

Submit a Letter of Intent

Mission & Purpose

The Consumers Energy Foundation is the charitable arm of Consumers Energy, Michigan's largest energy provider. The Consumers Energy Foundation helps communities thrive and grow by investing in what's most important to Michigan – its people, our planet and Michigan's prosperity.

The Consumers Energy Foundation's Planet Awards are the first of three \$500,000 grant rounds in 2024, totaling \$1.5 million. Additional requests for proposals will be announced later in the year for the People Awards and Prosperity Awards.

In 2023, recipients of the Planet Awards included [The Nature Conservancy and Genesee Conservation District](#).

The Planet Awards will provide as much as \$250,000 to two or more Michigan nonprofits aiming to make a positive impact on the State's land, water, or air. The Consumers Energy Foundation is currently accepting letters of intent for the 2024 Planet Awards. Let's make a positive impact in Michigan together!

Impacting the Planet by Supporting Michigan's Land, Water and Air

The Consumers Energy Foundation is dedicated to ensuring Michigan has world-class natural resources by funding programs that strengthen environmental education/stewardship, preserve Michigan's natural beauty, and reduce environmental impact when natural resources are used.

This year, the Foundation is seeking letters of intent to support projects improving Michigan's environment in the following categories:

Land

The Consumers Energy Foundation supports nonprofit organizations that aim to protect, preserve, and restore land in Michigan, which includes protecting and improving Michigan's natural beauty and wildlife habitat.

Water

Our freshwater and lakes demand great care. Therefore, we support nonprofit organizations seeking to preserve and improve water quality in our Great Lakes, and our freshwater bodies that flow into them.

Air

We support nonprofit organizations seeking to reduce carbon in Michigan's air and improve air quality.

The Consumers Energy Foundation uses shareholder funds, along with contributions from employees and retirees, to support nonprofit organizations across Michigan.

FOUNDATION

Request for Letters of Intent – Deadline: 5:00 PM on Friday, February 9, 2024

The Consumers Energy Foundation invites Michigan nonprofits to submit a letter of intent to express their interest in applying for a 2024 Planet Award. The Consumers Energy Foundation will evaluate all letter of intent submittals and select the top projects that meet the program and eligibility criteria. Organizations that make the list through the letter of intent process will be invited to submit a full application. Full applications are due on or before Thursday, March 7, 2024. Preference will be made in support of projects that seek to secure permanent and quantifiable results. **The deadline for submitting a letter of intent is 5:00 PM on Friday, February 9, 2024.**

Award Requirements / Eligibility Criteria

The letter of intent is the first step in a two-step application process that will result in the award of up to \$250,000 in funding per recipient (\$500,000 total). If you are interested in requesting less than \$100,000 or our grant would be a small component of a large capital campaign, we ask that you submit a grant request using the regular application on our [website](#).

To be eligible, all applicants for the Planet Awards must meet the following criteria:

- Candidates must be a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization or municipality;
- Candidates must operate in Michigan or have a project that benefits Michigan;
- The project must impact a territory that is [served by Consumers Energy](#);
- Candidates must submit a letter of intent by 5:00 PM on February 9, 2024;
- Funds cannot be used to enhance or improve Consumers Energy property;
- Funds cannot be used for energy-related projects or costs;
- The Consumers Energy Foundation must be the majority contributor to overall funding for the proposed project;
- Grantees are expected to attend any required check presentation event or grant announcement at the Consumers Energy Foundation's discretion;
- Grantees must provide data illustrating positive impact to Michigan's environment on an annual basis until completion of the project or beyond; and
- Candidates must provide information on any ongoing maintenance requirements necessary to maintain project benefits and how those needs will be met.

Letter of Intent Process

To submit a Letter of Intent for a 2024 Planet Award, please visit www.ConsumersEnergy.com/community/foundation/planet.

If prompted, please sign in or otherwise create a login to begin. Select “\$500,000 Planet Awards Letter of Intent” in the dropdown menu.

For more information about the Consumers Energy Foundation, visit www.ConsumersEnergy.com/Foundation.