

La Crosse Youth Climate Action Fund Program Results

2024 - 2025



Youth Climate Action Fund Global Reach & Impact

Three Focus Areas of the Youth Climate Action Fund

1 Government Innovation

2 Climate Change

3 Young People



La Crosse students install a rain garden at their school to help mitigate stormwater runoff



Global Program Impact

Youth Climate Action Fund Global Reach & Impact

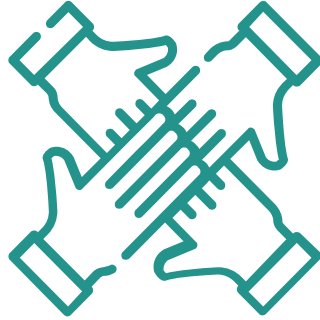
Program Highlights Around the World

98

cities
participated

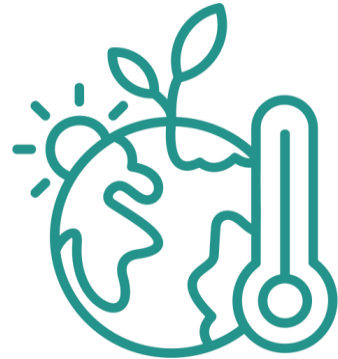
10,000

young people
(age 15–24) led local
climate projects



38

countries were
represented



3,000

projects funded by
city microgrants



\$11.3M

total funding (USD) disbursed
globally by cities

average microgrant
award (USD) was

\$3,800

Program Highlights and Results in La Crosse

Highlights from the Youth Climate Action Fund in La Crosse

Youth produce a documentary on what climate action means to local community members



Youth reuse clothing waste to create and donate home insulation materials



A youth team plants a pollinator garden full of native plant species

La Crosse Youth Climate Action Fund Outputs

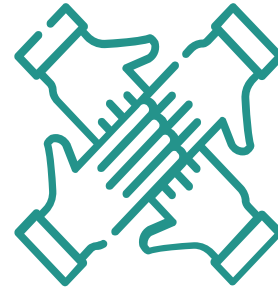
4

Projects on
Community
Engagement and
Partnerships

YOUTH-LED PROJECTS

39

Youth leading
local projects
and events



29

Youth-led projects
focused on
climate action



\$150,000

Funding (USD) for local
youth-led projects

Average microgrant
award (USD) was

\$4,330



Project Highlight

Scraps to Soil

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Youth conducted community outreach and led a hands-on composting workshop to show residents how they can divert food waste from landfills where it breaks down and releases methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. **Through hands-on training, youth helped residents build practical composting skills and shift their view of food waste from garbage to a valuable resource**, fostering lasting behavior change and building a community-driven model for sustainable waste management.

PROJECT IMPACT

\$4,900

Microgrant Award

5

Youth Participants

30

**Composting bins
distributed**

1

**Composting
workshop held**

Project Highlight

Roots & Rise: A Youth Pocket Forest

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Youth planted dense clusters of native trees in an underused space at Summit Environmental Elementary School using a method that helps trees grow quickly and become self-sustaining within two years. The newly planted trees and shrubbery **restored local plant and animal life, cooled the surrounding area, and improved air and soil quality.** It also **created a hands-on outdoor classroom** for students to learn outside and deepen their connections to nature.

PROJECT IMPACT

\$5,000

Microgrant Award

13

Youth Participants

200

**Plants, trees &
shrubs planted**

303

**Elementary students
engaged**

Project Highlight

EBT, Double Dollars and Youth Vendors for Farmers Market

ABOUT THE PROJECT

In partnerships with the La Crosse Farmers Market Association, youth served as vendors at the La Crosse Farmers Market, **launching small businesses that accept and support EBT and Double Dollars—a fund match program for low-income families to increase their access to fresh, local food.** The project expanded all residents' access to nutritious, affordable food and promoted a more resilient, community-driven food system.

PROJECT IMPACT

\$2,705

Microgrant Award

27

Youth Participants

10 first-time youth producers

75 youth market hours

\$1,500 worth of produce distributed through match program

Youth Climate Action Fund Impact in La Crosse



“Through the Youth Climate Action Fund, **I was able to make an impact in my city.**”

— **La Crosse Youth Microgrant Participant**



“The most meaningful outcome for La Crosse's participation in the Youth Climate Action Fund has been **the connections we've made with youth-centered organizations and identifying small parts of our plan that youth can build on.**”

— **Shaundel Washington-Spivey, Mayor**



Key Learnings Across Cities

Key Learnings Across Cities

Insights from our city and others participating in the Youth Climate Action Fund

Young people deliver when given responsibility

Across cities participating in the Youth Climate Action Fund, this work demonstrates that young people are effective organizers, communicators, and problem-solvers when they are trusted with responsibility, resourced appropriately, and given space to lead.

Collaboration is shifting how cities work

Cities are embedding youth voice in decision-making, expanding pathways for youth leadership, and showing that small, targeted grants can help catalyze broader, longer-term change.

Co-creation strengthens outcomes and ownership

By designing projects with young people, our city and others are seeing more creative and relevant climate solutions, along with stronger ties between local government, youth, and communities.

Partnerships amplify impact

Cities have built new cross-sector partnerships spanning schools, youth organizations, NGOs, universities, and local government, strengthening relationships that extend beyond individual projects and support sustained impact.

YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION FUND

Supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies

