

Greening Project

Frequently Asked Questions



1. Will this project proceed in the summer of 2024?

a. In order to proceed with “putting shovels in the ground” in the summer of 2024, we must be confident that we will have the funds in place to proceed.

b. Our financial roadmap as of Jan 31, 2024:

i. Project Costs: \$414,255

ii. Revenue:

1. Funds Secured or high probability: Total: \$240,787

a. Donations: \$137,220

b. Pledges: \$ 28,712

c. Fundraising: \$ 4,855

d. Grants: \$ 10,000

e. Grants - high probability \$ 60,000

2. To be secured: Total: \$174,000

a. Donations: \$ 59,000

b. Fundraising: \$ 15,000

c. Grants \$ 100,000

c. We are confident that most of the funds for the Pledges and Fundraising activities will be received by the end of the summer of 2024.

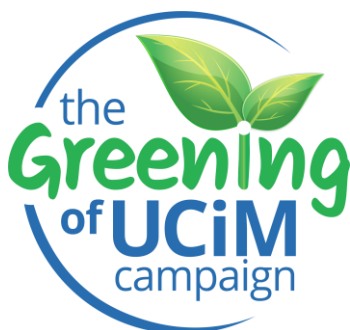
d. If we are unable to achieve the targets in any of these areas, the budget will have to be adjusted.

2. What Grants can we expect?

a. Federal Grants:

i. Currently there are no specific federal clean energy grants that our project would be eligible for.

ii. We are meeting with Member of Parliament, Terry Duguid on Feb 21, 2024, to raise our project to the federal level and explore other federal financial opportunities.



b. Provincial Grants:

- i. Efficiency Manitoba Grant will be available once the project has been completed in the amount of \$30,000. (This is reflected in the figures above).
- ii. The new NDP government did not continue with the grants available under the former government; grants that we built our initial budget upon. The current government is in the process of reviewing the grant structure. It is our understanding from the NDP government, that the grant availability will be determined sometime in March 2024.
- iii. We continue to meet and communicate with Mike Moyes (MLA Riel), Adrien Sala (Minister of Finance and responsible for the Public Utilities Board, Manitoba Hydro and Manitoba Public Service) and Jamie Moses (Minister of Economic Development, Investment, Trade and Natural Resources) regarding the Greening project.
- iv. Additional meetings are being scheduled to obtain updates to the government's plans. We hope that funds may be available after March 2024.

c. Municipal Grants:

- i. Communications and meetings have been held with Markus Chambers and Brian Mayes. Mr. Chambers is supportive of the project, and he spoke at our Greening launch on Sept 28, 2023. We have hopes of an \$8,000 grant.

d. Corporate and Foundation Grants:

- i. Funds have been received from the Cropo Foundation \$10,000 and promised from the United Church of Canada's Faithful Footprints (reflected in the figures above).
- ii. We have discovered that UCiM is not eligible for many corporate or foundation grants as we are a religious institution. Unfortunately, our applications to several Foundations, including The Winnipeg Foundation were not successful.
- iii. We have one active application for \$50,000 and reason to be optimistic, but it is not a guarantee.

How is Fundraising going?

- a. The aim of each fundraising event is to raise a minimum of \$5,000 with an overall goal of \$20,000.
- b. The Very Groovy Things Concert in June 2023 raised \$4,885.
- c. Three events are in process:
 - a. The Time and Talent Auction being held on April 13, 2024, is generating a lot of interest and excitement.
 - b. Hi Life Steel Orchestra Concert on May 25, 2024.
 - c. Walk-A-Thon in June 2024.
- d. The congregation are invited to host other fund-raising events which match the criteria. If you have an idea, please contact the Fundraising Task Group via the church office.

3. What about Donations?

- a. Congregation:
 - i. \$137,220 has been donated to the project, as of January 31, 2024.
 - ii. A Letter of Appeal was sent out to members of the congregation to update them on the project and request that any donations and pledges be made by **February 29, 2024**. This is to ensure we have firm numbers to make the decision if we can proceed with the project in 2024.
- b. Building Users:
 - i. Members of the Fundraising and Communication Task Groups are approaching our Building Users to explain our project and invite support and donations.
- c. Corporations:
 - i. Communications are being drafted to approach various local businesses to obtain corporate donations.

4. Will we need a loan? And what will that cost?

- a. Many of the grants pay out when the project is completed, but contractors need to be paid before completion. A loan will be required to bridge the gap between paying the contractors and receiving the grant money. The good news is that The United Church of Canada will loan us up to \$150,000 interest free for a period of one year, and with an interest rate after that of 2%.

5. What happens if we don't raise the money we need?

- a. Our 34-year-old furnaces **need to be replaced** as they are at the end of their life span. At a Congregational Meeting these options would be considered:
 - i. Continue to fund raise and delay the project a year, hoping that the existing furnaces will last or that we can heat the building in an emergency with other heat sources as a very temporary measure.
 - ii. Obtain a 15-year loan from United Church of Canada to install geothermal in 2024 and pay it back over 15 years.
 - iii. Decide to install electric heat only.
 - iv. Go with electric heat and install air conditioners.
 - v. Replace the Natural Gas furnaces only. No air conditioning.
 - vi. Replace the Natural Gas furnaces and install air conditioning as well.
- b. For details, please see the Report of Heating and Cooling Task Group, Feb 17, 2023. (ucim.org/greening)

6. What happens if we raise more money than needed?

- a. Any additional funds raised will be used for other building maintenance or restoration with a priority on projects which are in keeping with reducing the energy requirements of the building. For example, new energy efficient windows.
- b. Rules of the Canada Revenue Agency state that a registered charity cannot return a donor's gift.
- c. The acceptance policy can be found at ucim.org/greening or from the church office.

7. Where do I get more information?

- a. Any of the members of the Greening Steering Committee or its Task Groups (Communication, Finance, Fundraising) are available to respond. Contact the office for their contact information.