



**City of Kingston
Report to Council
Report Number 26-034**

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Paige Agnew, Commissioner, Growth & Development Services
Resource Staff: Julie Salter-Keane, Manager, Climate Leadership
Date of Meeting: December 16, 2025
Subject: Kingston Community Climate Action Fund Project Selection
2025 – Sustainable Kingston

Council Strategic Plan Alignment:

Theme: 2. Lead Environmental Stewardship and Climate Action

Goal: 2.2 Support climate action and sustainability for residents, businesses and partners.

Executive Summary:

The 2025 call for proposals for the KCCAF ran from July 2, 2025, to August 29, 2025. One valid application was received from Lionhearts Inc. during the standard call for proposals period and presented to Environment Infrastructure and Transportation Policies Committee (Report Number EITP-25-15). However, after being recommended for approval by EITP Committee, the application was voluntarily withdrawn by the organization, sighting internal financial rational (Report Number 25-258).

Following the withdrawal from Lionshearts Inc, staff received an expression of interest from Sustainable Kingston and supported the development of an expedited application for the 2025-2026 campaign. Sustainable Kingston is proposing a partnership with the Limestone District School Board to equip 5 to 7 schools with two to three food waste recycling units each. These recyclers will allow the schools to divert organic waste away from landfills, reducing greenhouse gas emissions generated from students' lunches and snacks. At the same time, the initiative will enhance students' understanding of sustainability and the principles of circularity within their daily school environment.

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A summary of the application received is attached as Exhibit A to Report 26-034. Staff consider the application submitted by Sustainable Kingston to be financially viable and view it as a community initiative that will contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions locally, as well as providing co-benefits of educating students on sustainable practices.

Recommendation:

That Council affirm that the Kingston Community Climate Action Fund application, attached to Report Number 26-034 as Exhibit A, meets the objectives and eligibility criteria, and be approved for public donation.

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Authorizing Signatures:

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER

**Paige Agnew, Commissioner,
Growth & Development Services**

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**Lanie Hurdle, Chief
Administrative Officer**

Consultation with the following Members of the Corporate Management Team:

Jennifer Campbell, Commissioner, Community Services	Not required
Neil Carbone, Commissioner, Corporate & Emergency Services	Not required
David Fell, President & CEO, Utilities Kingston	Not required
Desirée Kennedy, Chief Financial Officer & City Treasurer	Not required
Jenna Morley, City Solicitor	Not required
Ian Semple, Commissioner, Transportation & Infrastructure Services	Not required

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Options/Discussion:

As reported to Council, the project with Lionhearts was cancelled following the organization's withdrawal of its application, which had been presented in Report 25-258. The report noted that staff would provide an update should a new application be received. Subsequently, staff engaged with relevant organizations and obtained an application from Sustainable Kingston.

The following table summarizes the application received. Exhibits A provides the details of the project as submitted by Sustainable Kingston.

Organization Name(s)	Project Focus	Amount Requested
Sustainable Kingston, Limestone District School Board	Installing food recycling systems across 5 to 7 schools to reduce waste and educate the importance of composting.	\$25,500.48

Based on the updated objectives of the KCCAF and the Canada Revenue Agency requirements for recipients of charitable donations, the following are the eligibility criteria for the Community Climate Action Fund program which will now include education programs and events-based initiatives while retaining priority for projects that achieve actual emission/resilience impacts:

- a. Applicants are to be registered charities or non-profit organizations (including indigenous associations, churches/faith groups or registered not-for-profit co-operatives). Non-profits must partner with a registered charity to be eligible. Partnerships with the City is viable to meet this eligibility criterion.
- b. Projects must be implemented within Kingston City boundaries and demonstrate substantial completion within 12 months of receiving financial support from the fund.
- c. Projects must be tangible and have direct and measurable GHG reductions (which are further described below) once the project is fully complete. Applicants must commit to monitoring impacts of the project and publicly reporting results. Preference will be given to projects that have direct and measurable GHG reductions that can also stimulate the economy in the near term. It is recommended that the fund prioritize actions achieving actual emission / resilience impacts over education programs and related events-based initiatives.
- d. Projects may require other viable sources of funding to complete the proposed initiative in case donations collected do not fully cover all associated costs. Proof of other pending grant applications or confirmed financial support from other sources of funding may be required prior to the launch of the donation campaign.

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The project fits within the specified guidelines of assisting with climate change mitigation, and reducing local food waste to landfill, and embedding sustainability and circularity as learning opportunities for students.

