

NETWORK
MEMBER
BENEFITS,
CHARTER,
& TERMS

Green 
Communities
CANADA



Acknowledge, Honour, Act.

Green Communities Canada acknowledges the treaty and traditional territories of Indigenous Nations throughout Canada.

We are grateful for the continued work of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples who are the original caretakers of the Land and Waters.

In our work, we have a responsibility and a desire to respect Indigenous perspectives, uphold Indigenous rights, and elevate Indigenous voices.

As Treaty People, we will acknowledge our histories, honour our commitments and sovereignty, and do our best to care for each other and for all of creation.



ABOUT US

MISSION

We connect community-based climate action groups through a national network to share resources, co-create innovative programs, and elevate our collective impact.

We believe our model, which honours and mobilizes the knowledge and capacity found within communities is, and should be, rooted in an environmental justice framework. Our goal is to support inclusive grassroots-led action through leadership, connection, training, and funding.

CORE VALUES

Appreciative

Deeply appreciative of this planet and the living systems that sustain all those that call it home.

Community-Based

Driven to pursue community-based solutions and to support the people and organizations acting locally.

Humble

Open, humble, and always learning from others and from the land in this complex and dynamic world.

Collaborative

Creative and collaborative in our approach, recognizing the strength to be found in diverse experiences.

Inclusive

Determined to be inclusive and to take active steps toward supporting greater equity in our work and in the sector.

Accountable

Committed to evidence-based decisions, transparency, and dialogue, ensuring accountability is centered in our approach.



OUR NETWORK MEMBERS

Our network members are environmental non-profits and Indigenous governments and organizations from coast to coast. They have their own governance structures, strategic goals, and operational structures.

Our network members build vital grassroots capacity and expertise. They have paid staff or volunteers who deliver transformative local action projects and sustainability services.

Our network members reflect and are a part of their communities. They have deep trust-based relationships with diverse local leaders, changemakers, and organizations.

All of our network members share a commitment to collaborative and equitable climate solutions.

See Our Network Members

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

NETWORK **We are a network that advances local climate action.**

The scale and complexity of the climate crisis requires that we work together. Community-led action is vital, but local organizations are stronger when they can share resources, knowledge, and a sense of purpose. Network priorities must evolve to respond to our needs today and into the future.

▶ **How do we do this?** We provide valuable resources, collaborative opportunities, and a sense of community. Bi-monthly Network Meetings, program- or issue-based Communities of Practice, and our Member Resource Library bring changemakers together to learn, share, and grow.

FUNDER **We are a funder that enables critical local programs.**

Investments in community-based climate action are currently insufficient to build or maintain the capacity needed for transformative change. Funding must be prioritized at the local level to resource the people on the ground.

▶ **How do we do this?** We work collaboratively with members to secure grant funds, creating connections between local projects and increasing their scope and impact. We also work with governments and foundations to deliver strategic funding programs that benefit our members.

BACKBONE **We are a service provider that increases local capacity.**

Developing the systems, tools, and capacity needed to effectively implement local programming can be difficult. Shared programs and services reduce duplication, streamline administration, and reduce technical barriers for local grassroots community organizations.

▶ **How do we do this?** Building on our strong reputation, we offer the expertise, training services, delivery supports, and shared evaluation tools needed to achieve collective impact. Our time-tested services help our members maximize their impact and accelerate change.

INNOVATOR **We are a national program and policy leader.**

National leadership is essential, but local, on-the-ground experience must inform public policy decisions. Communities are on the frontlines of climate change and their knowledge, capacity, conditions, and unique histories must be understood and leveraged.

▶ **How do we do this?** We learn from our members, identify opportunities, test new ideas, and work across sectors to offer a strategic response to emerging issues. We lead joint advocacy efforts and work with our partners to constructively inform policy and program development.

NETWORK CHARTER

**These eight core principles are shared by our network members.
They ground our collective work and approach.
They shape our relationships to each other and to the earth.**

- 1. We recognize the urgent need for bold climate action.** Greenhouse gas emissions must be significantly reduced and communities must be supported to adapt.
- 2. We commit to an inclusive and justice-focused approach.** The needs and voices of vulnerable and marginalized communities must be prioritized to address inequities.
- 3. We honour Indigenous rights, jurisdiction, and perspectives.** Reconciliation is an ongoing commitment made through restorative actions, words, and relations.
- 4. We embrace the leadership of local actors and organizations.** Communities are on the frontlines of climate change and locally led responses are the most dynamic and durable.
- 5. We work collaboratively to strengthen and mobilize our sector.** The climate crisis requires collective action and a sustained investment in mutual-support systems.
- 6. We are guided by scientific data, and by local and traditional knowledge.** Sound and inclusive decision-making considers scientific evidence and diverse lived experiences.
- 7. We measure and transparently report on our impact.** Consistent and accountable communication creates opportunities for shared understanding, growth, and reflection.
- 8. We respect each other's areas of service and programming.** Coordinated and mutually-supportive approaches deepen our impact, as organizations and as a network.

