

Submission for Kingston Community Climate Action Grant- Bloom Skills Centre, Little Forests Kingston, KASSI

Contact Information:

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Organization Information:

Bloom Skills Centre, 1036 Waterbury Cres. Kingston, ON, Canada, K7M 8V5

Little Forests Kingston, 764 Meadowood Rd. Kingston, ON, Canada, K7M 5G5

KASSI, #602 Highway 95, Wolfe Island, ON, Canada K0H 2Y0

Project Information:

Provide a brief outline of your proposed project, including how it will meet the funds eligibility criteria:

Blooms Skills Centre, the lead applicant, is a registered charity and is partnering with Little Forests Kingston (registered non-profit), KASSI (Kingston Area Seed System Initiative) (registered non-profit), and Loving Spoonful (registered charity) to construct a greenhouse and purchase seed cleaning and seed propagation equipment to help grow Kingston's seed and food sovereignty. The greenhouse and equipment will help us build the seed growing, seed sourcing, and propagation skills needed to build a flourishing, climate resilient, biodiverse city.

Blooms Skills Centre: We are a skills training organization that supports continued learning for young adults with intellectual and developmental exceptionalities. A large part of our programming is teaching how to grow and prepare food locally, in an effort to reduce our global footprint and offset the high costs to those that are living on social supports, all while offering local nutritious and healthy food to our community. We recognize that offering low cost local produce sometimes isn't enough of a support, especially if a person doesn't have the mobility or capacity to prepare it. This often results in having to purchase packaged and transported food. As part of our

program we offer fresh meals for home to the community, which allows our students to gain food growing and preparation skills while providing low cost, local, healthy options, specifically for seniors and those living with exceptionalities.

The potential to build a shared greenhouse for our organizations, will allow us to extend our local growing season and provide these offerings for a longer period, helping others and continuing to reduce our carbon footprint.

By working together with Little Forests Kingston and KASSI, we are also hoping to expand our students' knowledge and skills set by providing additional learning on seed cleaning and saving, the knowledge of native seeds, and how to help foster a resilient ecosystem for our area. As our students develop skills best through hands-on learning, this joint venture between our three organizations will lend extra support to our partner organizations in their individual missions. Many hands make light work, as they say.

Little Forests Kingston: We're seeking to restore relationships with native trees, shrubs, and plants in the Kingston Area, towards our vision of a multispecies City in a Forest. However, native seeds, especially source identified local seeds from the Kingston area, are challenging to source in sufficient quantities (or at all). To realize our vision and preserve genetic diversity, we are building local capacity to collect, propagate, and grow open pollinated native wildflower, grass, shrub and tree seeds from wild, local communities who over centuries have formed deep relationships with other native organisms and who are adapted to local land and water. In addition, through the lens of survival ecology and the need for climate migration, we will also source seeds from seed zones further south. We are establishing a network of seed orchards (Mother Patches) in the Kingston area. To this end, several Little Forest volunteers have become FGCA certified seed collectors and we are partnering with the Land Conservancy KFLA on seed collection. We have also launched the Plant the Seed project, working with 9 local schools and 16 teachers to propagate native seeds. By prioritizing locally grown and sourced seeds, students will learn about our native species, the land, and each other. We are also sourcing seeds to propagate with the goal of establishing climate resilient food forests to increase food sovereignty. Food forest species we hope to propagate include pawpaws, persimmons, mulberries, and nut trees. climate change adaptation.

KASSI: Kingston Area Seed System Initiative: The locally-adapted seeds in the KASSI Living Seed Commons are part of a unique collection of seeds that have been growing and adapting to the conditions in our region for more than fifty years. We will keep growing them out for seeds on an ongoing basis so that they can continue to adapt to the changing growing conditions associated with the current climate crisis. Most of the vegetable seeds that are commercially available in Canada are grown somewhere else in the world and packaged in Canada. Growing, saving and sharing local seeds like the ones in the KASSI Living Seed Commons dramatically reduces fossil fuel emissions and builds climate resilience. Moreover the imported seeds usually do not survive the extreme changes in weather linked to climate crisis. Locally-adapted seeds like the ones in the KASSI Living Seed Commons do.

Seeds from hybrid plants often do not grow the same as their parent plant so you need to buy seeds every year if you want to grow them. It is illegal to save seeds from a plant with a patent. Open-pollinated seeds like the ones in the KASSI Living Seed Commons are the only seeds that you can legally save and share.

Seed sovereignty is the right to save, plant, exchange and sell seeds. It is a fundamental human right that is threatened by the industrial agricultural model. We want every person, every family, every community in Kingston to have locally-adapted, open-pollinated seeds in their homes that they know how to grow, save and share.

We are committed to supporting and being part of a vibrant sustainable network of local ecological growers producing local food and local seed that can be legally grown, saved and shared

2. How will your proposed project reduce greenhouse gas emissions?

The Kingston area is threatened with extreme heat, extreme storms and other climate threats. This project will help with both GHG mitigation and climate adaptation.

