



# **Sustainable Growth and Adoption Program (SGAP)**

Project Financing for Food and Agri-Tech Businesses  
Accelerating Sustainable Growth Through the Adoption of  
Clean Technologies, Practices, and Processes Improvements

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)** Round 1

**Q. Who is the main Applicant?**

The qualified for-profit enterprises or not-for-profit corporations operating in the food- and agri-tech sectors are the main Applicants. They will be required to fill out an Application Form through our [Application Portal](#).

**Q. What is Bioenterprise's confidentiality policy?**

Bioenterprise operates under a strict confidentiality policy. Any documentation shared will be treated as highly confidential. Please click [here](#) to review the policy.

**Q. When is the next application deadline?**

The application deadline is October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 11:59pm ET. Applications must be submitted through the [Application Portal](#) on the SGAP webpage.

**Q. When can projects start and when must they be completed?**

Projects can begin no earlier than September 1, 2024, and must be completed by March 31, 2026 (i.e., the organization must be able to complete all project milestones and spend all of the awarded funding).

**Q. Can projects that have already started be eligible for funding?**

Project costs incurred before the project start date of September 1, 2024, or after the project end date on March 31, 2026, are not eligible. We encourage you to apply with eligible projects that are scheduled to occur during the program timeline.

**Q. How can Sustainability Project Partners get involved? Do they require pre-approval to be eligible?**

Although Sustainability Project Partners cannot independently apply to this program and receive direct funding, they may fill out an [Expression of Interest](#) (EOI) form and Bioenterprise can assist in matchmaking them to a business that falls under the food- and agri-technology sectors. Sustainability Project Partners do not need pre-approval to be considered eligible. If they meet the eligibility requirements outlined in the [Program Guide](#), they qualify as partners.

**Q. Is there a database on Eligible Sustainability Project Partners to select from?**

We do not have a list of Eligible Sustainability Project Partners, however, we can assist eligible Applicants in finding partners that meet their project needs. To access our matchmaking support, please complete the [Expression of Interest](#) (EOI) form linked on our program webpage or email [submissions@bioenterprise.ca](mailto:submissions@bioenterprise.ca).

**Q. Can a Sustainability Project Partner be incorporated outside of Canada if the work for the Applicants is based in southern Ontario?**

Where possible, Applicants should seek out Eligible Sustainability Project Partners incorporated in Canada. However, if the Applicant's specific requirements do not have any Canadian solutions, technologies sourced from outside of Canada may be eligible and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Please note, strong justification will be required to be considered eligible.

**Q. Are primary agriculture businesses eligible to apply for this program?**

Operations strictly involving primary agriculture production are ineligible for SGAP funding. However, aquaculture, greenhouses, and other indoor or vertical farming operations are eligible to apply. For specific eligibility inquiries, please email [submissions@bioenterprise.ca](mailto:submissions@bioenterprise.ca).

**Q. How much funding is available?**

Applicants can request 40% of the total eligible project budget, up to \$100,000. For projects with eligible costs of \$250,000 or more, the maximum funding contribution from SGAP is \$100,000. For projects with a minimum eligible cost of \$100,000, the minimum SGAP contribution is \$40,000. All contributions must be matched 40:60 by the Applicant with other available sources of capital to deliver on all project activities.

**Q. Can SGAP fund more than one project submitted by the same organization?**

Applicants may submit more than one application if multiple projects exist; however, only one project will be approved per Applicant throughout the duration of SGAP. If two Applicants are owned by the same conglomerate, but each have unique business numbers, they will both be eligible to submit a project application and receive funding. However, a maximum of two projects can be approved per conglomerate.

**Q. What is the Technology Readiness Level (TRL) scale? How do I determine the TRL of my technology?**

The TRL scale helps categorize a technology's development stages, from Level 1 (Concept Evaluation) to Level 9 (Successful Deployment). SGAP will only consider projects that implement or adopt technologies that are at minimum TRL 7. To determine the TRL of your technology, please visit [here](#).

**Q. What are clean technologies?**

Clean technologies, also referred to as net-zero technologies, help food- and agri-tech businesses embrace automation in their facilities, making operations more environmentally friendly. These technologies may support food loss and waste reduction, energy and water conservation, significant greenhouse gas reduction, etc. Clean technology adoption by industrial end-users results in emerging energy efficiency, renewable energy, distributed generation technologies, and the transition towards a net-zero future.

**Q. Is stacking of funds permitted in SGAP? What counts as matching funding?**

Stacking of funds is only permitted for activities and project costs not covered by SGAP funding. Since this is a 40:60 split non-repayable contribution funding program, the 60% matching funding must come from the Applicant's available capital (e.g., sales revenues or investments) or additional funding. However, if any of the matching funding comes from another FedDev supported initiative, then stacking would be ineligible. The applicant must also declare any other government sources of funds received within the 12-month period prior to the application process.

**Q: How are caps on eligible project costs calculated?**

Expense caps are outlined to Bioenterprise from FedDev Ontario and are in place to ensure the program objectives are being met. Caps on eligible costs are calculated as a percent of the eligible project budget (from \$40,000 up to \$100,000). The main categories include existing internal employee labour (15%), legal fees (5%), intellectual property costs (5%), and travel and transportation (5%). Please note, there is no limit on internal employee labour costs for new staff hired specifically to execute project activities.

**Q. Is HST included in the total eligible project budget?**

No, costs submitted for reimbursement under the total eligible project budget must be net of any refund or eligible tax credits (including HST).

**Q: Would environmental studies and audit costs count as eligible costs?**

Yes, the funding can be used to engage an Eligible Sustainability Project Partner to conduct facility audits, environmental studies, and other operational assessments that would allow the Applicant to identify conservation measures and optimize processes, systems, and activities.

**Q. Is a new build considered an eligible project?**

The costs of land, building or vehicle purchase is an ineligible expense. If the funding will be used for a new build, the project will not be eligible. Eligible projects must meet the primary SGAP objectives as outlined in the Program Guide. To review eligible project activities and costs, please refer to page 6 in the [Program Guide](#).

**Q. If a project requires regulatory approval, would the program cover the associated costs?**

If regulatory approval or testing is required for the adoption of a clean technologies or practices and/or to conduct sustainability enhancement projects to assess possible modifications to current operations, any associated cost would be considered eligible.

**Q. Are the Applicant's revenue requirements flexible?**

No, the Applicant must be making a minimum of \$200,000 in annual sales revenues in order to be eligible for the program.

**Q. If a business is on track to meet the minimum annual revenue requirements but does not currently meet them, are they still eligible to apply?**

Unfortunately, if a business does not meet the revenue requirements at the time of application, they will not be eligible. However, there will be three application intake rounds between 2024 and 2027, so you may be eligible in future rounds if you meet the revenue requirements by then.

**Q. When does the next application intake round open?**

The dates for the next round have not yet been announced, but we are targeting 2025 for the next intake round. Please see the "Program Administration - Timeline" section on page 12 of the Program Guide for updates on the upcoming intake windows.

**Key Dates**

September 11, 2024 – Round 1 application intake opens

October 30, 2024, at 11:59pm ET – Round 1 application intake closes

February 2025 – Notification of awarded and declined applications for Round 1

March 31, 2026 – Round 1 project completion deadline

TBD – Round 2 application intake opens

TBD – Round 3 application intake opens

January 31, 2027 – Program end date