

Gray Notes™ Grant Requirement Guidelines 2013

Interested in Applying for a Gray Notes™ Grant? Read this First.

To begin the grant application process, thoroughly review the foundation's initiatives and guidelines.

1. Please read this entire document. Our grant review process is thorough and comprehensive, and the information below will help you better understand our approach to grant making.
2. Please make sure that your proposed project meets our funding guidelines before you apply. Once you have completed both of these steps, you are ready to submit an [online grant inquiry](#).

About Us

The Ray C. Anderson Foundation was created in honor of the late Ray C. Anderson (1934-2011) founder of Interface, Inc. During his time at Interface, Ray championed the notion of businesses doing well by doing good. It was the noble qualities of advancing knowledge and innovation around environmental stewardship and sustainability that earned Ray recognition as a pioneer in industrial ecology. The purpose of the Foundation is to perpetuate these shared values and continue the legacy that Ray left behind. Through research and funding, the Foundation aims to help create a better world for future generations.

The Ray C. Anderson Foundation seeks to promote a sustainable society by supporting and pioneering initiatives that harmonize society, business and the environment for the present generation and tomorrow's child.

We will achieve this mission through inspiring and funding innovative, educational and project-based initiatives that advance the revolution in sustainable production and consumption.

We issue grants in two categories:

- Grants to Environmental Initiatives and Nonprofits
- Grants to Higher Education Research Programs (by invitation only).

What We Don't Fund

There are a number of areas frequently inquired about that we do not fund. The list includes, but is not limited to:

- Projects outside the United States
- Grants to individuals
- Undergraduate or graduate scholarships
- Grants for personal needs or business assistance
- Start-up businesses
- Fees associated with environmental labeling, product certifications, life cycle assessments, environmental product declarations or environmental rating systems and certifications
- Capital campaigns or building campaigns for new construction or additions.
- Research, writing, publishing or underwriting of books, manuscripts, feature films, documentaries, websites or other mass media
- Health care, vehicle purchase, student loan repayment or inventions
- After school programs, athletic leagues, orphanages, adoption assistance or elder care
- Lobbying efforts, activist campaigns, political action committees, political campaigns or political candidates.

Gray Notes™ Grant Requirement Guidelines 2013

Grant Funding

Grant funds awarded by the Ray C. Anderson Foundation must be for charitable, educational or scientific purposes as defined under the appropriate provisions of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code and Treasury Regulations.

As we pursue our funding goals, we take all reasonable measures to fulfill our responsibilities as a tax-exempt, private family foundation. We must ensure that our funds are used for their intended charitable purposes and that they do not support any activities that violate the U.S. tax code or anti-terrorism laws.

How We Monitor Grants

To ensure the appropriate use of our grant funds and to ensure compliance with the U.S. tax code and U.S. anti-terrorism laws, the Ray C. Anderson Foundation has extensive procedures for making and monitoring grants. These include the following:

1. **Pre-Grant Review.** All potential grantee organizations and their programs are assessed by a program officer to ensure that the grantee organization is a tax exempt, nonprofit organization with a valid tax determination letter and a valid employer identification number. From time to time, questions may be issued to clarify points in grant inquiries and grant proposals to ensure the grantee organization's capacity to undertake the proposed project, research, etc.
2. **A Legal Review.** All potential grantee organizations and written submissions undergo a legal review for their validity.
3. **Compliance with U.S. Anti-Terrorism Financing Rules.** Under applicable law, the foundation checks all prospective grantees against available lists of terrorist groups. These checks are ongoing, throughout the life of the grant.
4. **Countersigned Grantee Letter.** This letter establishes a range of grant conditions. Every grantee is required to sign it, and additional signatory authorities may also be required, specifically with higher education grants.
5. **Site Visits.** Depending on the nature of the grant, a program officer or other representative from the Ray C. Anderson Foundation may visit the grantee one or more times during the term of the grant.
6. **Financial and Narrative Reports.** During the grant term, grantees are required to submit reports that are reviewed by a program officer and grants administrator for compliance with the term of the grant.

If you believe your organization is a good match with one of our funding priorities, and can meet ALL of our requirements, please read through the appropriate section in the following pages, and complete an [online grant inquiry](#) for that section.

