

SIERRA CLUB CANADA FOUNDATION CORPORATE ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIP POLICY

Overview

Sierra Club Canada Foundation encourages Corporate Gifts and Partnerships that will help it further and fulfill its mission, and which reflect the values of the organization. This policy describes the procedural and substantive requirements for all Corporate Gifts and Partnerships for Sierra Club Canada Foundation. It is intended to ensure that, in accepting Corporate Gifts and entering into Partnerships, Sierra Club Canada Foundation maintains the public's trust as it carries out its mission to preserve and protect the environment.

Definitions

1. The definitions in this section apply in this policy.

“Board” means the Board of Directors of Sierra Club Canada Foundation.

“Corporation” means any enterprise or organization, and includes for-profit enterprises, not-for-profit organizations, charities, business corporations, companies, limited liability companies, limited liability partnerships, partnerships, sole proprietorships, government agencies at the appropriate level and other business entities. The activities of a Corporation include the activities of any other Corporation in which the Corporation in question has a majority or controlling interest.

“Corporate Gift” means a Gift from a Corporation, and includes a Gift from an executive, director or other individual associated with the Corporation where the Gift appears to have originated with the Corporation, to be directed by the Corporation, or will significantly benefit the Corporation.

“Environmentally unsustainable” means incompatible with the respect and care for the community of life, ecological integrity, universal human rights, respect for diversity, economic justice, democracy, and a culture of peace, as laid out in the Earth Charter (United Nations, 2000)

“Gift” means a donation of money or other thing of value (i.e. in-kind gifts of labour, advertising, cross-promotion, stated affiliation, etc) to Sierra Club Canada Foundation.

“Non-renewable Natural Resources” are natural substances that cannot be replenished with the speed at which they are consumed. Also known as finite resources. Fossil fuels such as oil, natural gas, and coal are examples of non-renewable resources.”

“Parent Company” means a Corporation that owns a majority interest in or controls the Corporation at issue. Note Government Agencies are not subject to this “Parent Company” evaluation clause. Government department granting or providing the funding and with which the relationship and reporting takes place will be the level reviewed.

“Partnership” means Sierra Club Canada Foundation’s relationship with a Corporation or organization, including other charities, to work together on a joint campaign or program. This may include a business relationship with money or contracts defining roles or less

structured but publicly-stated alliances.

“Relationship” means as soon as a Gift or Partnership is agreed upon SCCF is in a “Relationship” which is addressed in section 11 of this policy: Management of the Relationship with Corporate Giver and/or Partner

“Review Form” means the Corporate Review Form in Schedule A to this Policy.

“SCCF” means Sierra Club Canada Foundation. “SCCF Members” are members in good standing of SCCF

Substantive Rules on Gift Acceptance and Partnerships

2. SCCF reserves the right to refuse or return any Corporate Gift or refuse to enter into any Partnership that is not consistent with its mission, that could introduce a conflict of interest, that is prohibitively restrictive, that could expose SCCF to liability or adverse publicity, or that could violate local, provincial or federal law.
3. SCCF will not accept any financial contribution from a Corporation or enter into a Partnership if its business, or the business of its Parent Company, include a material involvement (more than 5% of its activities or investments) in any of the following activities:
 - A. Extraction of Non-renewable Natural Resources using environmentally unsustainable practices;
 - B. Fossil fuel or non-sustainable biomass power generation in violation of SCCF policy. In 2020, SCCF adopted longstanding Sierra Club policies available online at <https://www.sierraclub.org/policy>;
 - C. Nuclear power in violation of SCCF policy, including power plants, fuel or waste management;
 - D. Agriculture in violation of SCCF policy (www.sierraclub.org/policy);
 - E. Aquaculture that harms freshwater or marine ecosystems including but not limited to habitat destruction, waste runoff and introduction of invasive species;
 - F. Weapons, including components of weapons that have no significant non-military purpose excepting products specifically designed for hunting or sporting purposes.
4. SCCF will not accept a Corporate Gift or enter a Partnership if the Corporation, or its Parent Company, has had recent (within the last five years) and significant:
 - A. Non-compliance with national, provincial, state or local environmental or anti-pollution laws, whether in Canada or in another country;
 - B. Non-compliance with Canadian or international workplace standards;
 - C. Non-compliance with Canadian or international human rights standards;
 - D. Roles as major antagonists of environmental organizations, including anti-environmental lobbying efforts;
 - E. Roles as major antagonists of Indigenous Peoples, including disregarding Treaty and Constitutional rights and violating the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

5. No Corporate Gift or Partnership shall distort the policy positions, programs or activities of SCCF.
6. The Corporate Engagement and Partnership Policy will be posted on our website and made available to prospective partners and donors.

