

RBC Tech for Nature



Supporting new ideas, technologies, and partnerships to solve pressing environmental challenges.

The effects of climate change connect us all. Our shared future faces great challenges – from food security to air quality, from energy needs to access to clean water. There has never been a greater need for extraordinary solutions. There has never been more opportunity for leadership, collaboration, ingenuity, and vision.

RBC Tech for Nature is our commitment to innovation, data and technologies for our shared future. We work with partners to leverage technology and innovation capabilities to solve pressing environmental challenges. Our approach builds on the knowledge, expertise and network of partners resulting from our 10 year (2007-2017), \$50 million RBC Blue Water Project commitment. RBC Tech for Nature is also an important pillar of the RBC Climate Blueprint, our roadmap to accelerate clean economic growth.

Multi-Sectoral Approach

In order to positively influence our environment, we need to not only address the issues at hand, but how we plan on confronting them.

The most impactful programs often require multi-sector expertise which is why RBC's goal is to bring the right partners together to tackle these global challenges. The program aims to develop multi-sector partnerships to create positive progress.

Technology & the Environment

The pressing environmental challenges of today are growing at a rate that often outpaces the solutions designed to address them. We recognize that technology offers immense potential to develop innovative solutions that provide new pathways to address those challenges.

RBC is leveraging its technology capabilities in areas such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Blockchain, and app development to work with charitable partners to address water and climate challenges. We are actively seeking partners who share our vision and are pursuing technology based solutions.

Donations Approach

Our funding is supporting technology-driven programs in three key areas.

Data

Transforming the collection, accuracy and availability of environmental data; building tools to democratize information; enhancing predictive capabilities; to help people, communities and scientists make informed decisions.

Innovation Ecosystem

Fostering an innovation ecosystem of environmental entrepreneurs, ventures, and charities that are developing technology solutions to address environmental challenges.

Behavior Change

Using technology to create positive behavior change and increase environmental stewardship.

Project examples:

- *Technology platforms or apps to enable conservation or stewardship efforts*
- *Water or Environmental data hubs to house accurate, reliable, and trustworthy data for better decision making*
- *Digital tools used to predict extreme weather change to help communities better prepare for the impacts of climate change*
- *Technology based innovation challenges and competitions to find and scale innovative solutions to environmental challenges*
- *Citizen science projects that help residents become stewards of their local creeks, streams, ponds and wetlands and contribute to data collection*
- *Multi-sectoral partnerships that explore AI pathways to reduce emissions*
- *Digital tools that support remote communities in tackling environmental challenges*

Highlighted Partners



Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) is Canada's largest national land conservation organization. The support of the RBC Foundation is enabling the NCC to expand its Land Information System (LIS 2.0) with the right technology infrastructure to establish a spatial database where conservation data can be shared, analyzed and used by Canadian land trusts.



The Natural Step leads the Energy Futures Lab program, which is a multi-stakeholder initiative that develops technology-based, collaborative solutions to accelerate the transition to a sustainable energy system. RBC Foundation support is enabling partnerships and collaborations that leverage Artificial Intelligence to address climate challenges in the energy sector.



Swim Drink Fish Canada is a leading voice for swimmable, drinkable, fishable fresh water. RBC Foundation support led to the "Swim Guide" app, which helps people find beaches and check current water quality status, and is also contributing to the development of a database system to store citizen science data in an open platform.

RBC Foundation is now accepting applications until February 3rd, 2020.

Visit our website for more details on eligibility guidelines and to apply.

All applications are assessed using a risk-screen and due diligence check conducted by the RBC Foundation.

