar trackers. [...full story](#)

Nelson

An additional 14 people in need now have access to supportive housing at two newly renovated housing developments in Nelson. [...full story](#)

Events and Deadlines

Ongoing

Various Locations

[Me Inc. Workshops](#)

September 18

Nakusp

[Trust Annual General Meeting and Community Barbecue](#)

September 20

Deadline

[Calendar Photo Submissions](#)

October 5

Deadline

[Social Grants](#)

October 19

Deadline

[Environment Grants](#)

November 2

Deadline

[Youth Grants](#)

[Go to events page.](#)



Join Us for Our
AGM and
Community BBQ:
Nakusp, Friday,
September 18

[Learn more](#)

Communities Aim to Reduce Energy and Emissions

Several West Kootenay communities will be reducing their carbon footprints thanks to the Trust and FortisBC.

[Learn more](#)

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Apply for a Wage Subsidy: Hire a Student

Tuesday, August 11, 2015

Popular School Works program now provides wage subsidies for apprenticeships

Businesses and organizations around the Basin can once again get support to hire students through Columbia Basin Trust's School Works program. The program provides a wage subsidy of \$8/hour to encourage employers to provide part-time employment to full-time high school and post-secondary students for a portion or all of the school year. It also helps ensure students gain work experience in the region.

Small businesses, non-profit and First Nations organizations and public bodies in the Basin may apply. Co-op and practicum student positions are also eligible.

South Slokan's Drop Designs is one of the organizations that has participated. "The program allowed us to complete a large number of projects that we don't have resources for," said owner Myla Jillings. "It is a very large benefit for our company."

Kootenay River Kampground, near Castlegar, was also able to take advantage of the program throughout the school year. "It enabled us to extend our hours and have a park attendant on duty to greet guests and provide tourists with directions and information," said owner Mike Giesler. "We would not have been able to hire this position without this subsidy."

For the first time, the program will also provide an \$8/hour wage subsidy for first-level apprenticeship positions in the construction electrician, carpentry, heavy duty mechanic and automotive service technician programs.

"Through this subsidy, Basin employers will be able hire first-level apprentices and the apprentices will gain access to local training," said Lisa Kilpatrick, Columbia Basin Trust Senior Manager, Delivery of Benefits. "If this year works well, we hope to continue to provide this support for apprentices into the future."

"We are very pleased to be working with the Trust to deliver the School Works Program again this year -- our third year in a row," said Tracey Whiting, Manager, Continuing Education and Contract Training at College of the Rockies. "It is exciting to see so many business owners accessing this funding opportunity."

For more information on School Works and to download the application form, visit cbt.org/schoolworks2015, email schoolworks@cbt.org or call 1.877.489.2687 ext. 3584. Applications will be available on August 13, 2015.



Social Grants

Our Social Grants fund community or regional projects that positively impact social well-being and address priority social issues in communities.

[Social Grants 2015 Application Guide](#)

[Social Grants 2015 Application Form](#)

Deadline: Monday, October 5, 2015, at 1 p.m. PT/2 p.m. MT.

Strategic Plan:

The Trust's [Social Strategic Plan 2014-2019](#) guides the Trust's roles, actions and funding in helping communities improve social well-being in the Basin. We encourage you to read the plan.

Project Examples:

Here are examples of projects approved in earlier intakes:

