

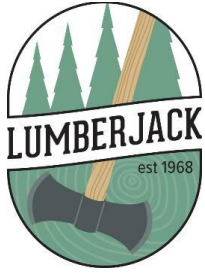
EcoFootprint Grant Program Policy

an Enbridge and Lumberjack Partnership

1. **Policy Statement:** This policy covers the EcoFootprint Grant Program being administered by Lumberjack RC&D on behalf of Enbridge. Projects **can be submitted from municipalities, tribes, centers of higher learning & 501c3 organizations and** must meet the criteria and align with the funding priorities described in the policy. **Projects from individuals will not be considered.** Each project proposal should clearly identify alignment points of merit with the project attributes also described in the policy.
2. **Purpose:** The purpose of the program is to provide funding to help protect and restore the natural environment in and around areas affected by Enbridge's Line 5 Wisconsin Segment Relocation Project. Enbridge and Lumberjack are committed to working cooperatively to execute the EcoFootprint Grant Program in order to promote good conservation works while developing robust partnerships with Applicants to the Program.
3. **How to Apply:** Only **electronic** applications will be accepted. Complete the application here: [EcoFootprint Applicants \(lumberjackrcd.org\)](https://www.lumberjackrcd.org)
4. **Policy:**
 - a. **Project Criteria:** *The following criteria is a basis for project qualification. To be considered, Projects Proposals must be received by the deadline and be located in one or more of the following geographic areas;*
 - Tribal Lands of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa;
 - Tribal Lands of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa,
 - Ashland County, Wisconsin
 - Bayfield County, Wisconsin
 - Iron County, Wisconsin
 - b. **Funding Priorities:** *Project Proposals must demonstrate that they will achieve measurable results for one or more of the funding priorities listed below;*
 - Improve surface water quality in counties and tribal lands crossed by Enbridge's Line 5 Wisconsin Segment Relocation Project;
 - Conserve or restore sensitive environmental resources;
 - Advance science related to threatened and endangered species or declining species populations;
 - Foster environmental stewardship in local communities;
 - Address other environmental issues most relevant to local communities, such as those identified in watershed plans or local comprehensive plans, including tributary erosion, habitat loss/degradation, and invasive species.
 - c. **Project Attributes:** *Each project proposal must demonstrate how the project aligns with the funding priorities described above by;*
 - Clearly defining the activities and anticipated ecological results;
 - Using strong, evidence-based merit through adherence to established best practices, data-driven results, and Indigenous Knowledge (a body of observations, oral and written knowledge, innovations, practices, and beliefs developed by Tribes and Indigenous Peoples through interaction and experience with the environment);
 - Showing competitive project costs;
 - Having experienced project teams and partner engagements;
 - Detailing plans for pre-and post-implementation monitoring to document habitat improvements and other project outcomes;
 - Leveraging Enbridge Account funds. Applicants will be encouraged to show 1:1 match.
 - Showing how the Project complements existing conservation lands or restoration projects; and
 - Explaining how the applicant has the capacity to accomplish the Project in a **set time frame.**

