



Halifax Innovation Outpost – Circular Food Solution Challenge

Circular Food Solutions

The Opportunity

Approximately 58% of all food produced and distributed in Canada is lost or wasted, accounting for 4% of Canada’s greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and costing approximately \$49 billion per year. Opportunities for diverting, reusing, and upcycling food loss and waste (FLW) resources exist throughout the food value chain. Preventing food waste, diverting it from landfills, and fostering a circular bioeconomy are essential steps in mitigating these environmental challenges and creating economic opportunities in Canada. Collaboration across various sectors in Canada supports circular strategies, knowledge exchange, and resource sharing, making it crucial to advancing these goals.

The Project

The National Zero Waste Council, in partnership with Circular Opportunity Innovation Launchpad (COIL), Halifax Regional Municipality, Halifax Food Policy Alliance, Halifax Partnership and others is spearheading [Circular Food Hubs: Mainland Nova Scotia](#). This pilot project is applying a 5-step process, guided by COIL, to support the evolution of Nova Scotia-based food hubs that integrate circle economy solutions with food loss and waste (FLW) prevention. Peer-to-peer learning through workshops, data collection and strategic opportunity assessment, and the piloting and testing of solutions together will shine a light on how a circular food system in Nova Scotia can evolve.

The Challenge

Halifax Partnership and the Halifax Innovation Outpost, in collaboration with the National Zero Waste Council and Guelph- Wellington’s COIL, is issuing an open call for the piloting and testing of circular food solutions in mainland Nova Scotia that either launch new, or deepen, action on food waste and climate change.

This grant is supported by



Applicants will receive:

- Advice and guidance as appropriate in implementing a solution
- Funding up to \$5,000 for solution costs (including supplies, marketing or campaign fees, equipment, meeting or event costs, etc.)
- Participation in a national lessons-learned webinar event with other businesses and local governments across Canada
- Introduction to other grants, external to this project, to scale up promising solutions.

We are inviting applications that explore a practice that is circular*: to trial it, and learn what it may take to scale it or even test its viability.

**a circular food solution is one that: helps design out food waste and pollution; contributes to shorter supply chains; helps circulate resources, and regenerates natural systems.*

For example solutions see [circular-foods-assessment-summary.pdf \(nzwc.ca\)](#). These are examples only. We encourage applicants to also consider their own current work, and what changes they can make to begin a new, or deepen an existing, circular food solution.

Who Can Apply

Eligible applicants include Nova Scotia-based for-profit businesses and not-for-profit organizations. Businesses need to have operations in mainland Nova Scotia, but are not required to be headquartered here. There is a requirement for applicants to be working in collaboration with a minimum of two different supply chain actors. Collaborations can be cross-sector (public, private or community) or single sector. Government bodies can be included as a partner, but cannot be the receiving agency for funding.

If you are looking for additional information on how best to collaborate or with who, consider reaching out to our Circular Food Hubs Peer Network for advice. [NZWC - Our Circular Peer Network: People & Resources](#)

How to Apply

Submit an application [here](#).

A committee of project partners will review applications, considering how proposed solutions deliver on circularity, and food loss or waste reduction; are likely achievable within the funding and timeline parameters; the solution's ability to transfer and scale; and the depth of collaboration. This committee includes Halifax Partnership, National Zero Waste Council, City of Guelph COIL, Halifax Regional Municipality, Halifax Food Policy Alliance, and Dalhousie University faculty.

Funding will be awarded up front.

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Timeline

Applications are due by **11:59PM EST November 13, 2023**. Results and final reports from applicants are due by February 15, 2024.

Eligible Expenditures

The following includes, but is not limited to, eligible expenses:

- Supplies, including machinery
- Marketing
- Partnership-development support (e.g. new relationships for food recovery/food redistribution)
- (Food) Product testing
- App Platform testing
- Behavior change campaigns including materials (* e.g. see [Love Food Hate Waste Canada](#) Contact joanne.gauci@metrovancover.org for details.)

Deliverables

- A circular food solution that is trialed in collaboration with other supply chain actors.
- A brief, one page 'Lessons Learned' report complete with budget details on funding expenditures at the end of the Pilot and Test phase.
 - This report identifies what would be needed to make the solution viable, and scalable, in Nova Scotia, and whether the applicant will pursue the solution more comprehensively post the trial phase.
- Successful applicants must also participate as guest speakers in a national webinar, hosted by the National Zero Waste Council, that shares the lessons learned through the pilot and test experience.

The Circular Food Hubs: Mainland Nova Scotia Initiative is a project based on deep collaboration. In addition to those supporting this grant, we also have support from the National Zero Waste Council, COIL, Halifax Regional Municipality, Halifax Food Policy Alliance, Environment and Climate Change Canada/Environnement et Changement climatique Canada, and Divert Nova Scotia.

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