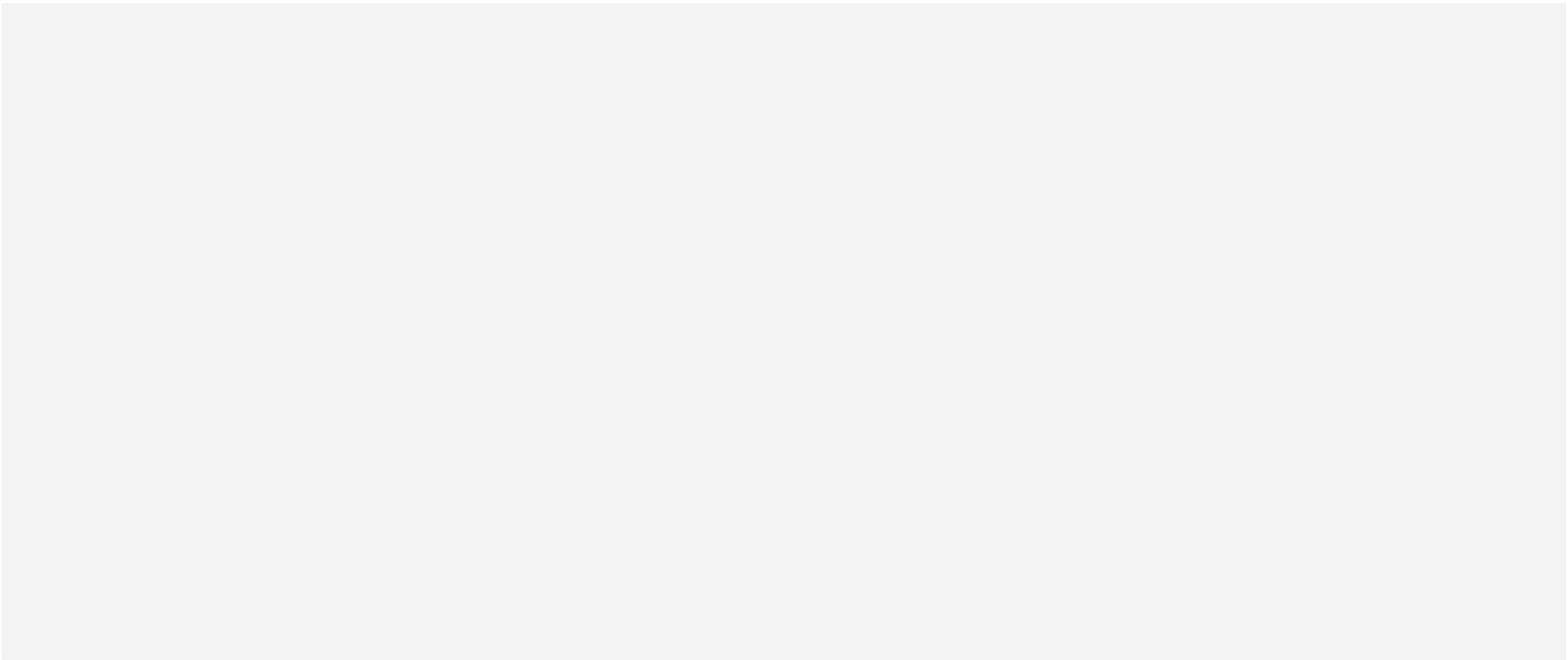
- [Fall 2014 Intake](#)
- [Fall 2013 Intake](#)
- [Spring 2013 Intake](#)
- [Fall 2012 Intake](#)

Previously funded projects may not represent the current funding priorities.

Who Can Apply:

You must be representing a registered business or a non-profit, public or First Nation organization.

Your project must take place within the Columbia Basin Trust region; see the [map](#).



Environment Grants

Our Environment Grants fund community-initiated and community-supported projects that advance environmental well-being in the areas of ecosystems, climate, water or environmental education. (See further details below.)

[Environment Grants 2015 Application Guide](#)

[Environment Grants 2015 Application Form](#)

Deadline: Monday, October 19, 2015, at 1 p.m. PT/2 p.m. MT.

Project Goals:

The following goals are in support of the [Environment Strategic Plan 2014-2019](#).

1. **ECOSYSTEMS** projects will demonstrate their abilities to do one or more of the following:
 - Enhance or conserve ecosystems and species of conservation concern.
 - Reduce the threat of significant invasive species to terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.
2. **CLIMATE** projects will demonstrate their abilities to do one or more of the following:
 - Support adaptation to impacts of climate change at a community-wide or regional scale.
 - Make long-term contributions to reducing greenhouse gas emissions at a community-wide or regional scale.
3. **WATER** projects will demonstrate their abilities to do one or more of the following:
 - Support protection, enhancement or restoration of water resources that are important for species and/or ecosystems of conservation concern.
 - Carry out water quality and/or quantity research that is scientifically sound and can contribute knowledge to the management of water resources for the benefit of ecosystems, communities and watershed stakeholders.
4. **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION** projects will demonstrate their abilities to do the following:
 - Provide education to Basin residents that helps develop an understanding and appreciation of the natural world and motivates ecologically informed decisions and actions.

Project Examples:

Here are examples of projects approved in earlier intakes:

- [Spring 2014 Intake](#)
- [Fall 2014 Intake](#)

Previously funded projects may not represent the current funding priorities.

Who Can Apply:

You must be representing a business or a non-profit, public or First Nation organization.

