

Rhinebeck Science Foundation Climate Smart Initiative Pilot Fund

Objective

This is a *pilot* initiative fund to support and promote climate smart activities/education in Rhinebeck schools, fostering a culture of environmental responsibility among students.

It is being launched in conjunction with Climate Smart Rhinebeck's Climate Week activities, but funds are available to be used throughout the 2023-2024 school year.

By simplifying the application and reporting processes, we hope educators can focus on the educational initiatives themselves. The key is to balance accountability with accessibility, ensuring that the funds are used effectively while not creating unnecessary barriers.

As this is a pilot project for RSF, we are open to feedback throughout the year, so please keep us in the loop regarding any need for expanding the fund in future years

Fund Details

Source: Rhinebeck Science Foundation

Amount: \$300 per grade level for 2023-24 school year.

Eligibility

- Open to all teachers in all grade levels within the school district.
- Must focus on climate smart initiatives, promoting sustainability, and raising climate change awareness amongst students at RCSD.

Application Process

- Individual teachers can directly apply to their respective building principal for funds up to \$300.
- Collaborative applications within a grade level to access the full \$300 are encouraged.
- Cross-grade collaborations are also encouraged to pool resources for larger projects (e.g., K-2 could access \$900 for initiatives targeting all three grades).
- The exact application process will be determined by each building principal.

Fund Disbursement:

- Funds will be disbursed to the district as a single check payable to RCSD, managed by Christine Natoli in the business office.
- Building principals will oversee the distribution of funds and monitor expenditure.
- At the end of the fiscal year, the school will provide a report detailing unspent funds.
- Principals are responsible for approving requests, and their approval and fund disbursement should trigger an email alert to RSF at president@rhinebecksciencefoundation.org, including brief details of the initiative.

Feedback Loop - Required

-Photo & Story Sharing: After project completion, a brief summary and a few photos to be shared with RSF. RSF President to be responsible for follow up with teachers, and to make sure photos are vetted through the RCSD process for our use.

This not only provides transparency but also celebrates the achievements and impacts of the initiatives.

Benefits

- Minimal paperwork ensures easy access for educators.
- Fast review and disbursement process reduces wait times.
- Focus on actionable results rather than application and documentation.

Remember, the smoother the process, the greater the impact. And that's a climate win for everyone! 🌍🌱

For more information about this program, or other ways to engage with RSF, visit us @ <https://www.rhinebecksciencefoundation.org/>