

Ontario Community Environment Fund

What is the Ontario Community Environment Fund (OCEF)?

The OCEF directs funds from environmental penalties to local projects to restore the environment. The OCEF receives money from environmental penalties under the *Environmental Protection Act* and the *Ontario Water Resources Act*.

NOTE

These funds are for environmental penalties, **not** environmental fines. Environmental penalties may be issued when a spill or environmental impact occurs, or when Ontario's environmental rules are not followed, as examples. While the court may choose to direct the fine to be used for a specific purpose, there is no opportunity for the public to apply for the funds collected.

The environmental penalties apply to the following industrial sectors:



Organic Chemical



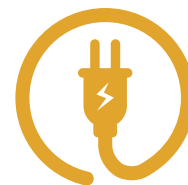
Iron and Steel Manufacturing



Inorganic Chemical Manufacturing



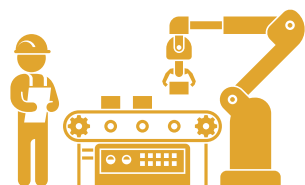
Industrial Minerals



Electric Power Generation



Metal Casting



Manufacturing



Petroleum



Pulp and Paper



Metal Mining

Eligible Projects Include:

- Projects that increase environmental restoration and remediation activities which repair environmental harm.
- Projects that focus on resilient communities and local solutions to environmental issues.

Projects are evaluated on their technical merit and potential to benefit the environment and community. To qualify for funding, the project must be based in a region where environmental penalties were collected.

Who Can Apply?

- First Nation and Métis communities and organizations
- Schools, colleges and universities
- Conservation foundations
- Municipalities
- Incorporated not-for-profit organizations
- Incorporated community-based groups



How to Apply for OCEF Funding:

In March of each year, the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) publishes an [Environmental Penalty Annual Report](#). This annual report lists the environmental penalties issued in the previous calendar year and indicates the region in which they occurred.

The application period, deadlines, and details about how to apply will be posted to this webpage: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-community-environment-fund>.