

American Society for Environmental History (ASEH)

Donation Policy for External Organizations

Background

Founded in 1977, the ASEH is a non-profit, scholarly society that promotes research, discussion, writing, teaching, and educational exhibits in the field of environmental history. Through these activities, it strives to increase understanding of the important role played by the environment throughout human history, from the earliest period to the crucial issues of our own time. Although ASEH members analyze and discuss many historical topics, the Society does not advocate specific environmental or social justice goals. Its membership is interdisciplinary and international, and its journal, *Environmental History*, published by Oxford University Press, is read around the world. It organizes an annual conference and maintains several programs for awards, fellowships, career development, and travel grants. Today, the ASEH is one of the foremost scholarly voices in its field.

As interest in environmental history grows and the ASEH expands, we seek support to increase the Society's capability to recognize contributions to environmental history, engage in various projects, support necessary travel, and generally to promote environmental history both within academic institutions and among the general public. We believe that external organizations—including various corporations, public sector agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and charities—may find the ASEH's mission appealing and compatible with their objectives. To help in developing a funding arrangement between the ASEH and external organizations, the following policy has been drafted. This policy statement does not apply to individuals.

Policy

1. The ASEH will conduct its fund-raising efforts professionally and ethically and expects the external donor organization (hereinafter "donor") to reciprocate in kind.
2. Except for unrestricted donations, the donor and the ASEH will agree in writing on the purpose and financial amount of any significant donation and, if applicable, the schedule of payments. The Executive Committee of the ASEH must by majority vote approve the arrangement. The written arrangement, once approved, can be modified only with the approval of both parties.
3. In the case of unrestricted donations from donors, no written arrangement is necessary, but the Executive Committee of the ASEH must approve by majority vote all significant proposed donations for their consistency with ASEH's missions and objectives.
4. The ASEH president and/or Executive Director will determine which donations are significant enough to merit review and approval by the Executive Committee.
5. Unless the donor wishes otherwise, the ASEH will gratefully acknowledge in public the donor's support.

6. The ASEH and the donor agree that acceptance of a donation does not indicate either endorsement or disapproval of specific programs, projects, and policies of either party. Neither party will attempt to influence the other's activities except to clarify matters relating to a donation.
7. In the case of ASEH awards for whatever purpose, the ASEH retains sole control over both the awards process and final choice of recipient regardless of extent of outside financial support.
8. ASEH Executive Committee members who have a serious financial relationship with a donor will recuse themselves from any Executive Committee vote related to the ASEH's relationship with the donor. In general, "serious financial relationship" means service (past or present) on a donor's executive board, present employees of the donor, or present consultants and contractors working for the donor.
9. ASEH will attempt to promote a well-balanced portfolio of donors in order to eliminate any suspicion that its activities are unduly influenced or funded by one or two donors.
10. The Local Arrangements Committee for the annual conference will confer with the executive director regarding potential conference sponsors.
11. ASEH will post its Donations Policy on its website.