



LIFE's Community Fund 2018: APPLICATION

Please copy and paste the points below to a Word or similar file, and answer as completely as possible. We ask that your application be returned as a PDF file to communityfund@lifecoop.ca by November 15, 2018.

1. Applicant Organization name.

RISE Waterloo Region

2. Organization type (circle):

charity

non-profit

community group

other _____.

3. Describe your organization's vision, mission and goals. If your organization has a mission statement, please provide it here.

RISE Waterloo Region mission is to inspire citizens in the Waterloo Region to become more involved in climate action through organizing education and engagement events such as interactive pop-up art creation in public spaces. We believe that these participatory activities in highly visible spaces (e.g., sidewalk murals, poster making, t-shirt silk-screening, etc.) will keep climate change in the spotlight and are an accessible way to engage the public, especially those who may not self-identify as climate activists and who are unlikely to participate in protests, rallies, and other traditional forms of political action. Working in conjunction with other local environmental groups, RISE coordinates activities that build a broad coalition of support to tackle the critical issue of climate change.

4. Describe the project or initiative the funds will enable, including proposed date(s) of activities.

Our previous activities have included (1) organizing a rally in Sept 2018 as part of the global "Rise For Climate" coordinated actions and (2) the creation of a large (50' x 50') mural on the sidewalk in front of Kitchener City Hall in response to the recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. These events were funded in by grants

from 350.org (~\$1,000 for the rally) and by RISE organizers using personal funds (\$100 for art supplies for the mural). We are exploring other ways of raising money to purchase supplies (e.g., community grants, donations, selling T-shirts, etc.).



Overhead photo of our IPCC mural at Kitchener City Hall in Nov, 2018. 10 years or Bust! Climate Action Now.

We are planning a community build of simple solar heating panels. These panels can be built at a very low cost from scrap/donated materials, such as pop cans and are highly efficient for heating homes in the winter (up to 1 kW/m²). Users have reported saving up to \$1,000 on their annual heating bills with a low upfront cost (i.e., Bill of Materials) of ~\$250 (~\$200USD) for a 1 m x 2 m panel (see <https://www.freeonplate.com/how-to-build-diy-solar-panels-out-of-pop-cans/>).

The requested \$500 from the Life Community Fund will purchase materials to make 1-2 large panels (1 m x 2 m area each). These panels will be built in a public space where we will encourage passersby to contribute to the build. RISE volunteers will lead various work stations:

1. cutting the tops and bottoms off the cans
2. gluing the cans together with heat-resistant silicone
3. painting the cans black
4. building the frames

Our solar panel build will take place in early 2019 (e.g., early to mid January) so that the panels can be used for the remainder of the winter season.



Build photos of a 1 m x 2 m solar heating panel (from <https://www.freeonplate.com>).

5. Describe the community that will be affected by or benefiting from your project, and the overall impact the project will have.

Building these solar panels will impact the participants engaged in the build by empowering them with the knowledge that we can all be part of the transition to a renewable energy future and by giving individuals the skills to go home and make their own solar heating panels. We will also produce thorough documentation (photos, videos, etc.) and detailed build instructions that we will share with our growing social media following. If this build is successful and there is sufficient interest, our intention is to host follow-up solar workshops.

RISE uses art as a tool for increasing public engagement with climate action, so we plan to decorate the solar panels with colorful designs (taking care not to reduce efficiency) and messaging related to transitioning to 100% renewables as further opportunity to create awareness. The panels that are produced during the event will be donated to a local public building (e.g., school, library, the venue that hosts the build) so that they will serve as a visible symbol in the community for years to come.

We believe that this project is a perfect fit for Life Co-op because:

1. It provides a highly accessible introduction to DIY solar to the Waterloo Region community, fulfilling Life Co-op's commitment to educating the local community about energy issues and helping to bring about the development of viable, clean alternatives.

2. It will also encourage people that they can be part of the solution by building their own panels to save on heating bills and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
3. It is a practical, highly visible project that highlights local mitigation and adaptation to climate change and re-centres the discussion of climate change to the local and personal.

6. Please provide a draft budget for the project, and indicate clearly the specific purpose for which the LIFE Community Fund award will be used.

Online resources suggest that a 1 m x 2 m panel can be built for approximately \$250 (\$200USD) in materials. This includes the cost for glass, high-temp silicone, black paint, electronic fans, framing materials, etc. We will source donated materials from the community where possible. \$500 should provide enough materials to build at least 2 panels, but we will build as many as the budget/materials allow.

7. Identify any collaborating organizations that are directly or indirectly involved with your project.

The core organizers of RISE are also members of other local environmental organizations (e.g., Divest Waterloo, Citizen's Climate Lobby, Food Not Bombs), and we will certainly reach out to other organizations to participate (e.g., by having a table to distribute flyers, etc.). Food Not Bombs has offered to coordinate food for some of our past actions to feed participants while they create. We also plan to reach out to REEP and CREW for input and as a potential partners in the project. We will share LIFE's promotional materials at the build and use this opportunity to promote any upcoming LIFE events.

8. Identify any additional sources of funding for the project, the amount expected, and whether these awards are pending or confirmed.

We will solicit donated materials for the project from our community to help offset the costs. We will build as many solar panels as our funds permit.

9. Amount requested.

\$500

10. Contact information.

Name of contact person: Ryan Fobel

Role at organization: Organizer/co-founder

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Applicant website/LinkedIn/Facebook URL:

<http://facebook.com/risewaterlooregion>

<http://twitter.com/Rise4ClimateWR>