

Green Building Fund Administration Plan

Introduction

This Green Building Fund Administration Plan has been developed with the intent of establishing a baseline for the administration process surrounding the funds collected via cash in-lieu through the Green Building Ordinance. While this plan does set initial parameters for administration of these funds, the intent is to continue to refine the plan once the Green Building ordinance is officially approved and establish a revised baseline that DDPHE can use moving forward.

Contributions

Financial contributions for off-site green space per the Green Building ordinance will be placed in a special revenue fund, the “Green Building Fund” to be managed by the Denver Department of Public Health and Environment (DDPHE).

Uses and Purposes

Per the Green Building ordinance, the funds received and collected via the Green Building Fund must be spent on the following uses and purposes:

- Green space acquisition.
- Green space improvement. Improvements may include ecosystem protection and restoration (items such as native plantings or native plantings as part of invasive species control).
- Water quality improvements and green infrastructure.
- Urban forest protection and expansion.
- Creating green roofs in city in partnership with land owners/developers that are excited to utilize the technology.
- Low-income and affordable housing customer solar adoption through rooftop or community solar.

The guiding principles on what projects should receive priority are:

- A focus on neighborhoods and areas of inequity within the City and County of Denver that may not have tree canopy coverage or green space areas that are consistent with other neighborhoods and areas of the City.
- A focus on projects that will make substantial impacts in alignment with the uses and purposes outlined in the Green Building Ordinance.
- Green spaces located near the buildings that paid into the fund where feasible.

Ongoing Reporting on Administration of Funds

DDPHE will prepare a report outlining funds collected and where they were spent for City Council every 2 years.

Administration Plan Refinement

Once the Green Building Fund is approved and established, DDPHE intends to refine the elements outlined below based on the extent in which the cash in-lieu option is selected and funds are received into the special revenue fund. This process will allow DDPHE to work proactively to review the plan along with inputs from other City departments and stakeholders to establish a baseline for the long-term management plan of the fund and leverage the funds in a way that will allow them to make the greatest impact possible while adhering to the goals and intent outlined above and in the Green Building ordinance. Once a process is defined, DDPHE will begin the process of administering the funds during the following year. Elements for consideration in the administration plan include:

- What role internal City staff and departments will play in the selection of projects to be funded.
- What the overall application process entails and at what cadence a call for projects will be made.
- What criteria may be used to identify and score projects that may receive funding.
- What the solicitation process may look like surrounding projects that may apply to receive funding.
- What process should be established around ongoing evaluation of projects that are funded.
- The potential establishment of a timeline by which funds must be spent once awarded.
- What methodology should be implemented through the project evaluation process to ensure projects that receive funding are additive and may create additional benefits to neighborhoods and communities.