



GOOD ROOTS

Powered by the Alabama Power Foundation

Alabama Power Foundation Good Roots Program

Introduction

The Alabama Power Foundation is pleased to offer the “Good Roots” grant program in partnership with the Alabama Urban Forestry Association and the Alabama Forestry Commission. As a part of the 2017 Good Roots Program, the foundation will supply up to \$1,000 per grant to purchase trees for planting in cities, towns, communities and non-profit organizations across central and south Alabama.

Good Roots is designed to help keep our communities beautiful and vibrant. The trees must be used in public areas – to enhance a park, add a canopy over the street, or help shade a hot parking lot. They can be used around schoolyards, churches and libraries.

Why Alabama Power and trees?

Since our founding over a century ago, Alabama Power has been connected to communities in more ways than just supplying power. The company and its charitable giving arm believe a healthy environment is important to the quality of life in Alabama and look for ways to strengthen communities across the state. Trees are key to this. Recent studies show tree-shaded neighborhoods can be 3 to 6 degrees cooler than treeless ones.

Plus, trees help save energy. A study done by the EPA shows careful landscaping can decrease air conditioning bills up to 75% especially if you plant them in the correct places – on the south and southwest side of a structure to shade hot summer sun. In the winter, trees can save on heating costs if you plant them to buffer harsh seasonal winds.

The Goals

The Alabama Power Foundation is committed to using our resources to help plant our state. The intent is to assist projects that will:

- Maintain an excellent quality of life in our communities.
- Enhance and improve the quality of the environment in communities across the state.
- Encourage active community involvement.

Eligible Groups

- Local governments – cities, towns, communities of any size.
- Educational institutions – city and county school systems, private schools, universities.
- Any 501 (c)(3) organization.

Awards are paid to the organization and not to individuals. Recipient organizations must have a tax-exempt status under the IRS Code and must not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, gender, nationality, or ethnic origin.

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Funding Limitation

Grants will be awarded up to \$1,000.

Program Restrictions

Funds will be available for the purchase of trees only – **not** shrubs, bedding plants and other landscaping items. Planting, watering and maintenance must be provided through other funding or volunteers.

All trees shall be planted according to the procedures prescribed by the International Society of Arboriculture or the National Arbor Day Foundation.

<http://www.arborday.org/trees/index.cfm>

Project Sponsors and Endorsements

The local government or nonprofit representative **must** endorse the project. A signed grant agreement is required for all grant recipients.

Selection Committee

A grant selection committee will judge each application competitively on an objective and non-discriminatory basis. This committee will make the final determination of all grant awards.

Criteria

- Degree of environmental benefit to the community.
- Likelihood of project success.
- Degree to which the project is supported by local leaders.
- Degree to which volunteers are involved and how the project spurs community involvement.
- Degree to which the long-term care of the trees is demonstrated.
- Soundness of the project's financial plan.

Suggestions for Community and Volunteer Assistance

- Neighborhood associations
- Churches
- Civic and community groups
- Schools
- Environmental organizations
- Youth programs such as the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc.

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Grant Application

All applications must meet the following minimum standards to be considered for financial assistance:

- All answers must be clear and concise.
- Application must be complete.
- Application must include an itemized budget.
- Application must have a maximum size of 5 MB
- Optional, but helpful:
 - Pictures of proposed location.
 - Sketches or drawings of proposed project.

Make a copy of your application for your records before submission.

Application Deadline

The 2017 application period for the Good Roots program will last from March 3 to May 12, 2017.

Contract

Each grant recipient will be required to sign an agreement verifying there has been no change in the tax exempt status and the funds will be used exclusively to complete the project as outlined in the application. The funds may not be used to influence legislation, to influence the outcome of any elections, or to carry on a voter registration drive.

Completion Report

To be eligible for future funding, each recipient will be required to provide a written completion report with pictures to the Foundation. More information on the report will be provided to grant recipients upon award.

Please contact Alisa Summerville at 205-257-4722 or atsummer@southernco.com for more information on the Good Roots program.