

EarthShare Fiscal Sponsorship

Trusted support to scale your vision

EarthShare

Your Mission...
Supported by EarthShare

Bold solutions deserve a strong foundation. EarthShare Fiscal Sponsorship provides emerging and established environmental initiatives with the legal, financial, and administrative infrastructure they need to get going quickly and operate effectively, without the burden and delays that come with forming a new nonprofit.

We help innovative projects focus on what matters most: advancing environmental progress with integrity, transparency, and impact.



EarthShare

OUR VISION
Everyone takes action for a healthy planet.

OUR MISSION
EarthShare empowers people, nonprofits, and businesses with the inspiration and tools they need to build a more just and sustainable world. We do this by accelerating capital to environmental nonprofits and initiatives through our leadership in donor-advised funding, fiscal sponsorship, and workplace giving.

Our Theory of Change

A healthier planet depends not just on bold ideas, but on the collective infrastructure that sustains them. While priorities shift, durable systems for environmental giving and collaboration ensure that essential organizations can persist, adapt, and scale their lasting impact.

Through our core programs—Donor-Advised Fund, Fiscal Sponsorship, and Workplace & Corporate Giving—we help resources flow quickly, transparently, and strategically to where they're needed most.

HOW CHANGE HAPPENS...

1. **Mobilize Resources** | Simplify and expand access to environmental philanthropy through our mission-aligned DAF and Giving Platform.
2. **Empower Leaders** | Provide fiscal and operational infrastructure so changemakers can focus on solutions—not administration.
3. **Catalyze Collaboration** | Connect funders, companies, and nonprofits through shared systems and storytelling that build trust and amplify collective impact.
4. **Sustain the Movement** | Strengthen the ecosystem's backbone, so environmental action remains enduring, adaptive, and scalable.

...AND WHAT WE GET

↳ **A stronger, more connected, and better-resourced environmental movement—built to meet the planet's greatest challenges**

Why Fiscal Sponsorship?

EarthShare Fiscal Sponsorship lets environmental initiatives operate under our 501(c)(3), simplifying compliance and unlocking philanthropic funding requiring nonprofit status. It's one of the fastest ways to turn bold ideas into legally supported projects with real-world impact.

How It Works

1. **Apply to Join** | Projects undergo mission-alignment review and project activation process under our 501(c)(3).
2. **Fund & Operate** | We accept contributions on your behalf, manage restricted funds, and ensure reporting and compliance.
3. **Deliver & Grow** | You focus on program execution, with tools to monitor progress, build partnerships, and scale your impact.

Fiscal sponsorship can be structured in different ways depending on how governance, control, and liability are shared. The comparison below outlines the two most common models:

	Model A	Model C
Legal Structure	Sponsored project is not a separate legal entity	Sponsored project is a separate legal entity (e.g., LLC or nonprofit)
Tax Exempt Status	Uses sponsor's 501(c)(3) status	Uses its own legal entity but accepts donations via sponsor's 501(c)(3) status
Ownership of Funds	Funds are owned by sponsor	Funds are re-granted to project, which manages its own books
Governance/ Control	Sponsor has full control over operations, staff, and activities	Project maintains independent control; sponsor provides oversight
Employment & HR	Staff are employees of the sponsor	Staff are employees/ contractors of the project
Liability & Risk	Sponsor assumes all liability	Project assumes most liability; sponsor may still bear some
Reporting & Compliance	Sponsor handles all financial and compliance reporting	Project is responsible for its own operations; sponsor monitors compliance
Grant & Donation Management	Grants/donations go directly to sponsor	Grants/donations go to sponsor, then are regranted to the project
Best for...	New and experimental programs without infrastructure	Independent groups needing 501(c)(3) support for fundraising
Exit/Spin-off Flexibility	More complex separation; assets/staff are sponsor-owned	Easier to spin off since project is legally separate

What You Get with EarthShare

FAST ONBOARDING: We work quickly and efficiently so you can start focusing on your project work even sooner.

DEDICATED RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT: Projects receive relationship management support scaled to their scope and complexity.

FINANCIAL & ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT: Full-scale service includes donation management, financial reporting, payroll, vendor and bill payment, tax reporting, and donor receipting.

COMPLIANCE, LEGAL, & HR: Best practice compliance and support for contracts, grants, HR, insurance, and employee benefits for U.S. and international staff.

