

Example Expression of Interest—Cold Fire Group

This is an imaginary example with made-up “facts”; it represents one idea of many that we would be excited about. Our goal is to give candidates a sense of the level of detail and formality we hope to receive.

What is the applying program/organization?

Cold Fire Group (CFG) is a climate advocacy organization, primarily based in Europe, focused on reducing carbon emissions through policy action.

Roughly half of CFG’s budget is spent on operational activities, and half is spent on grantmaking. The program we’re applying with is our grantmaking arm, which supports professional, student, and indigenous groups to organize on climate issues relevant to their communities.

Please describe your goal(s) in no more than 300 words.

In 2015, CFG set its North Star as limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels. To achieve that goal, partnership with other organizations is necessary, and as such our grantmaking is a core pillar of our ability to have impact.

Our existing grantmaking program supports local groups centered around inspiring leaders, who can advocate on behalf of their communities for climate action. The Open Philanthropy Regranting Challenge would allow us to increase our level of support for the groups that have shown the most promise so far, as well as the number of groups we can support, ultimately driving changes in legislation and priorities in EU countries.

We view the climate crisis fundamentally as a problem of political coordination and group mobilization, so empowering affected groups will drive whether EU countries set ambitious targets on emissions reductions, and meet them.

Please describe your strategy to achieve these goal(s) in no more than 300 words.

CFG’s strategy outside of grantmaking involves providing consultation and technical support to multinational companies looking to set green policies in EU countries, and selective litigation against local and regional governments that are falling short of stated climate commitments.

Our grantmaking strategy is designed to complement those activities, with three main funding streams:

1. Empowering existing civil society groups to speak on climate issues. Many of these groups are professional unions (EU and UK), professional societies/affiliation groups (EU and UK), and indigenous peoples groups (Nordics).
2. Supporting primary issue grassroots climate groups. Most of these groups are organized by younger people and students, with an emphasis on direct action.
3. Supporting infrastructure across groups. Example grants we've made before in this category are to legal services non-profits, conference organizers, training and executive coaching support, and third party conflict mediation.

Please describe the biggest accomplishments which your grants have enabled in the last five years in no more than 300 words.

One of the student groups we funded, [[name omitted]], started a petition signed by over 1 million EU citizens in 2018, to ban the building of new coal plants in EU countries, and shut down all existing plants by 2030. The European Parliament discussed the petition, and is in the process of lawmaking around coal plants. We believe that the petition, and vocal support for its contents from some other organizations we support, has led to momentum behind the issue that will hopefully lead to a favorable result in this parliament. There are still [several hundred](#) plants in Europe, and coal accounted for [17% of European electricity](#) production in 2020.

What was your annual grantmaking budget between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2021?

Our board meets in January, April, July, and October, which means that idiosyncratic timing of larger grants can make our numbers vary year to year, despite our annual grantmaking budget of €25 million.

Some of the support we provided to grantees was in-kind, via staff secondments, training, and professional services we secure on a pro-bono basis, not listed below. Note that in 2018 we ran an RFP that disbursed €30 million, that is larger than subsequent years, and also not reflected below.

2019: €23,733,761.11

2020: €32,665,500.50

2021: €18,250,000.00 (estimated)