

Bloomberg Philanthropies Youth Climate Action Fund

PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND CHARTER

The opportunity

Mayors are the first and last mile of the climate crisis, tackling emergencies and trialing interventions from the frontlines. Over the last decade, local governments have played a critical role in climate mitigation and adaptation, and many cities are reducing per capita emissions faster than their national governments. But the most impactful solutions will be those that we design not just for – but also with – communities.

Urbanization is rapidly accelerating – more than half of the world’s population lives in cities and 60 percent of these residents are expected to be under 18 years old by 2030.

60 percent of youth cite climate as a top concern, 75 percent report being frightened by the future, and more than 60 percent say that government is not doing enough to avoid climate catastrophe or take their concerns seriously. To ignite the climate action that we need in order to advance local – and global – progress, young residents must have a seat at the table.

The program

The Bloomberg Philanthropies Youth Climate Action Fund will provide technical assistance and funding to support up to 150 cities worldwide in engaging tens of thousands of youth aged 15 to 24 in designing, producing, and overseeing urgent climate solutions, from tree-planting to policy making.

Microgrant-funded efforts, proposed by youth and selected by cities, are expected to ignite awareness and action in communities to advance climate goals as critical as meeting decarbonization and reducing consumption-based emissions.

Powered by United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and the Bloomberg Center for Public Innovation (BCPI) at Johns Hopkins University, the Bloomberg Philanthropies Youth Climate Action Fund will help cities rapidly learn and implement cutting-edge resident engagement approaches to holistically partner with their young residents to propose, launch, and celebrate a wide range of climate-focused projects.

Benefits for Cities

The Bloomberg Philanthropies Youth Climate Action fund will provide up to 150 cities with the following benefits:

- Initial grant funding of US\$50,000* in spring 2024 to rapidly launch and support youth-led climate projects over 6 months through the local distribution of US\$1,000-US\$5,000 microgrants, with up 20% of funds made available for use by the city to cover a portion of administrative costs for running the Youth Climate Action Fund program.

- Expertise and technical assistance on community engagement delivered virtually through webinars, coaching calls, and office hours hosted by the Bloomberg Center for Public Innovation (BCPI) at Johns Hopkins University.
- Cities that commit the initial US\$50,000 within 6 months will receive a further US\$100,000* to distribute to additional local youth-led climate projects over 12 more months.

* All grants are subject to vetting and pre-approval by relevant fiscal sponsor(s), as well as applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

City Responsibilities

The Bloomberg Philanthropies Youth Climate Action Fund will help cities to deeply partner with youth as co-designers, co-creators, and co-governors of climate-focused projects, moving beyond simply getting feedback from youth on city-proposed climate projects.

Here is what participating cities will do to bring their local Youth Climate Action Fund programs to life:

- Establish the city's Youth Climate Action Project team.
- Create an application process to identify, select and fund youth-led microgrant climate projects that are aligned with the city's top climate challenges.
- Promote the application widely, starting with a call to action from the mayor, to ensure that youth-led organizations from across the city are proposing projects that they want to bring to life with support from the City's Youth Climate Action Fund program.
- Select winners and provide funding to selected projects. Eligible expenses include, for example, supplies for mitigation projects (shovels, paint, plants, etc.); funds to enable youth to participate (bus fare, per diem for food, gift cards for participation, etc.); adult project sponsorship from local NGOs, civic groups, neighborhood clubs, school administrators, etc..
- Collaborate with organizations to track project progress through at least one output and one outcome (where an output indicates work in progress, and an outcome demonstrates the impact).
- After completing microgrant projects and collecting metrics, share outcome data with youth participants. Encourage discussions on lessons learned, improvements for future endeavors, and the sharing of impactful stories.
- Engage other city leaders, relevant municipal agencies, and essential community partners in disseminating the project's results to the broader resident community. This may involve publishing blog posts on the city's website, leveraging social media platforms, and collaborating with local media to share and celebrate achievements.

Below are some illustrative youth community projects that the Youth Climate Action Fund could support. These examples show what is possible, but we are also open to new projects that young residents might propose.

Awareness, Education, Research, Co-Development Initiatives

- Youth Climate Advisory Boards: Establish advisory boards composed of young people to work alongside city officials in designing and refining climate policies and programs**, ensuring that they reflect the needs and perspectives of youth.
- Youth-Led Climate Education Programs: Develop educational initiatives led by young people that target local schools and communities to increase awareness and understanding of climate issues.
- Youth Climate Hackathons: Organize hackathons where young tech-savvy individuals can create innovative solutions and apps to address climate challenges in the city.
- Youth-Led Climate Surveys and Research: Engage youth in conducting surveys and research on local climate impacts, helping to gather valuable data for decision-making.
- Youth-Designed Public Art and Awareness Campaigns: Encourage young artists to create public art installations and awareness campaigns that convey the urgency of climate action and the city's goals.