FUNDRAISING INFRASTRUCTURE: Strategic support for grant proposals, donor communications, and reporting to amplify your fundraising capacity.

RESPONSIBLE BANKING: Project funds are held by EarthShare with mission-aligned financial partners, so your money supports the planet while supporting your work.

COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANCE: Top-tier creative expertise to help you connect and engage with the audiences who matter most.

CREDIBILITY: Our long history of supporting environmental work helps your project gain recognition and trust.

Transparent, Competitive, and Mission-Driven

EarthShare Fiscal Sponsorship fees are intentionally structured to maximize impact—directing more resources to environmental solutions while providing the rigorous operational backbone needed for responsible stewardship.



EarthShare Provides...

- **Single, mission-aligned fee structure with no hidden surcharges**
- **Audit-ready accounting and grant compliance for restricted funds**
- **Real-time reporting to build funder confidence**
- **Secure financial systems that meet nonprofit standards**

Fee Structure

EarthShare applies an administrative fee ranging from 6-7% for Model C projects and 8-10% for Model A projects based on the program scope, budget, and level of services provided. A fee estimate will be determined early in the application process.

The EarthShare Difference

FOR MORE THAN 35 YEARS, EarthShare has powered environmental philanthropy, directing more than $500 million to organizations advancing climate progress, biodiversity, healthy communities, and more.

We've built trusted infrastructure that moves capital efficiently, compliantly, and transparently.

Progress depends on strong infrastructure. We ensure bold ideas are resourced efficiently, securely, and quickly.

With EarthShare Fiscal Sponsorship, founders and their funders gain:

- A proven 501(c)(3) partner dedicated exclusively to the environment
- Guardrails that enforce charitable purpose and accountability
- Fast deployment of capital into emerging solutions
- A community of partners advancing systemic environmental progress

Progress comes through collaboration. The challenges are immense, but so is our collective power!

Project Leaders, Collaboratives, Advisors & Foundations

Are Welcome

EarthShare Fiscal Sponsorship is designed for the full spectrum of environmental changemakers, from emerging initiatives and founders to established funders and multi-stakeholder collaboratives.

We provide the trusted infrastructure needed to:

- Move capital quickly into innovative solutions
- Support projects that don't yet have (or don't need) their own 501(c)(3)
- Reduce administrative overhead for funders, advisors, and partners
- Enable responsible experimentation, pilot programs, and pooled funds
- Maintain the compliance, reporting, and charitable purpose required for philanthropic investment

ONE legal entity. ONE fiscal home. SMARTER environmental progress.



Your Impact in Action

$500M+
mobilized for dedicated environmental causes

35+ Years
of trusted stewardship

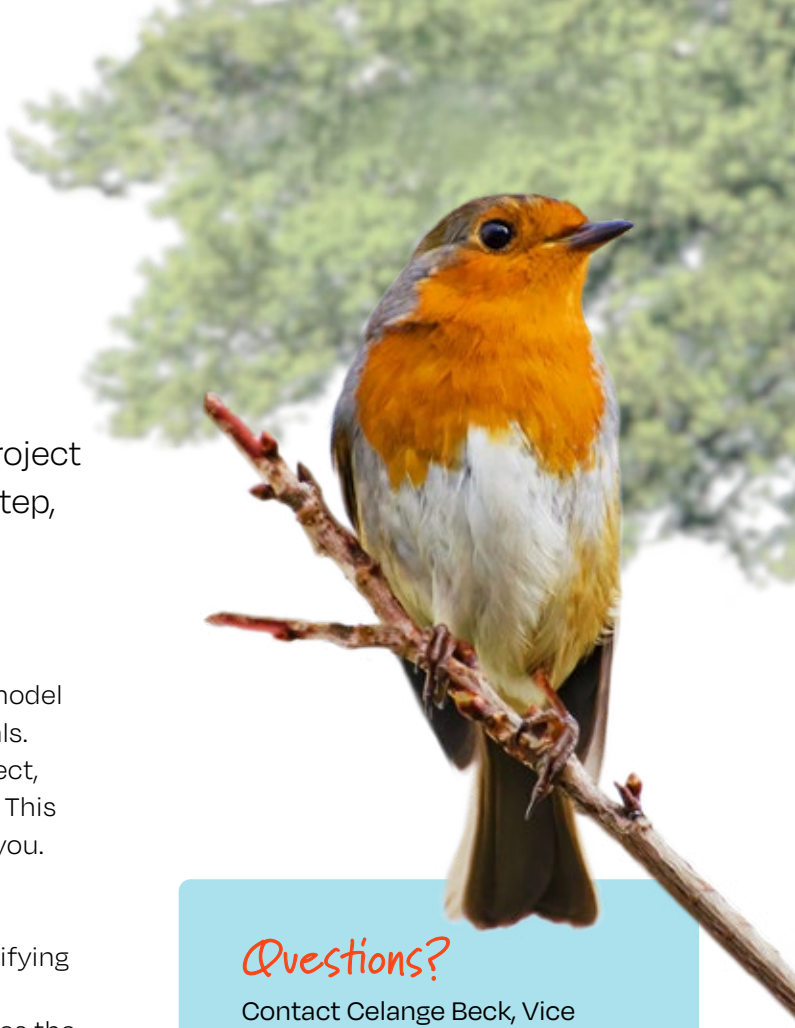
500+
vetted environmental organizations in the EarthShare Nonprofit Network