- Grows our local seed capacity, builds climate resilience, increases biodiversity, regenerates soil, sequesters carbon, ensures genetic diversity, and supports a green economy.
- Eliminates fossil fuel emissions from growing, packaging, and shipping commercial seeds
- Eliminates fossil fuel emissions from chemical fertilizers and pesticides used to grow the majority of seeds offered for sale
- Extends harvest season for accessible local food options provided in Bloom Skills Centre programming, supporting the greater Kingston community.
- Native plants are powerful in their ability to protect the water, air, and soil, supporting ecosystems and quality of life for all.

3. Project Budget Template

Greenhouse cost		
Greenhouse frame 24x100'	\$8,689.00	
Anchor posts	\$1,547.00	
Base brackets with lag bolts	\$321.00	
Wirelock inserts	\$251.20	
7 mil poly cover (roof)	\$1,915.68	
Inflator fan kit	\$500.00	
7 mil poly end walls	\$219.90	
End wall framing kits	\$1,280.80	
Hinged doors with lexan cover	\$2,228.00	

Roll up sidewalls	\$1,200.00	
Ventilation package	\$2,830.00	
Freight charge	\$510.00	
Installation labour	\$4,900.00	
Subtotal	\$26,392.58	
13% HST	\$3,431.04	
Total	\$29,823.62	
Greenhouse Equipment		
Seed Cleaning Screens	\$2,500.00	
Seed Starting Equipment	\$1,000.00	
Total	\$33,323.62	

Are the estimated costs in your proposed budget supported by quotes or some other form of proof?

Yes, Ayla Fenton, of Loving Spoonful, assisted in the formulation of our Greenhouse budget as their organization recently built a similar greenhouse. All the equipment information was taken from the company Multi Shelter Solutions here:

<https://multisheltersolutions.com/our-structure-options-coverings/structure-options/>

In addition, the seed saving equipment was sourced from these two sites:

<https://seedburo.com/products/3435>

https://seedburo.com/products/3439?pr_prod_strat=e5_desc&pr_rec_id=73a88ccb6&pr_rec_pid=1594771767351&pr_ref_pid=1593943457847&pr_seq=uniform

Have you applied for other sources of funding?

No

Do you have a letter of commitment from your organization's Board of Directors?

Yes, attached.

Notice of Collection

Personal Information, as defined by the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA), is collected on this form in accordance with MFIPPA. Your personal information will be used by City staff to process the Kingston Community Climate Action Fund application, and to contact you if necessary. Questions about the collection, use, or disclosure of your personal information should be directed to the Manager of Climate Leadership, jsalter-keane@cityofkingston.ca; or 613-546-4291 extension 1163.



**BLOOM SKILLS
CENTRE**

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P 1036 Waterbury Cres.
Kingston, ON, K7M 8V5

**To the City of Kingston,
Climate Leadership Division
Subject: Letter of Formal
Partnership for KCCAF**

Dear City of Kingston,

We, the Board of Directors of Bloom Skills Centre, hereby express our formal partnership as a registered charity with Little Forests Kingston and Kingston Area Seed System Initiative, to actively collaborate and support the 2025 Kingston Community Climate Action Fund.

As a registered charity, Bloom Skills Centre, we will handle any donations received through this campaign in compliance with all requirements from the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

Thank you for considering our commitment to the Kingston Community Climate Action Fund.

Sincerely,

**Annette Rzepczyk, President,
Bloom Skills Centre,
annette@bloomskillscentre.com**

**Liz Delarosa, Treasurer, Bloom
Skills Centre,
liz@bloomskillscentre.com**



Kingston Community Climate Action Fund

Contact Information

Name	Ian Cholmondeley
Position	Program Manager of Innovation, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
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Organization Information

Organization Name	Extend-A-Family Kingston
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Provide a brief outline of your proposed project, including how it will meet the funds eligibility criteria.

The Community GrowAbility project aims to contribute to local greenhouse gas emission reduction goals while fostering a culture of environmental sustainability within our organization and the individuals we support. As a previous successful recipient of the CCAF grant, EAFK was able to purchase a hydroponic greenhouse unit capable of growing over 10,000 heads of produce a year, while using 90% less land and water compared to traditional farming methods. Additionally, this energy efficient greenhouse provides us the opportunity to teach climate resilience and sustainability to our program participants, ingenious community partners, and local schools. Our goal is to set a strong example of climate-conscious action for the community by using funds from the CCAF to buy environmentally friendly growing materials that will allow us to grow 10,000 heads of produce for the community, fund staff training in therapeutic horticulture, and to upgrade and retrofit our greenhouse spaces to increase their accessibility and sustainability. This funding will also allow EAFK to grow and donate food to the local community and feed over 2,500 people facing food insecurity through partnership with many organizations distributing food.