Your project must take place within the Columbia Basin Trust region; see the [map](#). We will consider projects from organizations outside the Basin if you can show that the project involves a significant and meaningful partnership with a Columbia Basin community and/or organization.



Youth Grants

Our Youth Grants fund projects that directly benefit Basin youth aged 12 to 29 and develop youth leadership, support youth engagement, or enhance employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for youth.

[Youth Grants 2015 Application Guide](#)

[Youth Grants 2015 Application Form](#)

Deadline: Monday, November 2, 2015, at 1 p.m. PT/2 p.m. MT.

Other Information:

Projects can receive up to \$15,000. Applications are adjudicated twice annually by the Youth Advisory Committee.

Project Examples:

- [Spring 2015 Intake](#)
- [Fall 2014 Intake](#)

Who Can Apply:

A range of organizations can apply, including non-profit, public, First Nations groups, plus youth aged 15 to 29 with a sponsoring organization.

Your project must take place within the Columbia Basin Trust region; see the [map](#).



SunMine Commercially Operating

Tuesday, July 28, 2015

SunMine means bright future for sunny resort city Kimberley, BC

The City of Kimberley is pleased to announce that SunMine is commercially operational. The 1.05 MW (megawatt) solar project is B.C.'s first grid-connected solar facility, as well as being Canada's largest project to use solar trackers.

Production data since June 22nd confirms that the energy being generated by the SunMine is exceeding the modeled design potential.

According to Kimberley Mayor Don McCormick, "SunMine is a great example of the resiliency of our community. We are thriving and pursuing new and innovative directions. Although SunMine is the largest solar facility in BC, it is relatively small. As the SunMine proves its potential, the City of Kimberley is looking to expand it and have already had several inquiries from prospective partners." SunMine is supplying enough electricity to the BC Hydro grid to power approximately 200 homes.

"SunMine is a symbol of Kimberley's commitment to the environment. When Kimberley's mineral resources were depleted, we took advantage of our solar potential and developed a new resource which is renewable," said Scott Sommerville, Chief Administrative Officer for the City of Kimberley. Kimberley receives the most sunshine in B.C. (over 300 days per year), and the community-owned SunMine is well suited to capitalize on these clear and sunny conditions.

"Innovative, private clean energy projects have helped power B.C. since the 1980s and are a cornerstone of B.C.'s energy policy," said Minister Bennett, Minister of Energy and Mines. "The Sun Mine project has the potential to spur interest in development of other solar projects, bringing more jobs and economic benefits to communities across B.C."

Teck provided use of the land and site infrastructure as well as a \$2 million contribution towards the project. SunMine is located on Teck's former Sullivan Mine site, which has been fully reclaimed.

"Participating in SunMine reflects both Teck's commitment to supporting local communities, even after mining has ceased, and our focus on expanding the use of alternative energy," said Don Lindsay, President and CEO of Teck. "We're proud to be contributing to the long-term prosperity of Kimberley and commend the City for their entrepreneurial spirit."

The City of Kimberley gratefully acknowledges the support of Columbia Basin Trust and the Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust and the Province's \$1 million contribution through the Innovative Clean Energy Fund.

The SunMine project was conceived and supported by the Vancouver-based EcoSmart Foundation. "I'm extremely pleased that SunMine's initial operation confirms the expected performance benefits of the project's innovative design," said EcoSmart CEO Michel de Spot. "Solar energy is one of the fastest growing industries in North America and its potential in BC is exceptional. EcoSmart is proud to have collaborated with Teck and Kimberley on this innovative project."

Free public tours of SunMine are being offered several times per day from July 31st to August 5th. To sign up for tours, visit www.sunmine.ca or call the Kimberley Visitor Centre at 778-481-1891.



More Supportive Housing Opens in Nelson

Wednesday, August 05, 2015

An additional 14 people in need now have access to supportive housing at two newly renovated developments in Nelson, owned and operated by the Nelson CARES Society.

The developments were made possible through support from the Trust and the governments of Canada and British Columbia through their joint **Affordable Rental Housing initiative**.

"These projects are creating more and much needed affordable housing in Nelson," said Neil Muth, Columbia Basin Trust President and Chief Executive Officer. "We congratulate all of those who worked co-operatively on these projects, particularly the Nelson CARES Society. With a lot of hard work, creativity and planning, they made this a reality."

