

EOGG  
Community Initiatives Program  
Project-Based Grant

Organization Overview

- a) What is the purpose of your organization?
- The Edmonton Organic Growers Guild (EOGG) has one main purpose, to give our community a place where everyone of every age, ability, heritage, and gender can learn, teach, and enjoy the wonderful act of growing organic food, while rejuvenating land that would otherwise be a field of weeds. Here at EOGG we pride ourselves in the freedom of our community garden. We do not charge any form of fees or rent out plots of land. Instead, we all grow together. We plant our land together together, grow food together, and reap the rewards and benefits together. We welcome everyone, whether they can put two days into the farm or two years, we're all about community.
- b) What services do you provide the community?
- We believe that EOGG provides more than just the opportunity to garden. Here at EOGG families can come together, seniors can pass on their wisdom and knowledge on to the next generations, children can learn that produce actually originates from a tiny seed, not the supermarket, and teens can have a place that they can spend time with their friends, family and community while learning, having fun, and contributing to the community. On top of this, EOGG also donates fresh, locally grown produce to local organizations such as the Edmonton Food Bank, The Mustard Seed Church, and the University of Alberta Food Bank.

Project Description

- a) Explain what you want to do with the funds. This includes a description of the issues and benefit to the community.
- With this grant, EOGG would be able to build a greenhouse on our farm, which would allow us to take our season from six months to ten months and even longer depending on weather. As it is right now, without a greenhouse, we are only able to start our growing season once the snow has melted and the ground has begun to thaw. Also, our harvesting season gets cut short due to the weather as once the snow falls, we're done for the year. With a greenhouse, we can start growing our seeds months earlier. By growing them in the safety of the greenhouse they have a much better chance of catching once

planted which would strengthen our crops and therefore create a much larger harvest, allowing us to donate more food to local organizations. Throughout the summer, the greenhouse would benefit us greatly too as would could plant certain crops that are too delicate to produce in the unpredictable weather elements of Edmonton, such as lettuce, spinach and other leafy greens. In the fall, the greenhouse could extend our growing season enough to plant crops that need a longer growing season, such as sweet potatoes, and also act as a classroom for teaching and learning through the entire year. We hope that groups from schools, camps, seniors centers, and youth clubs can make use of this greenhouse by getting an education in sustainable, organic, land use and farming.

- b) How many people do you estimate will benefit from this grant?
  - Our members here at EOGG have doubled every year since we started. With the addition of the greenhouse from the grant, EOGG will be able to benefit the community even more with the ability to have an “indoor” learning environment. We hope that with the addition of a greenhouse, we will be able to grow our membership more than 200 people within our first year of having it.
  
- c) If your grant is successful, how long will it take to complete your project once funding is approved?
  - If our grant is successful, we should be able to complete our greenhouse project within two months of acquiring the grant as we have the people power to put up the greenhouse in one weekend. We are very interested in looking into Canadian companies to purchase the greenhouse from as to further extend our promotion in local services.
  
- d) How will the new program be sustained once the development has been completed?
  - Once the greenhouse has been built, everyone here at EOGG will sustain the structure. We have a board of members that have committed their service to our group and will ensure that this greenhouse will be around for as long as the farm is and for as long as it is needed in our community.