



WOMEN'S ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AUSTRALIA

[Women's Environmental Leadership Australia \(WELA\)](#) is a community of connecting, training and funding generations of women and gender diverse changemakers so that together we transform Australia's response to our environmental and climate crises. WELA's vision is for a world transformed by women leading change.

2024 WELA GIVING CIRCLE GRANT ROUND - GRANTING GUIDELINES

WELA's Giving Circle is proud to start the year with a grant round to support women and/or gender-diverse people leading environment and climate action with a total funding pool of \$20,000.

This grant round is a 2-step process involving an Expression of Interest (EOI) submitted online via ACF's grants portal, where shortlisted EOIs will be invited to complete a full grant application via Interview with a representative from WELA.

Grant applications of up to \$10,000 over 12 months are encouraged, and we expect to award 2 grants of \$10,000 each. Please consider this when you are submitting your EOI.

Eligibility Criteria:

Funding is available to applicants who meet the following eligibility criteria:

- An Australian registered charity with the [ACNC](#) (DGR status not required) OR Incorporated organisation with an [ABN](#) (Company Limited by Guarantee); OR Sole Trader with an ABN; AND
- A small to medium sized organisation with an annual income of less than \$3 million.
- Organisations and projects based in Australia.

Applications must be:

- Led by women and/or gender-diverse people; and
- Environment or climate action (advocacy, a campaign, and/or project to protect the environment and climate).

What do we mean by women and gender-diverse led?

- Your project or organisation will have women and/or gender-diverse people leading within these areas: your organisational structure, strategy development, storytelling, and organising.
- For example, WELA welcomes applications from projects that are led by women and gender-diverse people in their development and decision-making. This might look like women and

gender-diverse people as CEOs, co-CEOs, and Campaign Managers, on their boards and at the centre of their strategy development and project implementation.

What do we mean by environment and climate action?

- WELA is looking out for impactful, cutting edge and inspiring advocacy, campaigns and projects in the issue areas of environment and climate. In our initial round, this granting process will focus on project funding not unrestricted/core funding.
- We will support a full spectrum of change making tools for example (but not limited to) events, grassroots organising, creating networks, training and building skills, lobbying, media, and communication campaigns. Or surprise us with something we've never seen before!

Funding considerations:

The following areas will be prioritised in WELA's funding considerations but they are not all required for your application:

1. **Women and Gender Diverse Leadership (this is required):** WELA's grants will build a new kind of leadership that is inclusive, collaborative, and relational. They will fund organisations and projects that have women and/or gender-diverse leadership within their organisations.
2. **Creating Impact (this is required):** WELA understands that there are many ways to create change that include differing theories of change, timeframes, and approaches. At the core, they want to collaborate with organisations and projects that create powerful outcomes, impactful movements, address systems change, and have a clear focus on environmental and climate outcomes.
3. **Centreing First Nations Wisdom:** WELA values and honours the leadership of First Nations women for country, community, and culture over millennia. They welcome applications from projects and organisations that centre First Nations knowledge systems, First Nations science, systems of governance for Caring for Country, and the experience of First Nations women in efforts to protect nature and secure our future.
4. **Supporting Diverse Voices:** WELA acknowledges the lack of intersectional and racial diversity in the mainstream environment and climate movement as a structural and systemic problem. Through their grants, they will aim to diversify the voices in our movements and put justice, equity, diversity, and inclusivity (JEDI) at the heart of WELA's strategy, storytelling, and solutions. WELA welcomes applications that include the voices of underrepresented communities.
5. **Creating Collaboration:** Collaboration is one of the foundations of feminist leadership. WELA will support projects and organisations that prioritise building relationships and networks that enable learning and knowledge sharing across generations, sectors, communities, and geographic constraints.

Type of projects and activities we won't fund:

Funds cannot be used for:

- Retrospective activities.
- Non-charitable activities.
- Projects or activities that are politically partisan in nature.
- Commercial activities.
- On-ground environmental actions such as tree planting, or installation of solar on buildings.

- Electoral expenditure or the creation or communication of electoral matters (as defined in the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918), or to incur electoral or political expenditure or communicate political or electoral matters under any similar applicable state or territory legislation.
- Green building projects including energy efficiency upgrades.
- Political campaigns that support specific parties or candidates.
- Straight research, unless it is in direct support of a developed plan for specific action to alleviate an environmental problem.
- Land acquisition.

Grant Application Shortlisting and Membership Vote:

- A Shortlisting Committee made up of WELA Giving Circle members will evaluate all Expression of Interests (EOIs) received and generate a shortlist of EOIs, who will be invited to complete a full grant application via interview.
- WELA's Giving Circle membership will have the opportunity to rank projects via a voting process in late February.

Process and Key Dates:

- **Expression of Interests (EOIs) open:** Wednesday, 24 January to Tuesday, 6 February 2024 (2 weeks).
- **Shortlisting of EOIs:** from Wednesday, 7 February to Wednesday, 14 February 2024.
- **Shortlisted applicants will be invited to complete a full grant application via an interview with a representative from WELA:** between Wednesday, 14 February to Tuesday, 20 February 2024.
- **Voting by Giving Circle members:** between Wednesday, 21 February to Wednesday 28 February 2024.
- **Winners announced:** by the end of February 2024.
- **Grants paid:** from March 2024 onwards.

Contact

- For enquiries relating to the granting guidelines, please contact WELA at info@wela.org.au
- For technical enquiries related to the grants portal, please contact ACF's Grants Team at grants@communityfoundation.org.au, or call 03 9412 0412