

FirstLight Power Climate Action and Environmental Justice Grant Program

FirstLight's Commitment to Climate Action and Environmental Justice:

As the largest clean energy generator in New England, FirstLight has a steadfast commitment to delivering positive impacts around climate change and environmental justice in the region. Our generation facilities and associated recreation and education facilities are fundamental economic drivers to our local communities, but we also believe in being a good citizen, both locally and regionally. In addition to our other philanthropic work, we provide opportunities for local environmental, educational, and tribal organizations to compete for grants and collaboratively work with our neighbors to maintain and improve the local environment where we live and work.

Climate Action Grant Overview:

FirstLight Power's Climate Action Grants will support the efforts of 501c3 non-profit organizations for climate action-related projects in Franklin County. Climate Action Grant projects can be educational, support workforce development, help preserve critical environmental resources, study or mitigate the impacts of climate change, increase resiliency, or otherwise enhance the community's opportunities for sustainability. A selection committee will award grants up to \$15,000, depending on availability of funding.

Subject Criteria:

Projects can be educational, support workforce development, help preserve critical environmental resources, study or mitigate the impacts of climate change, increase resiliency, or otherwise enhance the community's opportunities for sustainability.

Selection Criteria – The selection committee will consider relevant factors including:

- Impact: The potential for the project to have a lasting impact on the local community.
- Relevance: The project spurs action on climate or environmental justice issues and / or contributes to the community's ability to respond to the climate crisis.
- Resourcefulness: The ability of the project to elevate existing community assets to create new benefits or opportunities.
- Strategy and Synergy: Thoughtfulness in how to approach the project as well as how the project fits into the community's broader goals.
- Mission and History: The ability of the group to complete the proposed project and how the project aligns with the group's overall mission.

Environmental Justice Grant Overview:

supports and empowers community-based 501c3 organizations, tribal and local government entities, and cultural and social action organizations working on solutions to local environmental and public health issues. The program is designed to help communities understand and address exposure to multiple environmental harms and risks.

Environmental Justice Grant projects can study, educate, train, or promote awareness of environmental or public health impacts in the community, provide solutions to critical environmental problems, public health issues, or preservation of important resources in environmental justice communities, or otherwise enhance the community's environmental empowerment. A selection committee will award grants up to \$15,000, depending on availability of funding every year.

Subject Criteria:

Projects can study/educate/train/promote awareness of environmental or public health impacts in the community, provide solutions to critical environmental problems, public health issues, or preservation of important cultural resources in environmental justice communities, increase resiliency, or otherwise enhance the community's environmental empowerment.

Selection Criteria – The selection committee will consider relevant factors including:

- **Impact:** The potential for the project to have a lasting impact on the local community.
- **Relevance:** The project spurs action on climate or environmental justice issues and / or contributes to the community's ability to respond to the climate crisis.
- **Resourcefulness:** The ability of the project to elevate existing community assets to create new benefits or opportunities.
- **Strategy and Synergy:** Thoughtfulness in how to approach the project as well as how the project fits into the community's broader goals.
- **Mission and History:** The ability of the group to complete the proposed project and how the project aligns with the group's overall mission.

Grant application timeline for 2021:

- Applications accepted beginning: August 1, 2021
- Application deadline: October 8, 2021
- Grants announced: November 2021

For questions regarding eligibility or the application process, please contact carter.wall@firstlightpower.com. [The application can be found here.](#)