

General Qs and As for Applicants

Low-Carbon Building Skills Training Fund

Course Resource Professional Development Stream

Q1. What is Ontario's Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP)?

A: On May 18, 2016, Ontario passed landmark climate change legislation that ensures the province is accountable for responsibly and transparently investing proceeds from the cap and trade program.

The Climate Change Action Plan and the cap and trade program form the backbone of Ontario's strategy to cut greenhouse gas pollution to 15 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020.

Ontario's investment will support skills training, including capital upgrades, equipment purchasing and course/resource/professional development, while encouraging the postsecondary sector, industry, training delivery agents and others to develop low-carbon building projects.

Q2. How much funding is being committed to this initiative? Why is the Ministry launching three Call for Proposals?

A: Over this year, Ontario is investing \$24M to ready Ontario's workforce to support commitments under the Climate Change Action Plan, with a focus on low-carbon building.

LCBS activities will support postsecondary education institutions, training delivery agents, employers and other industry stakeholders to acquire new equipment and to increase their capacity to train current and future workers in low-carbon building skills, through:

- Sector-focused partnerships to support training programs in green building skills,

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- New and upgraded facilities and more capacity to support green building skills training,
- New green curriculum for apprentices, and,
- Research into green labour force needs.

The government has developed three competitive Call for Proposals to support the activities under this initiative.

More information about the MAESD's announcement on Low-Carbon Building Skills can be found on Ontario.ca.

Q3. Why was this initiative launched?

A. The purpose of this initiative is to improve training, and workforce and technical capacity to ensure that Ontario's workers have the skills needed to enable the reduction of carbon emissions of buildings in the province.

Last June, the government released Ontario's first five-year [Climate Change Action Plan for 2016-2020](#). This plan identifies government actions that build on the October 2015 Climate Change Strategy. The initiative is funded by proceeds from Ontario's carbon market.

Q4. What is Ontario's carbon market (cap and trade program)?

A. Ontario's cap and trade program is a market-based system that sets a hard cap on greenhouse gas emissions while giving flexibility to businesses and industry in terms of how they meet their caps.

The program gradually lowers greenhouse gas emissions from our biggest polluters. This gives us cleaner air and helps reduce the devastating impacts of climate change –

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such as damage to our homes, businesses, crops and forests caused by extreme weather events.

Putting a price on carbon encourages companies and consumers to make better choices for the environment. It gives polluters an incentive to cut emissions – if you pollute less, you pay less. To learn more about the cap and trade program, visit Ontario.ca

Q5. Who can apply for Low-Carbon Building Skills funding?

- A. Funding is available through three competitive streams to:
- Publicly-assisted universities and colleges
 - Non-college training delivery agents
 - Industry organizations

Q6. How much funding is available for projects?

- A. The government is investing \$24 million from the proceeds of the province's carbon market into the Low-Carbon Building Skills initiative. The funding is being allocated for the following activities:
- Through the Low-Carbon Building Skills Training Fund for Universities and Colleges, \$10 million is available through competitive streams for approved applications and projects. The ministry is seeking applications for projects up to a maximum of \$200,000 per project.
 - Through the Low-Carbon Building Skills Training Fund for non-college training delivery agents, \$10 million is available through competitive streams for approved applications and projects. The ministry is seeking applications for projects up to a maximum of \$200,000 per project.

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- Through the Low-Carbon Building Skills Partnership Fund, \$2 million is available to industry organizations. The ministry is seeking applications for projects up to a maximum of \$100,000 per project.
- The remaining \$2 million is being invested to:
 1. support research and stakeholder engagement to determine labour market trends and labour demands, including job skills and industry training needs, related to low-carbon building projects;
 2. work on green curriculum for apprentices.

For more information, including the eligibility criteria, please visit the [Employment Ontario Partners' Gateway](#).

Q7. How many projects will be funded?

- A. The final number of funded projects is dependent on the number of qualified applications received by the ministry. The final number of approved projects will be determined upon evaluation of all applications received.

Q8. What is the Course Resource and Professional Development Stream for?

- A. The Low-Carbon Building Skills-Course, Resource and Professional Development Stream (LCBS-CRPD) gives universities and colleges the opportunity to receive funding to support development of new courses, curriculum materials and professional development programs that will enhance students' low-carbon building skills and knowledge.

Publicly-assisted Ontario universities and colleges are eligible to apply.

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Q9. What types of projects does the initiative fund?

- A. The LCBS-CRPD Stream will provide funding to support publicly-assisted universities and colleges in:
- Development and implementation of new courses, modules, case studies and other curriculum materials that enhance students' low-carbon building skills and knowledge.
 - Proposals across a wide range of subject areas that relate to low-carbon building skills and knowledge (e.g. construction, industry, accounting, business, leadership, engineering, architecture) and/or that involve the creation of multi-purpose materials that can be shared across a wide range of programs will be considered.
 - Professional development programs for instructors to support their ability to train students on low-carbon building skills.

Proposals must clearly demonstrate how expenditures will support enhancing students' low-carbon building skills and knowledge. New materials must be aligned with current program standards, as applicable.

More information on eligible costs are detailed in the Calls for Proposal and Application Guides for the 2017-18 Low-Carbon Building Skills Training Fund for Ontario Non-College Training Delivery Agents and the 2017-18 Low-Carbon Building Skills Training Fund for Ontario Universities and Colleges. These documents are available on the [Employment Ontario Partners' Gateway](#).

