



Bioregional Financing Facilities

Reimagining Finance to Regenerate Our Planet

Case Study 8: The Edge Prize



BioFi Project



Capital Systems



BUCKMINSTER
FULLER INSTITUTE

The Edge Prize – Scaling What’s Possible by Supporting and Connecting Regenerative Innovators

By: Edward West

About the Edge Prize

The Edge Prize, represents a new methodology for growing a bioregional community by hosting a distributed online accelerator and prize challenge. The goals of The Edge Prize methodology are to:

- Convene a group of extraordinary entrepreneurs, leaders, and innovators throughout a bioregion working on regenerative projects that benefit the lands, waters, and people of the bioregion — “The Edgewalkers.”
- Invite them into a supportive community of reciprocity, mentorship, workshops, and collaboration.
- Amplify their stories, in order to bring resources, collaboration, partnerships, and inspire others to start their own regenerative initiatives — in their bioregion and beyond.
- Build from these stories a public-facing library of “what’s working” to help scale and accelerate regenerative practices worldwide.

Benefiting communities and ecosystems

The inaugural Edge Prize, piloted in Salmon Nation in 2023, was created by Applied Alchemy and the Terran Collective, and sponsored by Salmon Nation Trust and the Magic Canoe. The 2023 Edge Prize invited individuals and organizations doing something that benefits their community and surrounding ecosystems, offering dozens of cash prizes ranging from \$500 to \$20,000. Individuals and organizations stewarding projects in areas as diverse as Food and Agriculture, Health, Culture and Education, Water, Energy, Community Finance and Development, Ecosystem Restoration, or Governance sectors were invited to apply, attracting a diverse and accomplished collection of 130 leaders and entrepreneurs throughout Salmon Nation.

Overall, USD 80,000 was distributed to deserving impactful projects in the Salmon Nation bioregion, with USD 60,000 of that allocated by the community themselves in a participatory funding process that supported all participating Edgewalkers in getting to know each other’s work.

All applicants were invited to create a brief written description of their work, as well as a short video describing it. These submissions formed the basis of a public open-source library of bioregional solutions. Applicants, along with subject matter experts, voted to allocate the prize money to the most compelling entries.

Applicants were also invited into an online community, encouraged to discover and learn about

each other's work, and given access to capacity-building support from mentors and subject matter experts. The overall structure and format of the Edge Prize encouraged Edgewalkers to collaborate with each other, leading to numerous self-organizing partnerships during the program. In one example, two Edgewalkers partnered to convene the first Edge Prize-inspired event series and movement-building strategy: Regenerate Cascadia. The Edge Prize concept is a template for a broader, open-source movement to catalyze critical regenerative innovation in bioregions globally, fitting into a template of bioregional transformation on an evolutionary trajectory toward regenerative innovation.

This Case Study on **The Edge Prize** is an Excerpt from the book **Bioregional Financing Facilities: Reimagining Finance to Regenerate Our Planet**, by Samantha Power and Leon Seefeld. To see other case studies, or to buy or download the book, visit www.biofi.earth.

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