

Environmental Damages Fund

What is the Environmental Damages Fund (EDF)?

The Environmental Damages Fund is a Government of Canada program run by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC).

Where Does the Funding for the EDF come from?

The EDF receives money from fines, penalties, court orders, and voluntary payments for environmental violations under the:

- *Fisheries Act*
- *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999*
- *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994*
- *Canada Shipping Act, 2001*

This money is used to support projects that will benefit Canada's natural environment, **usually** – but not always – in the area where the violation occurred.

Can a specific fund be assigned to a specific project?

In its sentencing decision, a court may recommend a specific recipient, location, and/or a specific project category to be funded by a fine. The court cannot assign a specific fine to a specific project. However, this information is considered in the assessment of fines and in the preparation of Fund Use Requirements.

Projects that are eligible for funding under the EDF include:



Restoration



Environmental Quality Improvement



Research and Development



Education and Awareness

Who Can Apply for EDF Funding?

The EDF distributes funds for projects that are carried out by:

- Not-for-profit organizations, such as environmental community groups
- Universities and academic institutions
- Provincial, territorial, municipal and Indigenous governments
- First Nations, Métis or Inuit communities, and national, provincial, and territorial Indigenous organizations

Who Cannot Apply for EDF Funding?

- Individuals
- Businesses
- Federal government departments and agencies
- Offenders that have been fined or made monetary payments directed to the EDF
- International entities (*However they may partner with eligible applicants or support a project. Projects must take place within Canada and/or the project activities must benefit Canadians*).



How to Apply for EDF Funding:

The EDF generally issues one to two calls for proposals each year. The deadline for submitting a funding application using the [Grants and Contributions Enterprise Management System \(GCEMS\) portal](#) is 3 PM Eastern Time, on the date indicated on the [available funds page](#) and in GCEMS. Further details on the funds available and the application process can be found on the available funds page.

The three steps to apply for EDF funding are briefly outlined below. For complete information on how to apply for EDF funding, please refer to the [Environmental Damages Fund Applicant Guide](#).

Step 1: Confirm Available Funds and Project Eligibility

- Log into [GCEMS](#) to review the funding opportunity. Refer to the [EDF Applicant Guide](#) to ensure all proposed project activities are eligible for funding and that your project satisfies all Fund Use Requirements.
- For more information about available funds in your province or territory or to discuss the application process with an EDF program officer, please email your [ECCC regional office](#).
- If contacting ECCC about a proposal in GCEMS, please always reference the proposal ID number associated with the application.

Step 2: Prepare your Funding Application using GCEMS

- Visit the GCEMS application instructions page for technical assistance documents, tutorials, and support throughout your application preparation.

Step 3: Submit your Application

- Once you have submitted your application through GCEMS, the portal automatically generates an acknowledgment of receipt. **If you do not receive an acknowledgment, it is important that you email sgesc-gcems-sgesc-gcems@ec.gc.ca to confirm that your application was received.**
- Following the project review phase, a decision will be communicated to you by email.

