A Vehicle for Change
A Grant Opportunity to Help Municipalities Create a More Sustainable Vehicle Fleet

Funding Opportunity:
The Heinz Endowments Summer Youth Philanthropy interns, working with the nonprofit Sustainable Pittsburgh, are pleased to announce the availability of a grant called “A Vehicle for Change.”

The students administering this grant program are learning about the work of foundations and nonprofits by directly funding programs they deem valuable. In keeping with priorities identified by municipalities that have completed the online Sustainable Community Essentials Rapid Assessment for Southwestern Pennsylvania, we are interested in funding projects that municipalities propose to make their vehicle fleets more efficient and less fuel consumptive and polluting. These efforts can involve education, use of nonstandard fuels, adoption of new management tools and technologies, and/or implementation of alternative transportation. We seek to award grants to municipalities in southwestern Pennsylvania that are engaged in pursuing more sustainable practices and want to become leaders for other municipalities in improving vehicle fleets. An ideal program could possibly launch an education campaign to reduce fuel usage, convert vehicles to run on non-gasoline/diesel fuel alternatives, install emissions filters on mobile sources or encourage bicycle mobility in the municipal vehicle fleet. However, we appreciate creativity, and we are looking forward to other suggestions that meet our criteria.

Creating a more sustainable vehicle fleet is essential to improving local air quality and addressing climate change. By using more energy-efficient vehicles and educating drivers about how they can improve gas mileage, municipal governments will save money, reduce air...
pollution and make transportation in the 10-county southwestern Pennsylvania region more sustainable.

From a total of $25,000, funds will be awarded to one or more municipal governments in the region that have completed the Sustainable Community Essentials Rapid Assessment, created by Sustainable Pittsburgh, and that are committed to making their municipal vehicle fleet more sustainable. We will consider giving several small grants; however, we would like grants to have a big impact and are willing to concentrate on one proposal if it best meets the criteria. While this grant is focused on helping municipal governments, we welcome partnerships between municipalities and nonprofits with expertise in these areas.

The Sustainable Community Essentials Rapid Assessment for Southwestern Pennsylvania may be found at: http://www.sustainablecommunityessentials.org/. For the password for municipalities, call 412-258-6643.

Project Goals:
1. Encourage municipalities to go green and save money by reducing emissions and their carbon footprint, thus contributing to sustainable community development by directly improving the sustainability of the municipal vehicle fleet.
2. Award grants to municipalities that commit to encouraging and engaging with surrounding municipalities to share lessons learned about improving municipal vehicle fleets.

Examples of potential projects include:
- Educating municipal employees about gas-saving driving practices (though education is only one aspect of a sustainable vehicle fleet).
- Implementing alternative fuel sources for vehicles, such as proposals that evaluate the conversion or assess the purchase of vehicles that are more efficient and consume less fuel than traditional gasoline engines.
- Promoting alternative transportation such as biking in the delivery of municipal services such as police.
- Deploying management tools and/or technologies to track vehicle or driving performance, right-size the number of vehicles based on usage, increase performance, conserve resources, reduce emissions and/or save money.

Note: Although these are some of our ideas on how to create a sustainable vehicle fleet, we are open to other proposals that fit that goal but are not listed above. Applicants are encouraged to read Sustainable Pittsburgh's recently produced case study on Greening the Vehicle Fleet found at http://sustainablecommunityessentials.org/documents/GreenVehicleFleets.pdf and this resource on the broader subject: http://www.sustainablecommunityessentials.org/sections/view/mobility.

Who May Apply:
Any municipal government in southwestern Pennsylvania that has completed the online Sustainable Community Essentials Rapid Assessment for Southwestern Pennsylvania is eligible.
Note: A nonprofit may apply as long as it is working with a specific municipality. In this case, please include a letter of support from that municipality.

Applications are due by Aug. 1 at 9 a.m.

A Vehicle for Change
Summer Youth Philanthropy Project

Municipality or Nonprofit (project fiduciary): __________________________________________
Street Address: ________________________________________________________________
City: __________________ State: ___________________ Zip Code: ____________________
Municipality’s Website: __________________________________________________________
Primary Contact Name and Title: _________________________________________________
Primary Contact’s Phone Number: _______________________________________________
Primary Contact’s Email: _________________________________________________________
Funding Request up to $25,000: ________________________________________________
Total Project Cost: ______________________________________________________________
Number of participants proposed to be served by this project: _________________________
Program Locations: _____________________________________________________________

Application Questions:
Please answer the following questions in a separate document. Proposals should not exceed six double-spaced pages, using Times New Roman 12-point font.

1. Has your municipal manager/secretary completed the Sustainable Community Essentials Rapid Assessment for Southwestern Pennsylvania?

2. Please briefly describe your proposal, including the role of any partner organizations.

3. State the municipality’s mission, vision, and sustainability goals and how the proposal advances them.

4. What are the specific ways in which your proposal will enable the municipality to advance a sustainable vehicle fleet?

5. How will you measure the impact of your project?

6. How will you promote leadership and aid in building capacity for green vehicle fleets among other municipalities? (e.g., case studies, workshops, pursuing media attention)

7. Will you match the grant or otherwise contribute additional resources to this proposal?

8. How will you perpetuate or even expand this project after using the funds from this grant?
9. How do you plan to inform your community about the steps you are taking to have a sustainable vehicle fleet?

10. Please include a time frame for the project.

**Attachments:**
Please attach the following:

- A detailed budget that includes all expenses and revenues for the proposed project.
- List of elected council members, supervisors or board members.
- Other supporting materials (optional).

Please submit proposals to:
Sustainable Pittsburgh
The Heinz Summer Interns
425 Sixth Ave, Suite 1335
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Fax: 412-258-6645

Or by email:
[EBusis@heinzinterns.org](mailto:EBusis@heinzinterns.org)

The proposal is due on Aug. 1 at 9 a.m.
Proposals received after this time will not be considered.

Questions and Comments:
Any questions should be directed to the interns:
Ethan Buis, Mercedes Velasquez and Anna Koebley at
Email: [EBusis@heinzinterns.org](mailto:EBusis@heinzinterns.org)
Phone: 412-721-0575