Q10. Is there a maximum number of applications that can be submitted?

- A. Each applicant can submit a maximum of one application detailing one project for each funding stream. (For example, an applicant can submit one application for Low-Carbon Building Skills Apprenticeship Enhancement Fund stream and one

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application for the Course, Resource and Professional Development/Resource and Professional Development stream).

Organizations can work together to submit the Low-Carbon Building Skills Training Fund Application to deliver the project; however only one organization can sign the agreement with the ministry. The organization must be a legal entity with the authority to enter into an agreement.

Q11. What is the deadline to submit a proposal?

- A. The deadline to submit an application is midnight January 15, 2017. It is anticipated that Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their submission by February 5, 2018 with successful projects to start before March 31, 2018. Project activities must be completed by December 31, 2018.

Q12. How will projects be selected for the Resource and Professional Development Stream?

- A. The ministry will establish an Assessment Team to complete the assessment using prescribed steps in order to ensure the above-listed principles are met. Projects will be selected in a manner that is fair, transparent and well documented. Proposals that do not clearly meet the funding criteria, are late, or are incomplete, will be disqualified. Proposals must clearly demonstrate how expenditures will support enhancing students' low-carbon building skills and knowledge.

More information on how applications will be assessed is available in the Calls for Proposal and Application Guides for Low-Carbon Building Skills Training Fund for Ontario Non-College Training Delivery Agents and the Low-Carbon

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Building Skills Training Fund for Ontario Universities and Colleges. These documents are available on the [Employment Ontario Partners' Gateway](#).

Q13. How will performance be measured for the Course Resource Professional Development Stream?

- A. The successful applicants will be subject to reporting requirements on its project to ensure the project is meeting its goals and objectives. Activity and financial reports will provide the Ministry with the opportunity to determine how effectively the agreement Recipient is completing the Project as outlined in their signed agreement with the Ministry. The overall success of the Project will be determined through ongoing monitoring, submission of reports and completion of risk assessment(s) if necessary.

All organizations that receive funding under the Low-Carbon Building Skills Training Fund must submit the reports stipulated in their agreement. There will be separate reporting requirements for each stream of the Low-Carbon Building Skills Training Fund (Apprenticeship Enhancement Fund or Course, Resource and Professional Development stream or Resource and Professional Development stream).

The Senior Financial Officer will also be required to verify that the appropriate internal approvals were received for the project expenditures.

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Q14. How is the Low-Carbon Skills Strategy aligned with other government commitments?

- A. The Low-Carbon Building Skills initiative is aligned with the Highly Skilled Workforce Strategy as it is an initiative to help Ontario's workers meet the emerging skills requirements of a future economy.

Q15. How were stakeholders engaged in the development of the Low-Carbon Building Skills initiative?

- A. To begin this work, in July 2017, the Ministry hosted three, two-hour information sessions with a range of stakeholders to provide an overall snapshot of Low-Carbon Building Skills initiative, and the suite of planned initiatives.

This initial engagement provided an opportunity to have an open and transparent discussion about this work with all interested stakeholders in the low-carbon building and green economy sector.

The government can't do this work alone. Working together with our partners we can build a low-carbon economy and a greener future for Ontarians.

Q16: What was the rationale for the distribution of funding within the professional development portion of the Training Funds?

- A. To make it easier for organizations to apply and compete for funding, the Calls for Proposals are bundled according to the organization type (e.g., non-college training delivery agents, postsecondary institutions, industry organizations). A total of \$10M is available for the Training Fund for Universities and Colleges and \$10M is available for the Training Fund for Ontario non-college TDAs to ensure

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that Ontario's apprentices and students are taught by instructors knowledgeable of the skills needed to reduce carbon emissions in the province's building stock, regardless of whether they attend a college, university, or non-college TDA. Applications will be assessed according to the quality of the project proposals.

Q17: What other funding is available for colleges and universities?

- A. For 2017-18, the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development provided a total of \$232.5M in capital grant funding to college and universities. Of the \$232.5M, colleges received \$87.3M and universities received \$145.2M. These funds are being used to support capital projects approved by the government, and to assist institutions with renewing and modernizing their campuses through repair, renovation, and alteration of existing facilities.

In addition, a broad range of funding is available to colleges and universities through numerous funding mechanisms supporting ministry priorities. These include operating grants and other transfer payment agreements mostly provided through competitive funding processes. Some of these programs, including Low-Carbon Building Skills, support Ontario's Climate Change Action Plan to fight climate change, reduce greenhouse gas pollution and transition to a low-carbon economy.

For example, the government's recently announced Low Carbon Innovation Fund (\$25.8M) will fund proof of concept or prototype projects from eligible Ontario companies or post-secondary education institutions, in order to create and commercialize new, globally competitive, low-carbon technologies. Ontario colleges are also eligible for the College Applied Research and Development Fund (\$20M over three years) administered by the Ontario Centers of Excellence. This fund drives increased industry/post-secondary collaborations

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while creating an efficient marketplace for industry to access innovation, productivity and commercialization services from colleges; provides experiential learning opportunities for college students; and better aligns colleges with the needs of companies and strategic sectors, which will enable the development of new products, services and processes, facilitate productivity improvements, and help generate new revenues and high-value jobs for Ontario.