



IMPACT CIRCLE PARTNER

Frequently Asked Questions

Is my donation to Sustainable Path tax deductible?

Yes. **SPF** is a non-profit organization exempt from federal taxes under U.S. Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). Contributions are tax deductible. Our tax id is 26-3039440.

How do you decide who gets the grants?

An SPF board or staff member who has been trained in facilitating the grant review process chairs each Impact Circle. SPF staff performs due diligence on each grant applicant. Only those organizations that meet our RFP criteria will be accepted for consideration. The Impact Circle Partners then evaluate these grant applications - by reviewing the proposals, researching, shared discussion and perhaps visiting the applicants - to narrow the applicants to the finalists. Then, we hold a meeting where the finalists give a short presentation. At that meeting, the Impact Circle Partners deliver a final decision by vote with each person having an equal voice of one vote.

When do you award the grants?

SPF sends each grantee a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) no later than 10 days after the Impact Circle Partners have voted. The grant award is mailed once we have the signed MOU. All grants are for a 12 month period.

What are my obligations if I join?

Our only requirement is a \$1,250 donation. \$1,000 is for the grant award pool and \$250 for administrative expenses. Of course, we hope you'll take the time to make an informed decision when you vote for a grant recipient. In addition, you have the option to serve on a seminar committee and/or participate in learning events. However, it is not a requirement.

How long is my partnership valid?

Each \$1,250 donation provides membership for the current grant cycle.

- For the spring of 2014 cycle, this is March 1 through April 30th, 2015.
- For the fall of 2014 cycle, this is September 1, 2014 through August 31, 2015.

Membership continues year-to-year as long as we receive your \$1,250 annual donation by the second meeting of the 2015 Impact Circle you wish to join.

I want to give more than \$1,250. Do I get more than one vote?

No. Every Impact Circle Partner gets one vote even if they give more than \$1,250. Any amount given over \$1,250 goes first to offset administrative costs. If we receive more money than we need to cover our administrative costs, our board of directors has the discretionary power to add that money to the grant fund pool for your Impact Circle.

If you choose to participate in another Impact Circle in the fall of 2014, a new contribution of \$1,000 is required for the fall grant cycle.

Can I pay my \$1,250 over time?

No. All Impact Circle Partners must have made their donation by the end of the second (2nd) meeting of the Impact Circle. We ask this in order to keep our administrative costs as low as possible.

Can I contribute publicly traded stock to cover my \$1,250?

Yes. We sell the shares as soon as possible after transfer to **Sustainable Path**. The net proceeds must equal or exceed \$1,250 (which means you'll need to cover all sales commissions and expenses).

Can I make an in-kind donation of services or products to cover my \$1,250 donation?

No. We do accept in-kind donations to offset our administrative costs, but we don't accept these donations to cover the \$1,250 Impact Circle Partner contribution.

If I'm unable to attend and vote, can I still cast my vote?

Yes. Although we strongly encourage attendance, you can vote by absentee ballot. Prior to the meeting where the grantee finalists will make their presentation, you will receive an absentee ballot and instructions on how to cast your vote before the meeting if you're unable to attend.

My company matches funds for charitable donations. Can I give \$625 and have my company match it to make my total \$1,250 donation?

Yes. Please contact us for more details.