

## **Growing Forward 2 (GF2) – Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

**Key messages / Qs & As for new GF2 Cost-share Funding Assistance project categories for agricultural producers to increase innovation and competitiveness of Ontario agriculture while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.**

### **KEY MESSAGES:**

- The government is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and helping industry transition to a low carbon economy.
- The government also recognizes the importance of energy conservation for businesses, especially for energy-intensive consumers with covered agricultural facilities.
- Updated, cost-shared funding assistance is now available through GF2 for eligible Ontario producers to implement known technologies and/or to engage in a variety of agricultural best management practices that can assist them in reducing their greenhouse gas emissions.
- Projects eligible for support under these new project categories include installing selected energy-efficient equipment upgrades, and energy conservation systems/components.
- These investments will help the sector reduce emissions, remain competitive and build resilience to climate change impacts.

### **Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Key Messages on Ontario's Climate Change Action Plan**

- Ontario is establishing itself as a leader in climate change action and science by building a strong, low-carbon economy, which will help avoid irreparable damage to our environment, and leave a legacy of a healthy planet for our children and our children's children.
- Our province is also developing a new Climate Change Adaptation Plan for 2017. This upcoming plan will build on the successes of Climate Ready: Ontario's Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan, which was released in 2011 and was Ontario's first public commitment to address climate impacts.
- The updated adaptation plan would also identify new actions to prepare and adapt to a changing climate, including managing risks in areas such as infrastructure and public health, reducing threats to pollinator health and food security, and addressing the unique challenges Indigenous communities face in adapting to climate change.
- We are also supporting the development of an ambitious pan-Canadian framework that aligns with both the Paris agreement on global climate change action and our Strategy and Action Plan.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (Q&A)

The following Q&A provide some additional details around the changes to the GF2 Cost-share Funding Assistance Program for Producers effective for applications received in the April 4-18, 2017 and May 12 – June 1, 2017 intakes.

### **Q. Who is the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA)?**

A. The OSCIA is a not-for-profit farm organization that represents all commodity groups across the province. In partnership with the province, OSCIA has stewarded the delivery of a variety of programs designed to support producers in different ways.

### **Q. What is Growing Forward 2 (GF2)?**

A. GF2 is a comprehensive federal-provincial-territorial framework aimed at encouraging innovation, competitiveness and market development in Canada's agri-food and agri-products sector. GF2 offers resources, tools and cost-share funding assistance to eligible producers, processors, organizations and collaborations to grow their profits, expand markets and manage shared risks.

### **Q. What is the motivation behind offering this cost-shared funding support through Growing Forward 2 (GF2) to Ontario producers to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions?**

A. The government is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and helping industry transition to a low carbon economy.

The government also recognizes the importance of energy conservation for business, especially for energy-intensive consumers in with covered agricultural facilities.

These new project categories under GF2 should provide an opportunity to help support industry and achieve gains in greenhouse gas reduction.

### **Q. Which producers will be eligible to receive cost-share funding support under the new project categories (i.e., A.13, A.14, A.15, A.16)?**

A. GF2 Cost-share Funding Assistance for Producers is open to farmers from across Ontario.

The new funding assistance categories offer opportunities for producers engaged in a wide range of agricultural production and are available province-wide. More details about projects that will be considered for support and eligibility requirements to apply for the funding are available through the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association on the website at: <http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/oscia-programs/growing-forward-2> or calling 1-877-424-1300.

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GF2 is a merit-based program and is intended to drive positive change; therefore, only the most impactful projects are funded.

### **Q. What merit-based evaluation criteria must be met by applicants?**

A. Program participants will be required to demonstrate positive project impact potential in reducing greenhouse gas emissions/energy use.

There are variations in the merit-based evaluation criteria depending on the project category that the applicant is applying to.

Producers interested in applying for funding can confirm criteria for the selected project category by reviewing the category's requirements found under Appendix 2 of the Program Guide. The Program Guide can be accessed at <http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/oscia-programs/growing-forward-2> or calling 1-800-265-9751.

### **Q. What are some examples of projects that may be supported under the updated programming?**

A. Installation of new or upgraded energy curtains in existing greenhouse production facilities.

Upgrades to boiler systems or heating systems to replace less efficient systems.

Upgrades to improved permanent greenhouse cover materials including the addition of extra layers, or replacement with more energy efficient options.

Retrofits to grain dryers for heat reclamation.

Installation or upgrades to ventilation heat exchangers.

Upgrading to more energy efficient lighting systems in existing indoor agricultural facilities.

Engineering or installation of geothermal heating units to agricultural facilities.

Modifications of existing tillage and nutrient application equipment.

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### **Q. How much can an approved applicant receive in cost-sharing funding assistance through these new project categories?**

A. Approved projects will be eligible for cost-share funding assistance at 35 per cent of the approved project costs up to the maximum cost-share amount per project. All project categories under GF2 have a cap on the maximum cost-share funding assistance per project that will be reimbursed. These may vary according to the project category that the applicant is applying to and applicants should review the details in Appendix 2 of the Program Guide for the maximum amount for a particular category.

The maximum cost-shared funding assistance for projects under the new categories ranges from \$20,000 to \$100,000 depending on the applicable project category.

### **Q. How much time will successful applicants have to complete their proposed project?**

A. All of the projects approved under the GF2 Program will need to be completed as early as possible and by December 15, 2017, at the latest. This includes projects under the new categories. This corresponds with the conclusion of GF2 programming.

### **Q. When will applicants learn whether they have been approved?**

A. Applicants will be informed of the result of their application within 45 business days of the close of the application intake period. Applications for the program will be received in two application intake periods. The first is scheduled between April 4, 2017 and April 18, 2017. The second is scheduled between May 12, 2017 and June 1, 2017. Applications are only accepted during application intake periods.

### **Q. Where can I review more details about the updated programming and what conditions applicants will have to meet?**

A. Those details are available in the GF2 Cost-share Funding Assistance for Producers Program Guide, available online at: <http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/oscia-programs/growing-forward-2>

### **Q. Can an agricultural production facility include other buildings than just the primary production area?**

A. Production areas that are part of the production facility (e.g., a greenhouse with an attached packing area) are eligible. Separate, stand-alone structures that are for dedicated agricultural use would also be eligible, such as wash bays and shops. Any project that includes a residence is not eligible.

### **Q. Why is only project category A.3 opened up geographically and not the other project categories that fall under A. Environment and Climate Change Adaptation, Nutrient Management (i.e., A.1, A.2 or A.4)?**

A. Changes to the existing project categories have been made to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and helping industry transition to a low carbon economy. Projects in A.3 can help to achieve this goal, whereas A.1, A.2 and A.3 are more focused on nutrient management.