



## 20<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY BONUS GRANT ROUND PROGRAM GUIDELINES

### Purpose:

In 2024, PECO is celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the PECO Green Region Open Space Program with a bonus grant round focused exclusively on advancing their Path to Clean goal, which is dedicated to promoting a clean energy future. For 20 years, in partnership with Natural Lands, PECO has supported local municipalities and nonprofits with their innovative green projects through the PECO Green Region Open Space Program. Since 2004, PECO has awarded over \$3.15 million in grants for almost 400 open space improvement projects, fostering a cleaner and more sustainable future.

For the 2024 Bonus Grant Round, eligible applicants are invited to submit grant applications proposing projects aligned with PECO's Path to Clean initiative, details of which can be found by visiting [peco.com/pathtoclean](https://www.peco.com/pathtoclean).

**Online Application Deadline: 4:00 PM, Thursday, October 24, 2024**

### Applications:

- The PECO Green Region Grant Application and Program Guidelines can be accessed through the Natural Lands website at [natlands.org/peco](https://www.natlands.org/peco), or through the PECO website at <https://www.peco.com/SafetyCommunity/Environment/Pages/OurInitiatives.aspx>.
- All grant applications must be submitted through the PECO Green Region Open Space Program online application portal. User names and passwords do not expire and can be utilized from one grant round to the next.
- **Please format all attachments to the application as PDFs or JPEGs.**

### Eligible Applicants:

- Any township, borough, city, or regional recreational authority **within PECO's service territory in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, or York Counties**. Eligible applicants must receive gas and/or electric service from PECO.
- **Incorporated nonprofit organizations within the City of Philadelphia**, including neighborhood organizations, such as "Friends" groups, but exclusive of religious organizations unless programs are non-denominational.
- PECO does not provide grants to individuals.
- Recipients of prior PECO Green Region Open Space Program grant awards are eligible for the Bonus Round regardless of when the previous grant was awarded and whether or not close-out documentation has been submitted. This is a celebratory round open to all applicants that would be otherwise eligible.
- **Eligible applicants may apply to both the 2024 Regular Round and 2024 Bonus Round concurrently.**



### Eligible Projects:

- Bonus Round funding is only for a project that **aligns with PECO's Path to Clean initiative** to combat climate change (<https://www.peco.com/safety-community/environment/our-path-to-clean>). Example projects include but are not limited to solar panel and/or solar canopy installation, energy audits, LEED construction and certification, weatherization, updating HVAC systems, or upgrades to improve energy efficiency, such as LED lighting, the use of timers, or other infrastructure.

### Ineligible Expenses:

- Staff time for municipal, organizational, or regional recreational authority employees for any aspect of the project.
- Contractor and/or consultant fees for preparing grant applications.
- Relocation of an owner or tenant, condemnation, or building repair or demolition.

### Grant Amounts and Timing:

- The Bonus Round will grant **\$50,000 to one worthy project. No match is required.**
- Applications will only be accepted through the online application portal, which can be accessed through [natlands.org/peco](https://natlands.org/peco).
- Applications must be submitted by **4:00 PM, Thursday, October 24, 2024.**
- The grant recipient is expected to **fully expend the grant funding within 18 months** of fund disbursement and must communicate in writing with the program administrator should unforeseen circumstances cause a delay in meeting this deadline.
- Retroactive reimbursement for costs accrued after the application deadline but before the disbursement of grant funds may be allowed. The request for retroactive reimbursement should be communicated in writing to the PECO Green Region Program Administrator.
- Once the grant is fully expended, recipients must **submit a Final Report** to close out the award before they are eligible to apply to the PECO Green Region Open Space Program for additional funding.
- Grant recipients failing to meet their deadlines and/or to communicate in writing with the Program Administrator about the need for a deadline extension will be expected to return the funding to the PECO Green Region Open Space Program.
- Grant recipients may apply for an additional PECO Green Region grant once their 2024 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bonus Round grant award is closed out.



### **Grant Conditions:**

- The property and/or facility location of the project must be open to the general public and promote equal access for all communities.
- Within two months of the final expenditure of grant funds, the recipient will submit the Final Report summarizing the work accomplished with the grant. Accompanying the Final Report will be an explanation justifying the use of the grant funds, backed by documentation of invoices, cancelled checks, etc., as necessary for the project. Recipient will not be eligible to apply for an additional PECO Green Region grant until a complete Final Report form is submitted and approved.
- During the grant period, award recipient agrees to participate in press conferences or events, to be quoted in PECO literature describing the program, and to identify PECO as a funder in any materials produced to explain or promote the funded project. Draft versions of all promotional materials (press releases, articles, brochures, etc.) must be submitted to the program administrator for approval before use.
- Recipient agrees to acknowledge the use of PECO Green Region funds for the project. Wording will be supplied by PECO, and 7.5" x 5.75" aluminum signs can be provided if needed.

### **Review Committee:**

Completed and eligible applications will be reviewed and evaluated by a committee composed of county government officials, members of the region's nonprofit land conservation community, and PECO representatives. The final funding decision remains at the discretion of PECO.

### **Administrator:**

Natural Lands, a private nonprofit land conservancy with a more than 60-year history of protecting open space in Eastern Pennsylvania, is the administrator of the PECO Green Region Open Space Program. Applications and questions about eligibility, timing, documentation, etc. should be addressed to:

Estelle Wynn Dolan  
PECO Green Region Open Space Program Administrator  
Natural Lands  
1031 Palmers Mill Road  
Media, PA 19063  
610-353-5587, ext. 213  
edolan@natlands.org