

Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) - Environmental Research, Technology Demonstration and Conference (RTDC) Projects

FAQs

What are the objectives of this scheme?

- ▶ The objectives of the ECF are to promote individual behavioural and life style changes to achieve sustainable development, and develop or introduce innovative technologies and practices to improve our environment and conserve resources. The key funding schemes are Community Waste Reduction, Environmental Education and Community Action and Environmental Research, Technology Demonstration and Conference.

Which discipline(s) is(are) covered in this scheme?

- ▶ Any disciplines.

Who is eligible to apply (as a PC/PI)?

- ▶ They have a full-time appointment in the institution proper of the institution;
- ▶ They are in Staff Grades equivalent to Academic Staff Grades “A” to “I” (i.e. from “Professor” to “Assistant Lecturer”) under the University Grants Committee scale;
- ▶ They are primarily engaged in and spend at least 80% of their time in degree or higher degree work at the institution proper; and
- ▶ Their salary is wholly funded by the institution.

How to apply for this scheme?

- ▶ Submission of duly completed applications form in both hard copy and soft copy (in word format) by postal.

Can PI submit more than one application to the same application round?

- ▶ No, PI cannot submit more than one application to the same application round.

What document(s) should be prepared before and/or during application stage?

- ▶ Declaration Form for Research Grants
- ▶ Completed Application Form (in WORD format)

Is there an institutional quota for this scheme?

- ▶ There is no institutional quota for this scheme.

Any eligibility requirement on Co-applicant(s)?

- ▶ There is no eligibility requirement on Co-applicant(s).

What is the range of funding support?

- ▶ The normal grant ceiling for each research or technology demonstration project is \$2.5 million with a usual duration of not more than 3 years. The ceiling of an international conference to be held in Hong Kong is normally HK\$0.5 million or 70% of the total actual expenditure, whichever is the less.

Is administrative overhead fees/indirect costs allowed?

- ▶ administrative overhead is not allowed.

What is the operational timeframe after internal deadline?

- ▶ Around 22 working days.

What is the estimated time for PIs' revision and re-submission?

- ▶ Around 5 working days.

If PIs opt to submit without vetting by ORKTS, what will the minimum processing time be?

- ▶ Around 15 working days.

What are the assessment criteria?

- ▶ the benefits that it will bring to Hong Kong's environment, ecology, flora and fauna etc., or the extent to which it will enhance the environmental awareness of the local community;
- ▶ whether there is a demonstrable need for the project;
- ▶ whether the project's schedule of implementation / milestones is well-planned and practicable, and the duration is reasonable;
- ▶ the technical and project management capability as well as the past performance of the applicant (including both the applicant organisation and its principal investigator), including the effectiveness of past project(s), timely submission of reports, and their ability to comply with the funding conditions;
- ▶ whether the proposed budget is prudent, realistic and cost-effective, with full justification for every expenditure item;

What are the assessment criteria? (continued)

- ▶ whether the planned deliverables and publicity / technology transfer plan for dissemination and promotion of the project deliverables are implementable with high practical value;
- ▶ whether the technology and other products to be delivered under the project have the potential to be widely adopted or utilised by the trade or by the relevant government department(s);
- ▶ for conference projects, whether the proposed conference can effectively facilitate exchange of best practices, expertise and experience on environmental and conservation issues and raise Hong Kong's profile as a leading green city;
- ▶ whether there is or likely to be a duplication of the work already or currently carried out by other groups;
- ▶ whether the proposed project should more appropriately be funded by other sources; and
- ▶ whether the proposed project has alternative sources of funding support.

What are the assessment criteria? (continued)

- ▶ Corresponding to the competition-based vetting mechanism and in line with the broad assessment criteria mentioned in (a) to (k) above for vetting and evaluation of the merits of individual applications, a merit-based ranking system is implemented to assess and select the most meritorious applications for funding support. Under the merit-based ranking system, applications will be assessed against the following aspects -
 - merits and contributions to environmental protection and conservation, including the deliverables and outcomes expected to be derived from the project (assessment weighting: 60%); and
 - project feasibility and track record of applicant (assessment weighting: 40%).

(Extract from Application Guidelines)

Will grantor shortlist projects and invite applicants to attend presentation/meeting/interview?

► No.

When will grantor announce the funding result?

- ▶ Around 6 months after the submission of application.