

Growing Greenhouses Program PROGRAM FUNDING LIST

This Funding List describes the activities and expenses that may be included in an application under the Program, subject to the Program Terms and Conditions.

Applications must have a funding request of \$125,000 or more to be considered.

This is a cost-share program. The cost of Eligible Expenses must be shared, with 50% contributed by the Applicant and 50% by the Program.

See the Program Terms and Conditions for the complete Program requirements.

Key dates: Expenses incurred before **January 1, 2025** are ineligible.

Eligible Projects

To be eligible for the Program, an applicant must be undertaking an “Eligible Project,” which is a project to either:

- construct a new greenhouse or vertical farm, or
- improve an existing greenhouse or vertical farm.

The greenhouse or vertical farm must be a type of “Controlled Environment.” For the purposes of this Program, this means an enclosed space where environmental conditions are managed.

The project must entail at least 50% of the growing area of the greenhouse or vertical farm being used to produce Food for 12 months of the year. As of January 31, 2031, the facility must continue to be producing Food. For the purposes of this Program, “Food” is defined to mean:

- (a) edible products grown for human consumption including fruits, vegetables and any other food product deemed acceptable by the Minister, or
- (b) seedlings or plants that will produce the edible products described in (a).

For the purposes of this Program, meats, insects, psychedelics, pharmaceuticals, and cannabis are not “Food”.

If the project is to construct a **new facility**, the project must have a total investment of at least \$2 million.

If the project is to improve an **existing facility**, the improvements must be aimed at increasing the annual production of the greenhouse or vertical farm, within the project area, by at least 10% over previous years’ production.

Eligible Activities

Applicants conducting an Eligible Project are eligible to receive Program funding for their costs to purchase, install and commission high-efficiency technologies at the facility. These activities (“**Eligible Activities**”) must fall within one of the following categories:

1. Renewable & Efficient Energy
2. Advanced Lighting Systems
3. Energy-Saving Construction
4. Automation & Robotics
5. Engineering & Installation
6. Training Support

Applicants may include only one project per application but may include more than one activity in that application (e.g., Project: Construction of Strawberry Greenhouse in Calgary. Activities: Renewable & Efficient Energy and Advanced Lighting Systems).

Eligible Expenses

Program funding will be paid on the basis of reimbursement of 50% of the “**Eligible Expenses**” for Eligible Activities. The cost of Eligible Expenses must be shared, with 50% contributed by the Applicant and 50% by the Program.

(The Minister may adjust the amount of Program funding payable if a portion of the Eligible Expenses or Eligible Activities are not for the production of Food.)

Eligible Expenses are the costs to purchase, install, and commission high-efficiency technologies under one of the categories of Eligible Activities, as well as costs to train operators. The costs must have been incurred by, invoiced to, and paid by, the Eligible Applicant between **January 1, 2025** and the end of the period in which the Eligible Applicant must conduct its Eligible Project.

Examples of capital expenses that may be an Eligible Expense include:

- Energy-efficient heating and/or electricity generating technologies, such as:
 - Energy co-generation
 - High-efficiency heating solutions
 - Solar panels and other alternative energy sources,
- Lighting systems, such as:
 - Full-spectrum Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs)
- Energy-saving construction technologies, such as:
 - Specialized glass for greenhouse construction
 - Advanced insulation
- Labour-saving automation, such as:
 - Sensors, actuators and climate control systems for temperature, humidity, light levels, soil conditions, air conditions and/or irrigation
 - Automated water recovery systems
 - Carbon dioxide capture and enrichment systems
 - Robotic systems for the evaluation and harvest of produce
- Any other capital expense for an Eligible Activity, as deemed eligible by the Minister.

Examples of non-capital expenses that may be an Eligible Expense include:

- Training costs (including associated travel costs) that are associated with adopting new technologies, new equipment and or new automation processes
- Labour costs associated with installation and commissioning of an eligible capital expense
- Third-party professional fees, such as engineering fees
- Any other non-capital expense for an Eligible Activity, as deemed eligible by the Minister.

The following may not be an Eligible Expense:

- travel expenses not in compliance with the Sustainable CAP Travel Expense Policy,
- expenses not incurred by the Eligible Applicant in carrying out the Eligible Activity,
- expenses associated with activities that are ineligible for the Program, including the purchase of land and buildings,
- activities associated with aquaculture, aquaponics, or seafood processing, and activities that provide province-specific branding, promotion or marketing activities that are detrimental to another province or territory,
- shipping costs,
- costs of lease of office furniture, space, and equipment,
- fixtures that are not an eligible capital expense,
- on-going business operational activities and overhead expenses (such as salaries, normal consulting and contracting expenses, legal costs, commissions, warehousing, maintenance costs, utilities and photocopying),
- costs of on-hand materials or supplies,
- maintenance and repair costs,
- consumable expenses,
- administrative costs of the Applicant, such as costs to prepare documents or process invoices,
- leasing costs,
- staff or consulting expenses for product sale activities, or in-market representation for existing products,
- advertising expenses (including radio, social media, vehicle wraps, billboards, signage),
- sponsorship,
- donation of product,
- website hosting, domain registration or ongoing website maintenance,
- vehicles of any kind (e.g. trucks, forklifts, refrigerated trucks),
- expenses related to non-specific activities, such as those marked “miscellaneous”,
- any relevant taxes, such as Goods and Services Tax (GST),
- an expense arising from a non-arm’s length transaction, and
- any other expense deemed ineligible by the Minister.