



## **SVCE Education Fund**

### **Background:**

Silicon Valley Clean Energy ("SVCE") is fighting climate change by cutting carbon emissions, accelerating the adoption of innovative electric technologies and providing additional community benefits by reinvesting locally.

With our unique position in the community, SVCE can help provide funding to students who are advancing decarbonization, electrification and innovation. The SVCE Education Fund falls under two of the strategies outlined in the [Decarbonization Programs Roadmap](#): [Innovation](#) and [Education & Outreach](#). The projects seeking funding should harness innovation to accelerate "bending the carbon curve" and educate and increase public awareness on electrification and actions to reduce emissions.

The Education Fund program, launched in 2019, has funded student-led projects from hybrid vehicle batteries to youth climate education conferences. SVCE continues to support student ingenuity and climate stewardship through past programs like Bike to the Future and the Empower Silicon Valley scholarship competition. Bike to the Future was a high school innovation and electric transportation scholarship competition which allowed students to engineer their own electric bike and creatively explore clean energy technologies needed to meet our climate goals. EmPower Silicon Valley is a short film competition that tasks students with creating videos about sustainability. These programs not only highlight student voices in our community, but also encourage students to pursue careers in sustainability.

With this fund, we are expanding engagement opportunities for elementary, middle, high school and community college students with projects that address the problems of climate change by incorporating the SVCE mission.

### **Goal:**

**SVCE hopes to foster opportunities for students in kindergarten through community college to engage in creative problem solving to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels through decarbonization and electrification. By opening the application up to all school-aged students, SVCE is striving to expand community involvement and empowerment in climate-solutions thinking.**

### **Strategic Plan Alignment:**

- Goal 10 - Empower customers with the awareness, knowledge and resources needed to make effective clean energy choices

- Sponsor community and industry events that align with SVCE's [sponsorship guidelines](#)

**Need:**

Many schools in our service area participate in STEM challenges such as robotics competitions, science fairs and sustainability summits. As SVCE continues to receive many sponsorship funding requests, this fund, with an annual application period and set dollar amount, allows for an equitable distribution to support schools in our service area.

**Education Fund Description:**

The SVCE Education Fund is split into two main components for participants. The first component provides students with funding for their project or competition, and the second focuses on education and outreach to help amplify climate awareness into the broader community.

**Project Funding:**

- Funding may be used for resources, materials, supplies, equipment, transportation, technology and other SVCE approved costs for the selected project, competition or event. Funds cannot be used to pay indirect costs, administration fees, salaries, applicant stipends or be used for any political or lobbying purposes.
- Funding will be paid to a specific club, organization or school, NOT to an individual.
- SVCE and the team will determine the funding allocation timeline for each project separately as project needs differ.
- Education Fund recipients will be required to submit an accounting of funds or purchase list to SVCE after the completion of the project.
- If there are unused funds after the completion of the project, recipients will be required to return unused funds to SVCE.

**Education and Outreach:**

- Students will submit an education and outreach plan upon applying for the Education Fund illustrating how they will share their project and SVCE's mission with the community during and/or after the conclusion of their project.
- SVCE may contact students for follow-up activities, such as project updates, requesting additional information, interviews, and photo or video shoots. SVCE may also propose outreach events and strategies for the project.
- Students may be asked to contribute or participate in SVCE outreach events, videos, photos, social media and additional outreach within the community.

**Funding Amount:**

SVCE will allocate \$80,000 annually to the Education Fund, subject to approval of the SVCE Board. Up to \$10,000 may be allocated to any one project or student team. Funding will be distributed based on the evaluation criteria at SVCE's sole discretion.

**Eligibility:**

- The Education Fund is open to students currently enrolled in an elementary, middle, high school or accredited community college that is within SVCE's service territory, and to any student that is an SVCE customer and part of a local organization. Students enrolled in an accredited college must be enrolled as part-time or full-time students in order to be eligible for funding. Proof of enrollment is required.
  - o SVCE serves the cities and towns of: Campbell, Cupertino, Gilroy, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Milpitas, Monte Sereno, Morgan Hill, Mountain View, Saratoga, Sunnyvale and unincorporated Santa Clara County communities.
- Projects selected to receive funding must focus on or incorporate SVCE's mission to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.
  - o SVCE's Mission Statement: Reduce dependence on fossil fuels by providing carbon-free, affordable and reliable electricity and innovative programs for the SVCE community.
- Students must have a designated teacher, school staff person or community mentor ("Project Advisor") who is responsible for compliance and funding allocation. The Project Advisor's approval is required for the application.
- If a participant is under 18 years of age, approval from his or her legal guardian or parent is required.
- Applicants must provide SVCE with a monthly update on the project's progress throughout the project's timeline.
- Applicants must read and agree to the SVCE Education Fund Proposal Terms and Conditions.
- Only one application will be accepted per project. Applications must be received no later than **11:59 p.m. on January 19th, 2024** in order to be considered.

