



A. Gift Acceptance

The Ecology School's mission is to inspire stewardship of and connection to the natural world through experiential learning in ecology, conservation, farming and sustainability. We solicit gifts from individuals, companies and foundations that are supportive of this mission. The Ecology School does adhere to the Donor Bill of Rights ([linked here](#)). We do not endorse any company, product or service, and no donors receive any goods or services in exchange for gifts to The Ecology School. We welcome contributions from businesses and individuals that are supportive of our work in education, conservation, science and sustainability and our program and organizational integrity is not influenced by contributions. The Ecology School actively solicits gifts and grants to further the mission of the organization. There is a potential that the acceptance of certain gifts could compromise the ability of the organization to accomplish its goals or could jeopardize its tax-exempt status. Hence, the following gift acceptance policy applies:

- 1) The Chief Executive Officer of Ecology Education, Inc., the Board of Directors, and under guidance the Development Director or designees have the authority to solicit and/or accept gifts on behalf of Ecology Education, Inc.
- 2) Ecology Education, Inc.'s responsibility is to productively pursue gifts that will further the organization's mission, goals and objectives. The primary consideration in the pursuit of gifts is how they can benefit the organization in the most ethical and unencumbered manner. To that end the following criteria must be considered:
 - a. **Source of Gift:** Who is the donor? Is the gift from an individual or corporation? Might the donor's objectives not fit with the mission of the organization?
 - b. **Conflict of Interest:** Does the donor represent a conflict of interest or a perceived conflict of interest?
 - c. **Motivation:** Is there clear charitable intent and a commitment to the organization?
 - d. **Compatibility of Cause:** Will the gift unnecessarily challenge the organization's ability to further its mission, goals, and objectives?
 - e. **Public Relations:** Does the acceptance of the gift present the organization in an unfavorable light? Does it appear that there may exist a conflict of interest between the donor and the organization?
 - f. **Consistency:** Will the acceptance of the gift be compatible and in agreement with other fundraising activities or gifts of the organization?
 - g. **Form of Gift:** Will the nature of the in-kind contribution create problems, such as in advertising or sponsorship?
 - h. **Public Relations:** Does the acceptance of the gift present the organization in an unfavorable light? Does it appear that there may exist a conflict of interest between the donor and the organization?
 - i. **Organizational Stability:** If controversy develops, will it be significant enough to weaken the structure of the organization?

B. Sponsorship and Endorsements

Ecology Education, Inc. will not solicit or accept gifts from individuals, corporations, or entities whose practices, policies, or operations are deemed unacceptable and contrary to the values implicit in its mission. The organization will not accept any corporate gifts that require the organization to actively promote the corporate donor or any of its products.