Section 1 - Grants to Environmental Initiatives and Nonprofits

Section 2 – Higher Education Research Grants (by invitation only)

Gray Notes™ Grant Requirement Guidelines 2013

Section 1 - Grants to Environmental Initiatives and Nonprofits

The Ray C. Anderson Foundation awards a number of grants annually to local, regional and national nonprofit environmental organizations that are providing real world, real time solutions that support sustainability in all of its elements; environmental, economic and social.

Grants awarded to environmental initiatives and nonprofits are capped at \$25,000. Most range in the amount of \$2,000 to \$25,000. Grant inquiries are accepted throughout the year. Grants are awarded twice per year, in June and December.

The request for proposals for Environmental Initiatives and Nonprofits begins on February 15, 2013.

Past awards have included, but have not been limited to:

- environmental and economic think tanks
- environmental conservation, preservation, education and restoration initiatives
- urban agriculture programs; clean water and clean air initiatives
- grassroots initiatives that inform and inspire people to collaborate and take positive action to protect the planet.

We have also supported organizations and initiatives that are working with industry, government and businesses to create environmentally sound planning practices to reduce the environmental footprint of urban development through:

- energy efficiency
- increased application of renewable energy
- reduction of carbon intensity
- implementation of closed loop cycles; manufacturing, use and disposal

Applying for a Grant for a Nonprofit or Environmental Initiative

You may submit an online grant inquiry by [clicking here](#). Please note that **the inquiry is not a proposal**.

What Happens Next?

If your grant inquiry falls within our guidelines, you will be contacted by email to begin the process of a formal proposal. Formal proposals are submitted online and questions from the review board are also issued online. Formal proposals undergo a thorough administrative and legal review. Grants are announced and awarded in June and December.

Gray Notes™ Grant Requirement Guidelines 2013

Section 2 - Higher Education Research Grants

By invitation only. Unsolicited applications will not be accepted. Requests for proposals are issued once per year, with the option to open new RFPs at the discretion of the Trustees.

Past proposals have included, but have not been limited to:

- university-level, post-graduate research initiatives
- curriculum design and collaboration between schools focused on integrated sustainability
- university/industry partnerships for integrating sustainability into mainstream business practices
- competitions in various academic disciplines that have the potential to move the sustainability needle forward by advancing resource efficiency with market-oriented solutions that can result in corporate transformation.

We have also considered and funded projects that give consideration to, and/or rely on:

- biological insight and biomimicry principles
- green polymer development
- use of natural based polymers for increased efficiency in renewable energy technologies.
- applied research projects that promise to reduce the energy intensity and carbon intensity of manufacturing processes in various industries.

We are favorably disposed to those projects that can be applied across various academic disciplines and industries.

The Foundation's goal is to supplement the resources of the institution – rather than simply fund basic services that should be funded by the institution itself.

Endowment-enhancing projects are not, in the trustees' view, within the scope of our focus. Special consideration will be given to those projects that contribute to the enhancement of student research at your institution.

The trustees ask that pre-proposals not propose funding a grant or program which will carry Ray C. Anderson's name.

We give preference to those colleges or universities that are signatories to the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment: <http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org>

Pre-proposals should be approved by the President of the institution or his/her designee.

When we evaluate higher education research grant proposals, we tend to focus on applied research with measurable, real world application opportunities in the following core areas:

- Renewable energy application and marketability. We define renewable energy as wind, solar, geothermal, tidal, landfill gas, biomass and low impact hydro.
- Reduction in energy intensity and carbon intensity in manufacturing processes

Gray Notes™ Grant Requirement Guidelines 2013

- Educating tomorrow's leaders with integrated sustainability curricula that becomes more mainstream across all levels of higher education--crossing all disciplines such as business, engineering, manufacturing, energy, product design, building design and construction, architecture, chemistry, biology, ecology, agriculture, etc.
- Research and development of natural, nontoxic alternatives for traditional chemistry leading to more sustainable industrial processes.

Applying for a Grant

If your higher education institution has received an invitation letter, you may submit an online grant inquiry by [clicking here](#). Please note that **the inquiry is not a proposal**. We will entertain **up to five inquiries** per institution.

2013 Grant Schedule for Invited Higher Education Institutions

- February 15, 2013 – Invitations issued by email
- March 28, 2013- Deadline for submitting online grant inquiries
- April 30, 2013 – Invitations issued to higher education institutions for full proposals
- May 15, 2013 – Deadline for full proposals from invited institutions
- June 15, 2013 – Higher Education Grants announced to recipients
- June 30, 2013 – Payment issued to 2013 Higher Education Grant Recipients