Measuring the impact of the project will be the responsibility of the applicant as part of their agreement with the City prior to receiving donated funds. City staff will assist the applicant in developing the methodology to assess the impact of their project in terms of GHG reductions, as well as other metrics such as volume of food diverted from waste. This is an important supportive role that the City plays over time with administering KCCAF to help raise the capacity and understanding of the charitable/non-profit sector to do this type of monitoring and measurement for future projects.

The following table outlines the project impact from Sustainable Kingston:

Organization Name(s)	Project Impact Overview
Sustainable Kingston, Limestone District School Board (LDSB)	Sustainable Kingston will install a food waste recycling system at five to seven elementary and secondary schools in the Limestone District School Board. This will divert organic waste from snacks and lunches, while also providing a learning opportunity for students.

The impact of the KCCAF project will be measured through the total volume of organic waste diverted from the selected schools' recycling and waste streams. As there is currently no existing organic waste streams the baseline is zero.

Climate Risk Considerations

Through the proposed KCCAF project, local emissions will be reduced through food waste reductions, as well as co-benefits of education through Limestone District School Boards schools.

Project 2025 Outcome

Last year's donation campaign launched on December 1, 2024, and concluded on March 31, 2025. Donations were received through Canada Helps and the Kingston Community Credit Union, and the City of Kingston Payment Centre. The total amount of donations raised, including the matching funds of \$5,000 from the Kingston Community Credit Union and the City committed funds is \$27,275.56. The project has now been completed, and its ongoing impact can be viewed on the [Extend-A-Family Kingston Website](#) highlighting the water and emissions efficiency, as well as the climate resilience impacts and community impacts of the expanded hydroponic greenhouse operations supported through the KCCAF.

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Organization Name(s)	Project Focus	Funding Goal Met
Extend-A-Family Kingston	The Community GrowAbility project: hydroponic greenhouse upgrades	\$27,275.56

Financial Considerations

The City provides funds up to \$15,000 annually to match the community donations raised each year to encourage charitable contributions by others.

Contacts:

Julie Salter-Keane, Manager, Climate Leadership, 613-546-4291, extension 1163

Soren Christianson, Project Manager, Climate Leadership 613-546-4291, extension 1325

Exhibits Attached:

Exhibit A Kingston Community Climate Action Fund Application Received 2025-2026

Name:

Julia Stroud

Position:

Executive Director

Phone #:

(613) 929-6868

Email:

jstroud@sustainablekingston.com

Organization Name:

Sustainable Kingston Corporation

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

We will implement a food waste recycling system at five to seven elementary and secondary schools in the Limestone District School Board. This will divert organic waste from snacks and lunches, while also providing a learning opportunity for students.

How will your proposed project reduce greenhouse gas emissions?:

Currently, most schools in Kingston do not divert organic waste from their waste that goes to the landfill. A study prepared by EcoSchools Canada for Environment and Climate Change Canada in 2022 found that in elementary schools, approximately 9.5% of their waste that was sent to landfill was solid organic, and 8.3% of their recycling was solid organic waste (2020, [EcoSchools.ca](https://www.ecoschools.ca)). From the same study, it was estimated that each elementary student produced, on average, 14.090 kg of combined landfill and recycling waste per year. The percentage of landfill vs waste was not explicitly stated, but assuming it is approximately equal, taking the average of 9.5% and 8.3%, 1.25 kg per student would be organic waste. There are approximately 12,500 elementary students in the Limestone District School Board, which means that there is potentially **15,675 kg** of organic waste being created per year, which is then emitted as methane if it is put in the landfill.

This program would eliminate a significant amount of greenhouse gas emissions from students' lunches and snack programs while also increasing the knowledge of sustainability and the circular economy for students.

Describe your project plan.:

We plan to partner with the Limestone District School Board and five to seven schools to provide each school with two to three food waste recyclers to enable them to divert their organic waste from the landfill. In addition, we would provide units to the experiential learning team, which travels between schools. This team could encourage schools not participating in the pilot to consider implementing a diversion program.

A food waste recycler is a machine that grinds and dries food waste in order to kill bacteria and reduce food waste volume, resulting in a product that does not smell and can be added to compost or used as a fertilizer. It can be stored and used at a later date or, if necessary, it can still be sent to the landfill, where it does not have the same effect as untreated food waste in the landfill.

Dan Hendry, the Sustainability Coordinator with LDSB will support the project as the LDSB project champion, contacting schools for partnership and teachers who can act as supervisors and champions for the program.

