

Local Innovation Funds

In a 2013 USDN survey, 19 cities in the United States and Canada indicated they have established or were in the process of creating a local innovation fund.

At least five funds are up and running:

Denver's Environmental Capital Fund

Ft. Collins' Municipal Sustainability Innovation Fund

Portland OR's Innovation Fund

San Francisco's Carbon Fund

Washington D.C.'s Green Building Fund

Follow-up research gathered details on these funds and identified:

- **Different purposes** — to support carbon mitigation by businesses, community-based organizations, and neighborhood schools; to support innovative building practices; to support improvements to the city's physical plant and operational procedures; or to support sustainability projects or innovative projects unable to receive funding elsewhere.
- **Different levels of funding** — \$100,000 annually, \$1 million, or "varies by year."
- **Different sources of funding** — usually involve funding set aside from a city government revenue stream such as user fees (e.g., building permitting); also may come from city's general fund budget; could involve leveraging local philanthropic funding.

If you're interested in developing a USDN session to learn about the design, capitalization, and use of local innovation funds, please contact USDN Managing Director [Nils Moe](#).