Procedures on Gift Acceptance and/or Entering into Partnerships

7. SCCF will review all Gifts of \$5,000 a year or more whether they are being provided to a Chapter, program or undeferred funds.
8. The SCCF representative or staff person initiating or stewarding a Corporate Gift or requesting to enter into a Partnership is responsible for completing the Review Form in Schedule A of this document focusing on this policy's substantive requirements (set out in sections 2 - 5). The Review Form will then be provided to the Development Director.
9. The Development Director will ensure the Review Form is complete and provide it to both:
 - A. The Justice, Equity, Diversity and Equity (JEDI) Committee who will provide additional review and recommendation within 3- 5 days, and
 - B. The National Programs Director to evaluate adherence to SCCF and Sierra Club (US) conservation policies. If there are any questions or concerns the Review Form will be provided to the National Conservation Committee who will provide additional review and recommendation within 3 - 5 days.
10. If there is conflict between the recommendations of the committees or if the initiating representative seeks intervention, the Board will determine whether to approve the Gift acceptance.
 - A. The Board will be provided with all the information including the Review Form, staff and committee recommendations and concerns. The Board may decide by consensus or by methods outlined in the Bylaws.
 - B. The Board must provide written reasons for its decision within one week; the reasons must respond to any specific questions raised in the review process. The reasons and decision to accept or reject a Corporate Gift will be made available to SCCF Members.

Management of the Relationship with Corporate Giver and/or Partner

11. Should SCCF enter into a Corporate Relationship, the relationship must be governed by an agreement that includes provisions relating to the following:
 - A. Use of the SCCF name and logo, in accordance with the licensing agreement as in force from time to time with Sierra Club (U.S.); and
 - B. Terms relating to the termination of the Relationship, which shall include a "with cause" termination upon SCCF determining, in its sole discretion, that the Relationship no longer complies with this Policy's substantive requirements.

C. The terms of any relationship or gift being made available to SCCF members.

Amendment

12. The Board may amend this policy at any time.

Approved by SCCF Board of Directors March 22, 2021

SCHEDULE A: REVIEW FORM

Reviewer Information

Name:

Position in SCCF:

Phone & Email Address:

Date review submitted to Development Director:

Corporate Information

Name:

Sector (i.e. renewable energy, consumer goods, etc.):

Nationality of incorporation:

Address:

Contact at the corporation:

Name:

Phone & Email Address:

Does the corporation have a corporate social responsibility policy?

Yes No

If yes, please attach along with any third-party verification.

Proposed Relationship or Gift

1) Describe the proposed Gift, Partnership and continuing relationship if appropriate, including any use of the SCCF logo:

2) Describe any anticipated impact on an SCCF campaign or policy. I.e. Is the corporation involved in an issue on which SCCF is also active or campaigning?

3. Is the Partnership or Gift strategic for SCCF's goals in the sector or region? Is the Partnership part of an issue oriented alliance? I.e. Would the proposed Relationship or Gift advance SCCF's campaign goals?

Researching prospective corporations

Non-discretionary screening

If the answer to any part of either question 4 or 5 is "yes", the proposed Corporate Gift or Partnership must be rejected. If you cannot answer any of these questions indicate that the

answer is “unknown”. Please provide the source(s) you have relied upon in answering each question.

4. Does the business of the Corporation, or their parent company, include a material involvement (more than 5% of its portfolio) in any of the following activities:

a. Extraction of Non-renewable Natural Resources using environmentally unsustainable practices;?

Yes No Do not know

Source(s):

b. Fossil fuel or non-sustainable biomass power generation in violation of SCCF policy (<https://www.sierraclub.org/policy>);?

Yes No Unknown

Source(s):

c. Nuclear power in violation of SCCF policy, including power plants, fuel or waste management;?

Yes No Unknown

Source(s):

d. Agriculture in violation of SCCF policy (insert link to policy here)?

Yes No Unknown

Source(s):

e. Aquaculture that harms freshwater or marine ecosystems including but not limited to habitat destruction, waste runoff and introduction of invasive species?

Yes No Unknown

Source(s):

f. Weapons, including components of weapons that have no significant non-military purpose excepting products specifically designed for hunting or sporting purposes?

Yes No Unknown

Source(s):

5. In your opinion, is the Corporate Gift or Partnership likely to distort the programs or activities of SCCF?

Yes No

Please explain:

Discretionary screening

Particular caution must be exercised if the answer to any of the following questions is “yes”.

There must be good reason to believe that, despite these reasons for concern, the proposed

Corporate Gift or Partnership is consistent with SCCF's mission, will not introduce a conflict of interest and will not expose SCCF to liability or significant adverse publicity.

To answer the discretionary screening questions, reviewers are expected to undertake a review of publicly available information including by not limited to online searches for any violations of environmental laws, workplace standards, or human rights standards, and any circumstances in which they have acted as antagonists of environmental groups or Indigenous Peoples, as set out below.

The Corporate contact should be asked to provide a response to this request as well and their response will be appended to any contract or agreement with a corporation.

If you are unable to answer any of the questions below, you must indicate that the answer is "unknown". Please provide the source(s) you have relied upon in answering each question.

6. Has the Corporation, or its Parent Company had recent (within the last five years) and significant:

a. Non-compliance with national, provincial, state or local environmental or anti-pollution laws, whether in Canada or in another country?

Yes No Unknown

Source(s):

b. Non-compliance with Canadian or international workplace standards?

Yes No Unknown

Source(s):

c. Non-compliance with Canadian or international human rights standards?

Yes No Unknown

Source(s):

d. Roles as major antagonists of environmental organizations, including anti-environmental lobbying efforts?

Yes No Unknown

Source (s):

e. Roles as major antagonists of Indigenous Peoples, including disregarding Treaty and Constitutional rights and violating the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples?

Yes No Unknown

Source (s):

Recommendation

7. Do you recommend accepting the Corporate Gift or entering into the Partnership? Why or why not?