Sustainable Kingston will support the initial set-up and workshop or instruction through our Service Level Agreement with the City of Kingston, under the category of the Elementary School 3R's program. In addition, we propose that we would provide a quarterly check-in for at least 18 months, to ensure that the project maintains momentum.

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 commitment from your organization's Board of Directors?:

Yes

Do you have a letter of commitment for formal partnerships?:

Yes- Limestone District School Board

Sources

Waste Generation Trends and Management Practices Across Canada's K-12 Public Sector Education Facilities, 2022 ([Microsoft Word - Waste Generation Trends and Management Practices Across Canada's K-12 Public Sector Education Facilities_FINAL](#))

[Quantifying Methane Emissions from Landfilled Food Waste | US EPA](#)

[Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator | US EPA](#)

Kingston Community Climate Action Fund

Project Budget Template

Eligible project expense	Estimated costs
FoodCycler Eco5 bundle, \$928.99/unit, 20 units plus HST	\$20,995.17
additional year of 4 filters per unit, \$129.99/pack, 20 packs plus HST	\$2937.77
kitchen containers, 10 per school, 40 units, \$14.98/unit plus HST	\$677.10
utility carts for students to gather kitchen containers, \$135/unit, 4 units plus HST	\$610.20
cleaning product for two years (dishwashing liquid), \$6/unit, 8 units plus HST	\$54.24
bins to keep 'foodilizer' (by-product) for use in landscaping, compost, \$50/unit, 4 units plus HST	\$226
A) Sub-total of eligible project costs:	\$ 25,500.48
Funding from other sources (if applicable):	
Not Applicable	
B) Total Funding from other sources:	\$ 0
(Subtract B from A): TOTAL FUNDING REQUESTED from KCCAF	\$ 25500.48



November 25, 2025

To the City of Kingston, Climate Leadership Division

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

Dear City of Kingston,

We, the Board of Directors of Sustainable Kingston Corporation, hereby express our wholehearted commitment to actively collaborate and support our organization's participation in the 2025-26 Kingston Community Climate Action Fund.

Our Commitment:

1. Fundraising: From December 1st 2025 to March 31st 2026, 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 provide regular updates on fundraising progress and activities to ensure accountability.

Sustainable Kingston **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; however, because the project will be fulfilled in multiple schools, we can adjust the number of schools and the supplies per school based on the funds raised.

We acknowledge the City's commitment to support our project through ongoing support and guidance for our project, 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 work together to enhance our community's sustainability and contribute to Kingston's climate action goals.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bo Wandschneider".

Bo Wandschneider
Vice Chair
Sustainable Kingston Corporation
Bo.wandschneider@outlook.com



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November 21, 2025

Re: Kingston Community Climate Action Fund Letter of Support

To whom it may concern,

The Limestone District School Board is pleased to offer our support for the collaboration proposed by Sustainable Kingston through the Kingston Community Climate Action Fund, in partnership with the City of Kingston, to expand the use of FoodCycler units in our schools. This initiative aligns directly with our environmental stewardship goals and our commitment to providing meaningful, hands-on learning opportunities for students.

Over the past several years, we have seen firsthand the value of this technology through a successful pilot at Odessa Public School. Supported by a Loyalist Township community grant, that project equipped the school with several FoodCyclers, and the educator who led the program identified it as a major success in reducing food waste and strengthening student learning. She later shared her findings and experience at the ETFO Climate Change Symposium, highlighting the pilot's strong educational impact.

This proposed project has the potential to build on that success at a broader scale. In addition to placing FoodCyclers in selected LDSB school communities within the City of Kingston, the initiative would complement the work of our Experiential Learning Consultant, who supports culinary and food-skills education across our elementary schools. Having several FoodCycler units available to travel with this programming would add an important climate-education component to the already rich hands-on learning opportunities provided to students.

Limestone is ready to collaborate with Sustainable Kingston on coordination, communication, and community awareness efforts to help ensure this initiative reaches its full potential. We believe this project represents a unique and timely opportunity to reduce food waste, enhance climate literacy, and support sustainability learning across our system.

If you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to contact me. We look forward to continuing this conversation and supporting a pilot that can deliver environmental and educational benefits to our entire community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie Sartor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephanie Sartor
Associate Superintendent of Curriculum and Program Services
Limestone District School Board

The Limestone District School Board is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabek and Haudenosaunee.

Karen McGregor, Chair | Krishna Burra, Director of Education and Secretary | Craig Young, Treasurer

[See Yourself in Limestone](#)