

**Invitation of Applications for “Environmental Education and Community Action Projects (First Round in 2018/19)” and “Pilot Programme on Provision of Small Food Waste Composters at School”**

The Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) Committee is now inviting local non-profit making organisations to submit funding applications for Environmental Education and Community Action (EE&CA) Projects (including projects comprising both environmental education activities and installation of demonstration facilities) under the following themes:

**(A) General Theme**

Around **\$5 million** would be available to support applications for **large, medium and small-scale projects** that are consistent with the overall nature and objectives of EE&CA Projects:

<b>Project Type</b>	<b>Funding Limit Per Application</b> <sup>Note</sup>	<b>Estimated Amount of Funding for the Present Invitation</b> <sup>Note</sup>
Small-scale project	\$50,000	\$250,000
Medium-scale project	\$500,000	\$1,000,000
Large-scale project	No specific funding cap	\$3,750,000

**(B) Special Themes**

**\$15 million** would be available to support applications related to the following **special themes**:

<b>Special Themes</b>	<b>Funding Limit Per Application</b> <sup>Note</sup>	<b>Estimated Amount of Funding for the Present Invitation</b> <sup>Note</sup>
<b>Clean Shorelines</b>	No specific funding cap	\$5,000,000
<b>Climate Change</b>		\$5,000,000
<b>Biodiversity</b>		\$5,000,000

*Note: The amount of funding support will be assessed and determined on the merits of individual funding applications. Those applications with applied budget exceeding the amount of funding allocated for the respective project type will not be considered.*

**(C) “Pilot Programme on Provision of Small Food Waste Composters at School” (“Pilot Programme”)**

\$5 million would be available to support schools’ application for “Pilot Programme on Provision of Small Food Waste Composters at Schools”.

**Notes for Funding Applications for Installation of Demonstration Facilities**

From 2017/18 onwards, **EE&CA Projects are no longer categorized into “General Projects” and “Demonstration Projects”**. Applicant organisations may, based on their project objectives and target participants, submit applications that comprise both environmental education activities and installation of demonstration facilities as necessary.

For applications to install demonstration facilities at premises **with on-going former Demonstration Projects/Minor Works Projects funded by the ECF** (except for “Pilot Programme”), all these on-going projects must be completed (i.e. with the EE&CA Vetting Sub-committee’s endorsement of the Completion Reports submitted by the project organisation for the projects concerned) before the closing date of 28 May 2018 (Monday) of this round of application invitation. Otherwise, the new application for demonstration facilities to be installed at the premises concerned **will not be processed**.

Proposed demonstration facilities should have education elements together with substantial education activities. **The maintenance issues should also be taken into consideration**. Besides, applications for installation of **energy saving items and procurement of prefabricated aquaponics system would generally not be supported**.

**HOW TO APPLY:**

The latest Guide to Application for EE&CA Projects, application form for General and Special Themes and application form for the “Pilot Programme” have been uploaded to the project website. **Applicants are STRONGLY ADVISED to read through the Guide to Application before submitting your applications. For applications with proposed installation of demonstration facilities, Appendix I of the Application Form must also be completed.**

Original hard copy of the completed application form **personally** signed by the Head or Deputy Head of the applicant organisation and affixed with an original seal of the applicant organisation must be returned to the office of the EE&CA Projects Vetting Sub-committee Secretariat (the Secretariat) at 5/F, Southorn Centre, 130 Hennessy Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong by **28 May 2018 (Monday)**. For the “Pilot Programme”, schools which submit early bird applications before **15 May 2018 (Tuesday)** would be notified of the results before end June 2018. Please state “EE&CA Projects” and/or “Pilot Programme (Food Waste Composters at School)” on the envelope, otherwise processing time of the application(s) may be affected.

If the applications are submitted by mail, the postmark should be dated on or before **28 May 2018 (Monday)**; and on or before **15 May 2018 (Tuesday)** for early bird applications for the “Pilot Programme”. Please ensure payment of sufficient postage. The Secretariat will not accept underpaid mails nor bear the surcharge so arisen.

In case a Black Rainstorm Warning Signal or Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No. 8 or above is in force for any duration between 12:00 noon and 6:00 p.m. on 28 May 2018 (Monday), the invitation closing time will be extended to 6:00 p.m. on the next working day correspondingly.

**Late or incomplete applications or applications not submitted in accordance with the format prescribed above, including applications submitted by facsimile or e-mail or without submission of the original hard copy of the application form or the application form is not personally signed by the Head or Deputy Head of the applicant organisation and affixed with an original seal of the applicant organisation, will not be processed. Besides, electronically scanned signature is not accepted.**

The EE&CA Projects Vetting Sub-committee will vet all the applications. Those applications involving funding of more than \$2 million will need to be approved by the ECF Committee. It is expected that the earliest time for announcement of the results would be in June 2018 for the “Pilot Programme” and September 2018 for other applications.

Invitation for the next round of applications is tentatively scheduled in the third quarter of 2018. While the estimated amount of funding for various themes is yet to be confirmed, \$10 million has been earmarked to support applications related to environmental education and community action projects on “Conservation in South Lantau”. Interested local non-profit making organisations may submit proposals in due course.

For general enquiries or assistance in completing the application form, you may contact the Secretariat at 2840 1771 (General and Special Themes), 2835 1180 (“Pilot Programme”) or via email ([eeeca@epd.gov.hk](mailto:eeeca@epd.gov.hk)).