

# Small ideas, Big impact

**Celebrating  
10 years**



**GREENER CO-OP  
MICROGRANT**  
**MICROSUBVENTIONS  
POUR DES COOPS PLUS VERTES**

# Sparking interest in environmental sustainability



**Encouraging housing co-ops to design and implement “green” community projects**

## Launched in 2016 to:

- **Encourage housing co-ops to take action on climate change**
- **Offset carbon emissions from staff travel**
- **Improve social connections and build community**



# General Information



- **All CHF Canada member co-ops in good standing can apply**
- **Grants range from \$1,000 to \$4,000**

# 2014 - A Green Idea Takes Root

- The Agency for Co-operative Housing's *Sustainability Committee* wanted to encourage small accessible environmental projects in housing co-ops



THE AGENCY FOR  
CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING

L'AGENCE DES  
COOPÉRATIVES D'HABITATION



Le Coeur Co-op, Vancouver, BC

# CHF Canada partners to deliver the program

- **National organization with strong ties to housing co-ops**
- **Grows the program to include longer-term funders and broader reach**



**20  
16**



**17 co-ops funded | \$51,907 allocated**

# 2016: Launch of the Greener Co-op Microgrant



**20  
17**



**14 Co-ops funded | \$42,000 allocated**



## 2017: First co-op in New Brunswick receives a grant

- **Marshwinds Co-op** in Moncton, NB expands garden space with cedar boxes and rain barrels



**20  
18**



**9 co-ops funded | \$33,136 allocated**

## 2018 program savings:

- 4 gardens → fresh, local food
- 13 trees → 234–299 kg CO<sub>2</sub> absorbed
- 12 rain barrels → 59,052 L collected



Nova Vita Co-op, Burnaby, BC

## 2018 program savings:

- 560 LED lights + heat pump → 80% less energy
- Bike storage (12) → lower-carbon commuting
- 22 low-flow toilets → 1.33ML water saved



Nova Vita Co-op, Burnaby, BC

**20  
19**



**21 co-ops funded | \$51,217 allocated**



Coopératives Coup Double et Notre Dame de Fatima, Montreal, QC

## 2019 – Momentum Builds

- **co-ops in PEI, Saskatchewan, and Quebec receive grants**
- **Desjardins sponsors \$25,000**
- **FECHIMM and Iler Campbell also join as sponsors**

20  
20



**38 co-ops funded | \$112,653 allocated**

## 2020 — Growing the Network

- Nova Scotia housing co-op receives a grant
- Community Housing Network joins as a sponsor
- During the pandemic co-ops valued the chance to work together and stay connected



High Hopes, Halifax, NS

**20  
21**



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## 2021 Albro Court, Dartmouth, NS

“Some of our younger members were...glad to help harvest, and set-up up the gathering table; they even knocked on doors to offer small harvest bags with a variety of fresh co-op grown produce and to also invite them to come join other members choosing their own selection bags.”





## 2021 — Toronto Women's Co-op, Toronto, ON

“The grant has allowed us to grow as a community, Has strengthened our Co-op and has created...much needed spaces during a really hard isolating time. We are Looking forward to building and celebrating the Toronto Womens Co-op Garden space for years to come Thanks to this CHF Canada Microgrant.”

# 2021 CHF Canada wins the Sustainability award from CHRA

*...And the Winner is:*



*CHF Canada*



Community Housing Renewal Association

**20  
22**



**44 co-ops funded | \$155,150 allocated**

## 2022- Growing Support Across the Sector

- CHF BC, Marcil Lavallée and Vancouver Community Investment Bank sponsor the program
- An ongoing funding commitment from the Community Housing Transformation Centre significantly boosts the program



Emma G - Vancouver, BC

# 2022- Growing Support Across the Sector

## Greener Co-op Microgrants

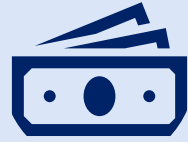
**A record \$155,000**  
in greener co-op microgrants was awarded to  
**44 housing co-ops**  
across Canada in 2022



20  
23



**45 co-ops funded | \$153,260 allocated**



## 2023 - New Investment, Wider Impact

- The program welcomed CQCH and Atlantic Central as sponsors
- Vancouver Community Investment Bank contributes \$20,000



Coopérative Saint-Denis, Montréal, QC

**20  
24**



**28 co-ops funded | \$106,000 allocated**

# 2024 - Saving Water, Growing Community

## Keegano Housing Co-op, Edmonton:

- 35 rain barrels installed to conserve water, support gardens, and engage members
- reduced reliance on municipal water, saved about \$202 over seven months, and improved stormwater management, soil health, and biodiversity



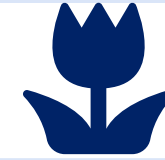
# Eamon Park-Community Garden 2024

- 136 townhouses, over 250 members plus an additional 150 residents
- More than 60 co-op members and friends volunteered

- Two volunteers collected 60 bags of leaves
- Used the hügelkultur method for filling the raised beds



# Eamon Park Community Garden 2024



**20**  
**25**



**20 co-ops funded | \$58,853 allocated**



## 2025 - Small Grant- Big Community Impact

**Killick Ecovillage Co-operative  
in Portugal Cove–St. Philip's,  
NL**

- **built a greenhouse**
- **leveraged an additional \$10,000 provincial grant for year-round food production**

# 2025 - Small Grant- Big Community Impact

**Caroline Co-op in Hamilton,  
ON**

- **built raised garden beds  
and secure bike/stroller  
storage**



20  
26



**11 co-ops funded | \$39,600 allocated**

...Stay tuned for photos of finished projects

# Greener Co-op Microgrant in Review



**264 projects funded**  
across a wide range of  
environmental initiatives

Strongest **demand** is for  
**community gardens**  
**(113)** and **lighting**  
**upgrades (38)**

# Greener Co-op Microgrant in Review

Other popular projects included **bike storage (16)**, **trees (16)**, and **toilet replacements (15)**



# Greener Co-op Microgrant in Review



Projects also included **composting, rain barrels, EV chargers, biodiversity, insulation, thermostats, and other practical green improvements**

# Greener Co-op Microgrant Gallery

**Rooftop Gardens**



**Programmable Thermostats**



# Greener Co-op Microgrant Gallery



# Greener Co-op Microgrant Gallery

## Community Gardens



# Greener Co-op Microgrant Gallery



# Greener Co-op Microgrant Gallery

Before



After



LED Lighting

# Greener Co-op Microgrant Gallery



**Clotheslines**



**Bike Storage Racks**



**Composters**

# Greener Co-ops build Community



Cartier Square-Ottawa

# Microgrants awarded by Province

## Greener Co-op Microgrants

**A record \$880,000**

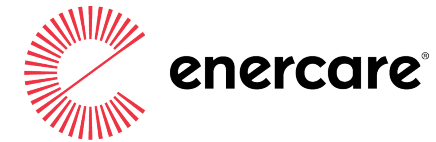
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across Canada since 2016



# Thank You to our 2026 Sponsors



# Become a sponsor? Find out more?



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