Launching Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Initiatives

- Community Gardens, Tree Plantings, and Urban Farming: Support youth-led initiatives to create community gardens, green rooftops, and urban farming projects to promote sustainable food production and reduce carbon emissions.
- Youth-Managed Recycling and Waste Reduction Programs: Empower young people to lead efforts in recycling, waste reduction, and upcycling programs, making communities more environmentally friendly.
- Green Transportation Initiatives / Designing Streets with Kids: Encourage youth to propose and implement bicycle-sharing programs, pedestrian-friendly initiatives, and electric vehicle charging stations to reduce reliance on fossil fuels.
- Youth-Led Reforestation and Tree-Planting Campaigns: Mobilize young volunteers to plant trees, improve urban green spaces, and increase urban canopy coverage for better air quality and climate resilience.

- Climate Resilience Workshops and Disaster Preparedness: Youth groups can organize workshops and training sessions on disaster preparedness, climate resilience, and community-based responses to extreme weather events.

Involvement in Governance of Local Climate Action Plans

- Youth Climate Participatory Budgeting: Establish dedicated resources for young residents to allocate annually toward climate priorities set by cities for programs created by youth.
- Youth Climate Ambassadors: Designate youth climate ambassadors to represent young people's perspectives in city council meetings**, climate task forces, and public consultations.
- Youth-Hosted Climate Town Halls: Organize town hall meetings moderated by youth leaders where community members can discuss climate-related concerns and ideas for solutions.
- Youth Climate Data Monitoring: Develop apps or youth citizen science platforms for tracking and reporting on local climate data, helping authorities make informed decisions and involving young people in data-driven governance.
- Youth-Created Climate Action Plans: Encourage youth teams to develop their own climate action plans for their communities, which can be integrated into the city's broader strategy.

** Grant funds must not be used to conduct legislative advocacy nor lobbying.

APPLICATION PREVIEW

To be selected for the Bloomberg Philanthropies Youth Climate Action Fund, all cities must submit an online application and accompanying Mayor's Pledge. Below is a preview of the questions that cities will be asked to complete online to be considered for the Bloomberg Philanthropies Youth Climate Action Fund.

Additionally, all city selection and funding decisions are subject to vetting and pre-approval by relevant fiscal sponsor(s), as well as applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

1. Please provide the following basic information:
 - a. City Name
 - b. State Name (if applicable)
 - c. Country Name
 - d. Mayor's Name
 - e. Mayor's Email
 - f. Mayor's Preferred Phone Number
 - g. Mayoral Term Start Date
 - h. Mayoral Term End Date
 - i. Applicant's Name (if not mayor)
 - j. Applicant's Email (if not mayor)
 - k. Confirmation that Applicant is authorized to submit application on behalf of city
 - i. Select One: YES NO
 - l. Preferred Language (English, Spanish, or French)
 - m. City Population
 - n. City Social Media Accounts
2. Briefly describe the key impacts of climate change that your city is already facing and/or could face in the future.
3. Please provide a publicly accessible link to your city's climate action plan.
4. Describe 2-3 youth-led or youth-focused climate projects that you would be excited to support with a microgrant through this program. Other than providing funding, how might your city support these projects (i.e., by making available additional tools or equipment to youth volunteers, expediting permitting for mural projects, or by joining in to add additional staffing capacity, etc.).
5. Please name the city staff member who will be responsible for implementing your city's Youth Climate Action Fund program, and provide:
 - a. First Name and Last Name
 - b. Title and City Department
 - c. Email
 - d. Preferred Phone Number
 - e. A brief description of their role

- f. Confirmation that they will participate in all required webinars and coaching calls hosted by the Bloomberg Philanthropies Youth Climate Action Fund.
 - i. Select One: YES NO
- g. Confirmation that they, on behalf of your city, will manage (or coordinate the management of) the city's Youth Climate Action Fund project – soliciting and selecting youth-led or youth-focused climate projects, collecting and elevating stories of success to Bloomberg Philanthropies and its partners, and completing periodic financial and impact reporting.
 - i. Select One: YES NO

MAYOR'S PLEDGE

For the Youth Climate Action Fund to be successful, the initiative must be driven by the city. To complete your city's application to the Youth Climate Action Fund, each mayor should sign to commit to the following values and principles:

- I joined the Local Climate Action Summit at COP28 UAE and/or I am committed to administering this youth-led climate action program in a way that is consistent with my city's climate plan.
- I feel the urgency of this moment and I am excited to be part of a cohort of global cities deploying microgrants to innovative youth engagement projects across my community within 6 months.
- I can dedicate staff to launching and monitoring youth-led climate-focused microgrants, to participating in mandatory virtual technical assistance programming, and to sharing updates, impacts, and stories from the ground with Youth Climate Action Fund partners.

Mayor's signature:

Date: