15th ANNIVERSARY BONUS ROUND GUIDELINES

Purpose
Recognizing that open space in our communities is crucial to the quality of our lives, PECO has committed to supporting municipalities, recreational authorities, and nonprofits in southeastern Pennsylvania with their ongoing efforts to preserve, protect, and improve public spaces. PECO designed the PECO Green Region Open Space program to assist local communities in these efforts by providing funding for some expenses not otherwise covered by state or county programs. Underlying the program is PECO’s endorsement of deliberate planning for open space protection as a means to encourage the wisest use of scarce resources.

Online Application Deadline: 11:59pm, November 30, 2019

Eligible Applicants

- Any township, borough, city, or regional recreational authority within PECO’s service territory in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, or York counties (eligible applicants must receive gas and/or electric service from PECO).
- Within the City of Philadelphia, all incorporated nonprofit organizations, including neighborhood organizations, such as “Friends” groups.
- PECO does not make grants to individuals, schools, or religious organizations unless programs are non-denominational.
- Previous recipients of PECO Green Region Open Space program grant awards are eligible to apply for the Bonus Round regardless of when the previous grant was awarded and regardless of whether or not close-out documentation has been submitted. This is a celebratory round and therefore open to all those who would be otherwise eligible to apply.

Eligible Activities

- Bonus Round funding is for tree planting projects only.

Ineligible Expenses

- Staff time for municipal, organizational, or authority employees for any aspect of the project.
- Relocation of an owner or tenant, condemnation, or building repair or demolition.
- Expenses not directly related to tree planting projects.
Grant Amounts and Timing

- The Bonus Round will award amounts up to $10,000, one per county, that may be used to fund up to 100% of the project. No match is required.

- Applications will only be accepted electronically through the online application, which can be found at https://apps.natlands.org/pecogreenregion/, along with these grant guidelines.

- Applications must be submitted by **11:59pm November 30, 2019**.

- Any recipient will be expected to fully expend the grant within 12 months of receipt of the funds. Grant recipients must communicate with the program administrator should unforeseen circumstances cause a delay in meeting this deadline.

- Retroactive reimbursement for costs accrued between the application deadline and when the grant funds are received may be allowed on a case-by-case basis. All requests for such reimbursement should be communicated with the program administrator.

- Once the grant is fully expended, recipients must submit close-out documentation in the form of a Final Report before they are eligible to apply for additional grants offered through the PECO Green Region Open Space Program.

Grant Conditions

- The facility/property where the trees will be planted must be open to the general public.

- Within two months of the final expenditure of grant funds, the recipient will submit the Final Report form summarizing the work accomplished with the grant. Accompanying the Final Report will be an explanation justifying the use of the grant funds, backed by documentation of invoices, cancelled checks, etc., as necessary for the particular project. Recipient will not be eligible to apply for an additional PECO Green Region grant until a complete Final Report form is submitted.

- During the grant period, award recipients will agree to participate in press conferences or events, to be quoted in PECO literature describing the program, and to identify PECO as a funder in any materials produced to explain or promote the funded project. Draft versions of all promotional materials (press releases, articles, brochures, etc.) must be submitted to the program administrator for approval before use.

- Recipients will agree to acknowledge the use of PECO Green Region funds for the project. Wording will be supplied by PECO, and 7.5" x 5.75" aluminum signs can be provided if needed.

- The application does not require a Resolution from municipal applicants; nor does it require a Resolution or Letter of Approval from incorporated nonprofit applicants.

- These Bonus Round Grant Guidelines can be found on the Natural Lands website at https://apps.natlands.org/pecogreenregion/.
Review Committee
Completed and eligible applications will be reviewed and prioritized by a committee composed of county government officials, members of the region’s nonprofit land conservation community, and PECO representatives. Final decisions on recipients and amounts will remain at the discretion of PECO.

Administrator
Natural Lands, a private nonprofit land conservancy with a more than 60-year history of protecting open space in Eastern Pennsylvania, is the administrator of the PECO Green Region Open Space Program. Applications and questions about eligibility, timing, documentation, etc. should be addressed to:

Estelle Wynn Dolan
PECO Green Region Program Administrator
c/o Natural Lands
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Media, PA 19063
610-353-5587 x 213
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