**Evaluation Criteria:** The criteria by which applications will be evaluated include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Demonstrated outreach capacity as described in the applicant's community outreach plan.
- Scope of project with regard to funding needs and community reach.
- Creativity and innovation of the project.
- Project's demonstrated relationship to SVCE's mission and goals of reducing dependence on fossil fuels through innovation, electrification and decarbonization, as well as its ability to communicate SVCE's goals to the community.

- Equity in allocating funds is a priority, as SVCE serves 13 member communities in Santa Clara County. Location of the school and the number of schools within the geographic region will be considered in distributing funds, in order to ensure that funds are available and accessible for all cities and towns in which SVCE serves.
- The project's focus and type will be taken into consideration upon determining funding allocation. There is more than one way to advance emissions reductions and SVCE can choose to prioritize funding projects that are diverse in focus, method and goals.
- Our education system serves a diverse body of students, organizations, interests and subjects. Attention to diversity within the SVCE Education Fund program is important to ensure that SVCE funds are equitably dispersed within our community. To that end, teams and projects that build on and represent a diverse mix of student interests and backgrounds will be given priority.
- To ensure the accessibility of funds for all students, new applicants and projects may be given priority in determining Education Fund recipients.

**Grant Timeline:**

- The SVCE Education Fund program will launch in October 2023, and will close on Friday, January 19, 2024 at 11:50 p.m.
- Applicants will be notified the following week on the status of their application.

**Terms and Conditions:**

1. Applicants must be students currently enrolled in a local elementary, middle, high school or accredited college within SVCE's service territory, or SVCE customers attending a regional institution.
2. SVCE will select projects to award at its sole discretion.
3. SVCE may waive any of the eligibility or evaluation criteria and will select recipients at its sole discretion. SVCE also reserves the right to select no recipients.
4. Applicants selected as recipients must coordinate with SVCE for all follow up activities.
5. Previous applicants will be able to receive a maximum financial award of \$20,000 in a five year period.
6. SVCE reserves the right to modify or terminate the Education Fund program, in whole or in part, at any time and for any reason without prior notice.
7. If a recipient fails to comply with any of these Terms and Conditions or the Applicant Agreement, as determined by SVCE, the recipient must repay the awarded fund in an amount determined by SVCE within 30 days of written notice by SVCE.
8. SVCE may waive any of these Terms and Conditions at its sole discretion.

## **Applicant Agreement:**

By submitting an application for the SVCE Education Fund, I, the undersigned Applicant, agree that:

1. I have read and understand and agree to the Education Fund program's rules, requirements and Terms and Conditions set forth in this Application and on the main program website.
2. I understand that the submission of a complete application for an eligible project does not guarantee my selection for funding. SVCE has the sole discretion to select projects from the applications and reserves the right to select no projects. SVCE may choose to waive stated eligibility requirements. SVCE may apply evaluation criteria including, but not limited to, those listed on the application portal.
3. I certify that the information provided for this application and in the attached documentation, if any, is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge.
4. I agree that SVCE may use and publicize information and visual materials (photos, videos, etc.) related to this project, including (but not limited to) information and visual materials provided in this application, updates, or follow-up information.
5. If selected as an Education Fund recipient, I will coordinate in good faith with SVCE on follow-up activities, such as interviews, outreach coordination, photo or video shoots, and requests for additional information. I am prepared to work with SVCE to schedule all coordination and activities within the time frame determined upon the Education Fund application and understand that my refusal or failure to complete these activities within the designated time period may result in termination of the funding.
6. I agree to waive, release and discharge any claims, losses or damages against SVCE or its directors, officers, employees or agents which I may have, or which may hereafter accrue to me, as a result of my involvement, participation and/or receipt of funds from the SVCE Education Fund Program.

## **Possible Example Projects:**

- A project for a science or robotics competition that involves clean energy and incorporates the Silicon Valley Clean Energy mission and goals
- A project for an art or video competition focused on reducing dependence on fossil fuels that involves the Silicon Valley Clean Energy mission and goals
- A design for a zero net energy building
- A drama, film project, or podcast that involves Silicon Valley Clean Energy's mission and goals
- A student-led climate-related education event or conference

Questions regarding the application process may be directed to  
[juliannemiller@svcleanenergy.org](mailto:juliannemiller@svcleanenergy.org)