Project Objectives:

Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions Through Local Hydroponic Farming:

Using materials purchased with this funding, EAFK is projected to be capable of growing over 10,000 heads of produce locally, throughout the entire year. The environmental benefits stem from sustainable vertical farming methods, as well as the ability to grow food locally (particularly in the winter) to save emissions from transporting foods.

Increase Accessibility of Programs and Community Opportunities

In addition to growing produce, EAFK will use funding to increase the opportunities for educational programming being offered through training, and physical retrofits to the greenhouses to make them more accessible.

Help Address Food Insecurity in Kingston

Extend-A-Family Kingston will be in a position to donate a large amount of locally grown produce directly back to the community. Through a large organization of existing partnerships and food distribution networks, produce will be distributed at no cost to individuals in need.

How will your proposed project reduce greenhouse gas emissions?

EAFK's sustainable hydroponic vertical farming greenhouses are capable of growing 10,000 heads of produce with the help from the CCAF. As an example, 10 thousand heads of lettuce is estimate to produce up to 6 metric tons of CO₂e when using traditional farming methods. It is estimated that hydroponic vertical farming systems produce between 2 to 3 metric tons of CO₂e, a nearly 50-60% decrease in emissions.

EAFK vertical farming units greatly reduce water use, pesticide use, and transportation emissions, especially considering food is grown locally, all year round.

Describe your project plan.

The project plan for Extend-A-Family Kingston's GrowAbility Project, in its request for funding from the Kingston Community Climate Action Fund, is designed to retrofit and enhance the current greenhouse to produce 10,000 heads of fresh produce annually. EAFK will conduct a full assessment of the existing greenhouse infrastructure, identifying areas that require upgrades and increased accessibility features such as updating water systems. Following this, the project will source and install necessary retrofits and upgraded hydroponic tanks to optimize space and reduce water waste and increase efficiency.

Once the retrofits are complete, the next phase will focus on acquiring high-quality sustainable materials to grow and distribute our produce such as seeds, nutrients tailored for hydroponic growth, and compostable packaging. This will ensure the successful cultivation of 10,000 heads of produce, including leafy greens and herbs, throughout the year. The project will then establish a sustainable crop rotation schedule to maintain continuous production and meet local demand.

Staff and volunteers will receive specialized training on hydroponic techniques, maintenance, and sustainable practices to manage the greenhouse efficiently. Ongoing monitoring of energy consumption and environmental impact will be conducted to ensure the project aligns with climate action goals. Staff, participants, and volunteers will be involved in the distribution of the produce to those in highest need.

Are the estimated costs in your proposed budget supported by quotes or some other form of proof?

Yes

Have you applied to other sources for funding?

No

Do you have a letter of support from your organization's Board of Directors?

Yes

Do you have a letter of commitment for formal partnerships?

No

Notice of Collection

Kingston Community Climate Action Fund

Project Budget Template

Eligible project expense	Estimated costs
A) Sub-total of eligible project costs:	\$
Funding from other sources (if applicable):	
B) Total Funding from other sources:	\$
(Subtract B from A): TOTAL FUNDING REQUESTED from KCCAF	\$



361 Montreal Street Kingston, ON K7K 3H4
660 Bagot Street Kingston, ON K7L 3E9
Tel (613) 544.8939

Monday, September 16th, 2024

To: The City of Kingston, Climate Leadership Division

Re: Commitment to Support Fundraising and Promotion Efforts for the KCCAF

Dear City of Kingston,

We, the Board of Directors of Extend-A-Family Kingston, hereby express our wholehearted commitment to actively collaborate and support our organization's participation in the 2025 Kingston Community Climate Action Fund.

Our Commitment:

1. Fundraising: From December 1st, 2024, to March 31st, 2025, we will actively raise funds for our project in the KCCAF. Utilizing various channels and strategies, we will solicit donations and encourage our members, patrons, and partners to contribute to the fund.
2. Promotion and Awareness: We will use our communication channels, including social media platforms, newsletters, and events, to raise awareness about the KCCAF and our project, objectives, and progress. We are dedicated to spreading the message and garnering support from our community for this vital cause.
3. Transparency: We will regularly update fundraising progress and activities to ensure accountability.

Furthermore, EAFK confirms that we do not have the funds to move forward if the project isn't fully supported by funds raised by the public through the KCCAF.

We acknowledge the City's commitment to supporting our project through ongoing support and guidance, general promotion of the fund through City channels and traditional advertising, and specific support to attract and retain a primary sponsor(s) utilizing the City's pre-determined sponsorship packages.

We are excited about the opportunity to collaborate to enhance our organization's sustainability and contribute to Kingston's climate action goals.

Thank you for considering our commitment to the Kingston Community Climate Action Fund.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

Jonathan Batchelor
President