SUSTAINABILITY CONTESTABLE FUND FAQS

The following frequently asked questions relate to the Sustainability Contestable Fund application process. If you have any further questions please contact your Property Advisor.

When do applications close?

Applications for the first round of funding close on the 31st of January 2020

Are applications "first come, first served"?

Applications will be considered by the Panel after the closing date, regardless of their submission date.

Applications that are duplicates or essentially similar to other applications will be accepted for consideration by the Assessment Panel. However providing more school specific information better demonstrates your ability to project manage the proposal and may demonstrate a higher level of sustainability impact.

Who can apply for the Fund?

Only state schools can apply to the Fund. Applications must be submitted by the School's Principal or Board of Trustees Chair.

Do I need to get an endorsement from my Property Advisor?

Schools are encouraged to seek the endorsement of their Property Advisor for proposed projects, before they apply to the Fund. If they endorse the application, a copy of their endorsement should be included as supporting evidence with the application.

Can an application be for a project already underway, or planned to start before the application closing date?

No, projects already underway are ineligible. This includes any projects scheduled to begin before funding has been allocated.

What projects are ineligible for funding?

There are a range of projects that won't be funded including (but not limited to):
• Electric/hybrid vehicle purchase and/or EV charging infrastructure.
• Beautification projects.
• Projects that are related to the external environment, planting, landscaping etc.
• Furniture and equipment.
• Any project that does not create an asset worth at least $5,000.
• Training and/or changes to operating practices where no asset is created.
• Project works that are on a building that will be demolished or redeveloped and would be lost as result of this work.
• Projects that are already underway or completed.

The application form PDF does not work/cannot be edited properly, what can I do?

The PDF application form provided on the Fund webpage should be downloadable and editable. However, if you are having trouble completing the form use the Microsoft Word document version of the application form.

Do I have to provide quotes?

An application can be considered for funding, on an estimate. However, if your application is successful, you will be required to follow the standard all-of-government procurement rules.

Can the funding be allocated to my preferred supplier?

Any price provided (by quote or estimate) as part of the application can be used to set the amount of funding granted. If you prefer a specific supplier, this should be made clear. In these cases a rationale for this preference will need to be provided as part of your application. The greater the increase in price between your preferred supplier and other competing quotes or tenders the more compelling this explanation will need to be.

Do I need to provide additional evidence?

As long as a proposed project is eligible (refer to FAQ 3 above for projects that are ineligible), it will be considered by the Panel. However, additional evidence may increase the strength of the application. This additional evidence could include:
i. Baseline data, showing the school's current position and projected benefits.
ii. An explanation of how the proposed project would link to the curriculum (if relevant).

Might an application get only part of the funding requested?

If your application is for more than one project, you may not receive funding for all of the proposed projects. If an application relates to a single project then the Ministry would intend to fully fund that to the agreed amount.

Who is responsible for meeting any ongoing costs associated with the project?

Any ongoing or incidental costs must be paid by the school. This includes where existing infrastructure is not suitable for the proposed project. Where a high likelihood of these occurring is identified schools should include what steps they have taken to investigate or prevent this, as part of their application.

Who will have ownership of the asset once completed?

The Ministry will own the asset. Schools will be responsible for any ongoing maintenance, servicing costs, or costs associated with life cycle replacement.

Will any schools have priority for the funding?

Applications will be considered on their specific merit, but a school's geographical isolation will be taken into account.

How will I know if I've been successful or not?

All applicants, whether successful or unsuccessful, will be notified by email after the Assessment Panel has made its funding recommendations and these have been approved by the Ministry.

Is there an appeals process if an application does not get funded in full or in part?

No. All decisions are final, there is no appeals process.

If an application does not succeed in the first round can it be re-submitted for the second round?

Yes.

For more information please contact your Ministry Property Advisor.