- d. **Timeline:** January 16, 2024 - Online Application Opens
March 29, 2024 - Application Deadline
March 30 - April 18, 2024 (exact dates tbd) - During this window of time, the Selection Committee will interview project applicants and decide awards.
April 22, 2024 (Earth Day) - Round Two Award Announcement.
December 31, 2024 - One year deadline to complete projects awarded under Round 1 funding & 4/30/2025 completion deadline under Round 2.
- e. **Grant Review/Voting Process:** Members of the Selection Committee will receive a copy of each project proposal along with a ranking guideline sheet that helps them formulate questions to determine how well the application delineates the project attributes and the funding priorities described above. Applicants will be required to meet with the selection committee to answer any questions.
- f. **Project Ranking/Vote:** The Selection Committee will use a fair system to rank project proposals based on the degree to which they feel the project aligns with the policy. Once results are tallied and verified, they are final.
- Following applicant interviews, the Selection Committee will then rank the projects from 1-10 (1 being low alignment and 10 being high alignment) based on how they align with the project attributes & funding priorities described above.
 - Results: Once the ranking is complete, the sheets will be collected and tallied by Lumberjack staff and then verified by two other members. The project receiving the highest rank will be funded fully and so on until the funds are exhausted.
 - Ties: In the event of a tie, the Selection Committee members will decide how to resolve the issue. The meeting will not be adjourned until ties are eliminated and the voting/funding process is complete.
 - Funds not awarded will be returned to the account.
- g. **Announcement of Grant Recipients**
The results will be announced publicly followed by an official notice to grantees on Earth Day, April 22, 2024.
- h. **EcoFootprint Fund:** Lumberjack RC&D Council has set up a dedicated fund specifically for the EcoFootprint Grant Program.
- i. **EcoFootprint Project Budget:** \$500,000
- j. **EcoFootprint Individual Project Cap:** 2023 has no cap. If the total ask is more than the budget, caps may be implemented in 2024.
- k. **Match/Leveraging Funds:** Projects that provide match will rank higher than those without. Projects with at least 1:1 match will receive a bonus on the ranking sheet. Definitions of 'cash' and 'in-kind' match are the same as the WDNR and defined here:
<http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/documents/SurfaceWater/MatchRequirements.pdf>
Cash Contribution -- The most common type of match, and the easiest to track. Cash match is either the grantee organization's own funds (sponsor operating budget or fundraising) or cash donations from third parties (i.e., partner organizations). A cash match is the cost actually paid by the project sponsor.
In-Kind Contribution -- Contributions other than cash. Examples include the value of:
- Donated labor from project sponsor members or volunteers
 - Donated professional services
 - Donated supplies, construction materials or equipment
 - Free usage of privately owned equipment
 - Donated fee title land
- l. **Letters of Support/Partners:** Partners are defined as any group or organization that has pledged measurable support to the project, whether that is cash or in-kind services. A Letter of Support is required for all match partners listed on the budget form and must include a description and dollar value of the measurable support/service being donated.

- m. **Grant Payments:** Payments will be made after the receipt of a signed agreement between the parties.
- n. **Grant Agreement:** Grant recipients must sign an agreement accepting the funds and terms of use. Terms include required reporting, photos, access to sites, acknowledgments, etc.
- o. **Application Guidance:** Applicants should adhere to the "Project Proposal Checklist" attached, making sure to read the entire document and follow all the required steps. Proposals not received by the deadline of will not be considered. Prior to the deadline, it is highly encouraged to ask questions or ask for clarification of project attributes. It is also recommended to submit applications well in advance of the deadline so any noncompliance issues can be addressed. Incomplete proposals or those that do not follow the policy/instructions will be afforded the chance to resubmit if it is before the deadline. After the deadline, they will not be considered.



EcoFootprint Grant Program Checklist

PROJECT TITLE _____

STEP 1: Read This Entire Document

There are policies, timelines and steps to submitting your application. Please pay close attention to the grant policy and timeline and use this checklist. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the Lumberjack office to make sure they're following the application process prior to the deadline.

STEP 2: Complete the online Application & Budget Form – [EcoFootprint Applicants](#)

lumberjackrcd.org

Attach a corresponding Letter of Support for each match Partner listed on the budget form (see policy point 4.k&l for match definitions and Letters of Support requirements.)

STEP 3: Submit Proposal before the DEADLINE of **3/29/2024**

Projects must pass an 'Initial Screening' in which they will be checked to make sure they 1) meet the criteria, 3) meet the deadline, 3) are complete **including corresponding letters of support for each match amount listed on the budget form**. Deficiencies will be communicated (provided it is before the deadline) so they can be addressed, corrected, and re-submitted by the deadline without penalty. Proposals not received by the deadline will not be considered. **HELPFUL TIP:** Call if you have questions 715.369.9886.

STEP 4: Attend an in-person interview

Sometime between **March 30 and April 18**, you'll attend the Selection Committee meeting where you'll be asked to answer **questions about your** proposal. You will receive instructions ahead of the meeting that will help you prepare. **HELPFUL TIP:** Jot down any questions you may have for the committee below:

STEP 5: I have received confirmation of Approval or Denial from the Selection Committee

Award Announcements will be made on November 28, 2023. If your proposal was denied, you will be notified. If your proposal was funded, you will receive an award announcement with instructions, funding cycle dates and an agreement to sign.