

Youth Climate Action Fund Micro-Grant Program - Application Guide

New Westminster is one of 100 cities around the globe and one of 6 Canadian cities that will receive \$50,000 USD in initial funding and technical assistance to spur youth-driven climate action to develop innovative projects and solutions to address climate change locally. The Youth Climate Action Fund can truly support young people to make a difference in our community and tackle pressing environmental challenges.

What is the Youth Climate Action Fund?

It's an opportunity fueled by Bloomberg Philanthropies that allows the City of New Westminster to fund micro-grants to rapidly launch and support youth-led climate initiatives. Youth between ages 15-24 or youth serving organizations in the city can apply for funds between **\$1000 and \$6,800** for a project to help facilitate climate action within our city. [Click Here to check out more about BLOOMBERG Youth Climate Fund](#)

Who can apply?

Youth between the ages of 15 and 24 who are connected to a youth-serving organization (e.g. school, community center, not-for-profit organizations, or registered charitable organizations) The youth-serving organization has to be able to accept grant funds.

If you do not have a sponsor organization, we can help you find a community partner. Please reach out before proceeding.

Can one organization get more than one grant?

Sponsor organizations can support more than one project/application, if the projects are different.

What can the funds be used for in this project?

Funds may be used to cover all project related expenses such as project supplies and materials, equipment or event space rental or costs, and community outreach activities.

What can the funds NOT be used for in this project?

The following are examples of areas that are ineligible for funds:

- Services covered by existing city initiatives,
- Non-youth speaker honorariums
- Partisan political organizations, political candidates or fundraisers
- Ongoing operating expenses
- Expenses that were spent before funding was awarded
- Non-profit/NGO incorporation fees
- Rent and utilities
- Profit-generating activities
- Direct support to individuals or families
- Scholarships, prizes, and gifts
- Paying down debt

- Endowments and/or capital expenses such as new construction or the purchase of major equipment

When should my project start?

Your project should commence once you receive the funds, sometime in **August or September 2024**. Project must conclude **no later than December 2024**.

Projects can be single events or can run the entire period of funding August – December

Important Dates

Application Release Date	June 1, 2024
Applications close	July 14, 2024, 11:59PM
Awardees Announcement	Early to mid August
Mid-term reports due	End of September - early October
Projects must be completed and funds spent by	December 31, 2024
Final reports due	January 31, 2025

Examples of eligible projects:

The projects summarized below are for guidance and inspiration. Youth are encouraged to propose new, innovative, and creative climate change focused ideas for funding.

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.