Ward Street Place has 10 new supportive housing units for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, bringing the total to 45 units. As part of the renovations, the development has new electrical and sprinkler systems, an upgraded fire alarm and exterior masonry.

Stepping Stones Emergency Shelter, originally located in the basement of Ward Street Place, was relocated to a newly renovated building at 816 Vernon St. The building now houses four new supportive housing units and the 17-bed year-round homeless shelter.

In total, these projects received \$345,000 from the governments of Canada and BC and \$345,000 from the Trust. The Government of BC also provided additional funding and long-term financing.

[View the full news release.](#)



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[Prev](#) [Image 1 of 2](#) [Next](#)

(left to right) John Dooley, Ex-Mayor, City of Nelson; Neil Muth, President and CEO, Columbia Basin Trust; David Wilks, Member of Parliament for Kootenay-Columbia on behalf of the Honourable Candice Bergen, Minister of State for Social Development; Linda Larson, MLA for Boundary-Similkameen, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Social Development and Social Innovation for Accessibility; Ron Little, Board Chair, Nelson CARES Society; Deb Kozak, Mayor of the City of Nelson; Jenny Robinson, Executive Director, Nelson CARES Society; Councillor Michael Dailly, City of Nelson; Councillor Bob Adams, City of Nelson.



Join Us for a Community BBQ

Tuesday, August 11, 2015

Learn more about the Trust's activities and join us for dinner on Friday, September 18, 2015, during our Annual General Meeting and free community barbecue in Nakusp.

From 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., join the Trust downtown for a free community barbecue: details to come.

Before the barbecue, from 4 to 5 p.m., attend our Annual General Meeting, which will focus on the presentation of our **2014/15 Annual Service Plan Report**. There will be an opportunity to ask questions about the report and the Trust's activities, as well as meet the Trust's Board of Directors.

The meeting will be held at the Emergency Services Building, 300 - 8th Avenue NW, Nakusp, BC.



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[Join us for a BBQ in Nakusp on Friday, September 18.](#)



Local Communities Aim to Reduce Energy and Emissions

Tuesday, July 21, 2015

Columbia Basin Trust and FortisBC partner on conservation program

Several West Kootenay communities will soon be reducing their carbon footprint thanks to \$168,000 support from Columbia Basin Trust and FortisBC.

Over the next year, participating local governments will work alongside the Community Energy Association (CEA) which will provide expert support to help communities, in FortisBC's electric service operating area (**in Columbia Basin Trust's region**), find ways to use less energy in their community.

Through the community-based planning process, recommendations will include measures for communities as a whole to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase energy efficiency, focusing on things like residential and commercial buildings, transportation and waste. The process will benefit residents and businesses directly and could result in incentive programs such as energy audits or energy efficiency upgrade programs resulting in lower energy and heating costs to businesses and individuals.

"One of our objectives is to help communities prepare for and take action on issues related to climate change," said Neil Muth, Columbia Basin Trust President and CEO. "By partnering with FortisBC and the Community Energy Association, we will be able to help local governments and residents save energy and reduce their carbon footprints."

"Our goal is to provide funding that helps communities set their own energy-conservation priorities," said Roger Dall'Antonia, FortisBC Executive Vice-President of Customer Service and Regulatory Affairs. "By working closely with a community from the outset, we can identify the most impactful ways to help save energy, help our customers manage their energy bills, and focus on projects that matter most to our customers and the community."

Each participating municipality will come away with a Strategic Community Energy and Emissions Plan, which will help it achieve the greenhouse gas reduction targets set out in its Official Community Plan. Similar community plans have already been developed by CEA, in Basin Communities, such as the Village of Nakusp, in the BC Hydro service area.

Three communities have already agreed to participate--Salmo, Rossland and Kaslo--with others being invited to participate including:

- Central Kootenay
- Creston
- Montrose
- Castlegar
- Fruitvale
- Trail
- Warfield
- Slocan
- Kootenay Boundary

From 2008 to 2014, the Trust partnered with three regional districts (Central Kootenay, East Kootenay and Kootenay Boundary) to meet the targets established under the Climate Action Charter to reduce the carbon footprints of local government operations. The Carbon Neutral Kootenays project resulted in local governments in the Columbia Basin reducing their corporate greenhouse gas emissions by an average of 10 per cent.

Climate change is one of five priorities in the Trust's Environment Strategic Plan. Learn more about how the organization is addressing the issue at cbt.org/environmentstrategicplan.