NETWORK POLICY & TERMS

Green Communities Canada is a national charity. The sole legal Members ("Members") of our organization are the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors are responsible for the governance of GCC in a manner consistent with our By-Laws and articles of incorporation. Our network members ("network members") are not part of our legal governance structure; however, they actively participate in our collaborative activities may receive benefit from our resources and services. To support network member participation in GCC's governance structure, representatives from network members are encouraged to apply for positions on GCC's Board of Directors.

- 1. Criteria:** GCC network membership shall be available to organizations who commit to our Network Charter and meet the following criteria:
 - a. Are non-profit corporations or Indigenous governments / organizations
 - b. Have their own governance structure
 - d. Deliver community-based environmental programming
 - e. Serve a defined geographic territory (generally, GCC will have only one network member in each community, or will seek consent and agreement from existing network members).
- 2. Network Member Classifications:** GCC has two types of network members:
 - a. Full network members: Full network members may benefit from all GCC network meetings, shared resources, services, and programs.
 - b. Associate network members: Associate network members may benefit from GCC's network meetings and resources, but do not participate in GCC's programs and services.
- 3. Application:** Prospective members are required to complete GCC's Network Member Application, demonstrating that they meet the criteria listed above.
- 4. Approval:** GCC's Board of Directors review network member applications and may approve an organization to become a network member.
- 5. Term Length:** The term of network membership is annual and will be renewed if (a) the member pays required network membership dues and (b) the membership has not been terminated in accordance with the terms in this Policy.
- 6. Membership Dues:** Network members pay annual dues in the amount approved by the Board of Directors. Currently, dues are \$500/year for Full Network Members and \$200/year for Associate Network Members. Network members are notified in writing and must pay within three calendar months. Dues are subject to change annually with notice given to members.

- 7. Transferability:** Network membership is not transferable between organizations.
- 8. Board Representation:** GCC's Board is comprised of both network member and non-member representatives, with a target 50 per cent split. The Board of Directors will undertake annual recruitment and members are invited to submit candidates for nomination.
- 9. Board Accountability:** The Board has a responsibility to ensure accountability to network members. This is achieved through the following mechanisms:
- a. Regular reporting: Annual reports will be shared with network members. This will include collective impact metrics as well financial and Strategic Plan performance metrics.
 - b. Network member surveys: Network member satisfaction and experience surveys will be conducted every three years or more frequently as initiated by the Board.
 - c. Consent-driven approval process: GCC's Bylaws require the Board to seek majority consent of network members to make substantive changes to the Charter and Policies.
 - d. Complaint contact: If network members wish to make a complaint, they are encouraged to contact the Secretary of the Board directly. Contact information will be shared annually.
- 10. Termination:** Network members may voluntarily resign from GCC at any time. If a corporation is dissolved, fails to maintain the criteria for membership, or fails to pay dues as outlined above, its membership will be terminated. Network members may also be expelled or suspended if such a motion is approved by the Board of Directors. This may be for violating the terms of membership or for conduct that is detrimental to our shared objectives.
- 11. Conflict of Interest:** Network members are required to disclose when there is a potential conflict of interest between their organization and GCC. This should be disclosed to the Executive Director who will bring the issue to the Board of Directors for a resolution. Given the nature of the non-profit funding landscape, competing in open funding calls will not be considered a conflict of interest, though collaboration and coordination is certainly encouraged.
- 12. Confidentiality:** Confidential information about GCC or other member organizations, or intellectual property (information or files) shared as a benefit of membership, should not be transmitted beyond the GCC membership without express permission secured in advance.
- 13. Mutual Indemnification:** Network members shall not be held answerable or responsible for any act, default, obligation, or liability of GCC or for any engagement, claim, payment, loss, injury, transaction, or matter relating to or connected with GCC. GCC will not be responsible for the actions of members that occur outside the context of a GCC sanctioned activity.
- 14. Program Delivery:** GCC manages programs that network members deliver locally. Some programs prioritize a single member within a defined geographic region (e.g., Energuide). In this case, preference will be given to the member currently delivering the program in its region, with additional network members invited to participate only in new or underserved areas. Other programs (e.g., where GCC is administering funds) have open calls for applications for network members to delivery projects, with grants being awarded based on merit. GCC has no obligation to provide program funding and/or delivery contracts to individual members, nor to limit delivery and participation to network members. However, GCC commits to transparency and open communication around program delivery.
- 15. Co-Promotion:** Co-promotion (e.g., mutual links and logos on websites, sharing posts on social media, profiling activities in e-newsletters) is encouraged. Activities undertaken by GCC and network organizations must be consistent with relevant branding guidelines and, with the exception of social media sharing, should receive approval prior to publication.



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CANADA

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