"Fiscal sponsorship can sometimes feel limiting, but our transition to EarthShare has been the opposite—the experience has exceeded our expectations in every way. EarthShare has been a true partner, actively supporting our growth and encouraging us to pursue innovative paths to impact"

– Paul M., Topo Finance (EarthShare Fiscal Sponsorship Project)

Getting Started with EarthShare *Fiscal Sponsorship*

Launching or transitioning a fiscally sponsored project isn't complicated. We'll guide you through each step, so you can move forward with confidence.



How to Get Started

1. **Explore fit:** Review the EarthShare Fiscal Sponsorship model and eligibility criteria to ensure alignment with your goals.
2. **Connect with our team:** Share an overview of your project, including your focus areas, stage, and near-term needs. This helps us understand how EarthShare can best support you.
3. **Align on structure and support:** We'll walk through governance, financial oversight, and operational considerations together—answering questions and clarifying expectations on both sides.
4. **Onboard and launch:** Once approved,* EarthShare handles the administrative and compliance infrastructure, allowing your project to focus on its mission under our 501(c)(3) status.

*All fiscal sponsorship arrangements are subject to EarthShare's final approval, applicable law, and compliance requirements, and are governed by a written fiscal sponsorship agreement.

Questions?

Contact Celange Beck, Vice President of Fiscal Sponsorship, to learn if EarthShare is right for your project.

EMAIL>>> celange@earthshare.org

FAQs at a Glance

WHAT IS FISCAL SPONSORSHIP?
Fiscal sponsorship is a legal and financial arrangement that allows a charitable project to operate under EarthShare's 501(c)(3). We manage contributions, issue tax receipts, oversee compliance, and steward funds restricted to your approved charitable purpose.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?
Environmental initiatives, climate solutions, research projects, collaboratives, convenings, public education efforts, field-building programs, and early-stage concepts aligned with EarthShare's mission and vision.

HOW QUICKLY CAN A PROJECT BEGIN?
Most projects can begin receiving tax-deductible contributions within weeks of approval, far faster than forming a new nonprofit.

ARE CONTRIBUTIONS TAX-DEDUCTIBLE?
Yes. EarthShare provides donors with charitable tax receipts for all eligible gifts.

DOES EARTHSHARE MANAGE THE FUNDS?
Yes. Restricted funds are held, tracked, and disbursed according to your approved budget and charitable scope. All activity is audit-ready and compliant with IRS regulations.

CAN PROJECTS SUBGRANT OR PARTNER WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS?
Yes. Under our fiscal sponsorship models, EarthShare may regrant funds to partner nonprofits or contractors when aligned with the project's approved charitable work.

IS THERE REPORTING?
Projects receive regular financial reports, with additional funder-grade reporting available as needed.

WHAT IF MY INITIATIVE GROWS INTO ITS OWN NONPROFIT?
We support spinouts, subject to approval and compliance requirements. EarthShare can help you transition when the time is right with records, compliance history, and financial documentation intact.

Together with our supporters, we are forging a path toward a world where every action counts...

and every individual has the power to make a difference.

EarthShare

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