

Scotiabank Climate Action Research Fund

2025 SUBMISSION GUIDE

OVERVIEW

In 2021, Scotiabank established the Climate Action Research Fund (CARF) to grant approximately \$1 million annually, over a period of 10 years, to organizations that are conducting research and exploring climate-related initiatives.

Scotiabank established the Climate Action Research Fund in support of the transition to a lower-carbon economy by:

- Stimulating research, dialogue and understanding of the shift to a lower-carbon economy.
- Identifying initiatives that require investment to accelerate adoption or scale of application.
- Strengthening relationships between academic and non-profit research institutions and the corporate sector through collaboration and knowledge sharing.
- Continuing to evolve the Bank's climate objectives and strategy to support the transition to a lower-carbon economy.

Applications will open on April 14, 2025, and close on May 22, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. ET. We invite interested parties to submit applications for funding consideration during this period.

More details about the program and application process are found below.

CLIMATE ACTION RESEARCH FUND RESEARCH THEMES

Through this initiative, we seek research submissions that have the potential to support the transition to a lower-carbon economy. Successful submissions may focus on, but are not limited to, one or more of the following themes below:

1. Detailing of potential pathways for decarbonization:
 - On a national economy (e.g., Mexico) or substantive sub-national economy (e.g., Province of Quebec) basis, across industrial economic sectors.
 - On an individual industrial or economic sector basis (e.g., mining, cement, steel, built environment), across systems, processes, materials, etc.
2. Identification and quantification of novel carbon sinks (sources of carbon sequestration) and specific mechanisms for carbon removal.
3. Emerging and innovative financing mechanisms to support acceleration of decarbonization efforts.
4. Public policy and/or regulatory changes required to enable or facilitate more rapid decarbonization.
5. Areas of innovation that need to be better understood or funded to accelerate decarbonization pathways. This includes improvements to greenhouse gas emissions-related measurements, data aggregation, and dissemination, especially in sectors with limited data availability and regional variability (such as agriculture and residential mortgages).
6. Levers for increasing consumer, municipal, or industrial demand for drastically lower / zero carbon

technologies.

Relevance to Scotiabank's global footprint, current priority sectors (oil and gas, power and utilities, agriculture, residential mortgages, and automotive manufacturing), and/or core business activities is an asset, but not a requirement.

WHAT MAKES A STRONG SUBMISSION?

Submissions will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- The research being conducted is novel, filling a gap in knowledge or understanding.
- The knowledge to be developed and disseminated is demonstrably beneficial to sectoral, national, or global decarbonization efforts and/or a financial institution's ability to support those efforts.
- The applicant has relevant research experience and climate change expertise as well as organizational staff resources to guide the development of the project.
- The project has clearly articulated deliverables, timeline, and budget.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for funding through the Scotiabank Climate Action Research Fund, partner organizations must be a registered charity or registered non-profit organization in their jurisdiction.

If you are uncertain of your eligibility, please contact ClimateActionResearchFund@scotiabank.com.

GRANT AMOUNTS

Scotiabank will award grants from a minimum of CAD \$25,000 up to a maximum of CAD \$100,000 through this 2025 Call for Submissions. Any submission not granted funds through this process may be re-submitted for a future Call for Submissions, with the next Call expected in March/April, 2026.

SUBMISSION PROCESS

Submissions must be fully completed and submitted for review. The deadline for submissions is Thursday May 22, 2025, at 11:59pm ET.

The application form can be found through the [Climate Change Centre of Excellence](#).

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q How will I know that Scotiabank received my submission?

A: A response will be provided by email to all those who submit submissions confirming receipt.

Q: Who is reviewing my submission?

A: Scotiabank will be inviting internal and external experts in their respective fields to provide a secondary review. These adjudicators have been specifically selected because of their subject matter expertise.

Q: If my submission gets funded, **how** are the funds distributed?

A: When a submission gets accepted, a legal contract (gift agreement) needs to be signed between both parties (NFP/Organization and Scotiabank). Financials will be outlined and agreed upon prior to signing. All funds are paid by electronic transfer/wire.

Q: If my submission receives a grant, **when** are the funds distributed?

A: When a submission is accepted, and a legal contract (gift agreement) is signed, the organization can then send Scotiabank an invoice for the funding (usually in October or November of the calendar year) and can expect payment between 4 – 6 weeks.

Q: What is the ideal length of time for a project?

A: The ideal length is what your team deems necessary to meet its objectives. Some projects may only need four months while others may need twelve, eighteen, or up to twenty-four months given the objectives and complexities.

Q: How will I find out if my submission has been accepted or rejected?

A: Following a final adjudication, we will let you know by September with a final determination.

Q: How is intellectual property (IP) treated for this call for submissions?

A: Scotiabank does not take any ownership stake in intellectual property developed by a recipient of a Climate Action Research Fund grant provided by Scotiabank.

Q: We have received funding through the Climate Action Research Fund in a previous year; can we submit a new request?

A: You are eligible to submit a new request to extend your research project or submit a net new request.

Q: Can we set up a meeting to discuss our submission and/or the program?

A: It is against our policy to discuss a specific submission/ the program. Each submission will go through an adjudication process and be graded based on its own merit.

Q: Are indirect costs (i.e., overhead costs allocated by your organization) included in the Climate Action Research Fund funding?

- A. The Scotiabank Climate Action Research Fund does not cover indirect costs or overhead expenses outside of the associated costs of the research project. We believe in maximizing the direct impact of our contribution towards the core objectives of your initiative. Therefore, when submitting submissions, kindly refrain from including indirect costs in your budget breakdown.
- Q: What is the format and writing style for the submission?
- A: Your submission should be clear and concise, and the content should follow the application form. Abbreviations should be explained the first time they are presented, and jargon should be avoided as much as possible.
- Q: Who is eligible to apply for the research grant?
- A: Any Non-Profit or Registered Charity where Scotiabank has a footprint is eligible to apply.
- Q: Can other partners (financial or otherwise) of the project be for-profit companies or do they need to be non-profit organizations?
- A: Partners do not need to be non-profit organizations, but the recipient of the funding does need to meet our criteria
- Q: Can my organization submit multiple submissions?
- A: We encourage only one submission per organization. However, due to the complexity of Academic Institutions, this might not be possible, and as a result, we will review all submissions. Regardless, only one Grant will be awarded per organization. One submission per department, please work within your team to put forth the best submission
- Q: If your organization is already in a gift agreement with Scotiabank. Can you still apply for the Climate Action Research Fund?
- A: Yes, we have an exception to our policy to allow organizations to have a separate agreement for the Climate Action Research Fund. The funding must not be for the same project scope as the Climate Action Research Fund.
- Q: How does the bank receive the research deliverables?
- A: The gift agreement outlines specific reporting metrics to be used in reporting once the project concludes
- Q: If my submission is declined, can I reapply in future?
- A: Organizations who are unsuccessful in one Call are welcome to apply to the Climate Action Research Fund again for the next year. However, due to the number of submissions, Scotiabank is not able to provide specific feedback or reasons as to why a submission has not been selected for funding. Please visit [Climate Change Centre of Excellence](#) for past recipients.

Further questions – should be sent to ClimateActionResearchFund@scotiabank.com