

Charity of Choice Policy

Policy Name	WEF Charity of Choice Policy
Policy Category	Mission
Policy Number	2017-001
Policy Origination and Review Dates	September, 2017; July, 2020; April, 2021; June, 2025
Requirements	Not required to comply with federal or state statutes
Review Cycle	5 years or earlier if needed
Legal Review Required	No

A. General Policy Statement

Water Environment Federation (WEF) may designate organizations as a WEF Charity of Choice upon WEF Board of Trustees (Board) authorization. A WEF Charity of Choice: 1) may be recommended to others that are seeking to make a charitable donation (*in-kind or financial*) 2) may be considered for charitable donation from WEF, as outlined later in this policy. The purpose of this policy is to:

- Define WEF’s overall approach and framework to designate entities as a WEF Charity of Choice;
- Align WEF’s Charity of Choice designations with WEF’s mission, vision, and strategic goals; and
- Define the kinds of organizations and/or programs/projects that WEF may consider for designation as a WEF Charity of Choice.

WEF Charity of Choice affiliations:

- Bring awareness to unique opportunities to volunteer time and expertise;
- Connect like-minded professionals;
- Increase awareness of the impact of water;
- Increase opportunities to experience the value of water first-hand; and
- Support work that helps create a healthy global water environment

B. Nature of WEF’s Support for Charities of Choice

WEF Charity of Choice affiliations receive acknowledgement and visibility on WEF’s website and are authorized to utilize WEF’s Logo for purposes related to the WEF Charity of Choice designation. If the Board authorizes other support for a WEF Charity of Choice, it can take the form of *in-kind* or financial donations taking into consideration WEF's desire, available

resources, and ability to provide support. As a not-for profit, WEF's donations are most often made in-kind.

C. Evaluation Criteria

To be considered by the Board for designation as a WEF Charity of Choice, an organization, program, and/or project is evaluated on the following:

- The scale, impact, and values (*national/international vs. local, for example*) and how they align with WEF's mission, vision, strategic goals, and values;
- Verified affiliation as or with a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, a registered charity under the Income Tax Act of Canada, or the equivalent in other countries; and
- Demonstrated transparency in accounting practices.
- Opportunities for WEF members to be actively involved as volunteers in efforts that are intended to enhance or preserve the water environment, protect public health and/or improve conditions in communities.

Organizations, projects or programs that exhibit the following are not eligible for designation as a WEF Charity of Choice:

- Discrimination based on age, sex, race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability or any other protected classification with respect to employment, volunteer participation, or the provision of services.
- Specifically supports political candidates.

D. Recommendations for WEF Charity of Choice Designation

The Board has authority to designate WEF Charity of Choice affiliations independently, or through authorization of a recommendation for a WEF Charity of Choice designation from a designated group(s)(staff or volunteer), serving in an advisory capacity to the Board for WEF Charity of Choice designations. A recommendation to the Board for a WEF Charity of Choice designation must include: 1) details on the evaluation of the organization, project, or program, as outlined earlier in this policy, and 2) a summary of WEF support proposed for the organization (*support should be equitable compared to the support WEF provides to other WEF Charities of Choice*). Any recommendations must be reviewed by WEF's Executive Director, or their designee, prior to presenting the recommendation for Board consideration. Designations are reviewed no less than every three years to reconfirm the organization continues to meet criteria to remain a WEF Charity of Choice.