

Youth Climate Action Fund Micro-Grant Program

About the Youth Climate Action Fund

The Youth Climate Action Fund (YCAF) is a new opportunity to fund creative and innovative ideas to tackle climate change at the local level. This funding is made possible through a grant from Bloomberg Philanthropies. Through the YCAF, youth-led and youth-serving organizations and groups can receive up to \$6,500 to support actions that focus on environmental issues in our communities. From renewable energy initiatives to sustainable transportation projects and educational campaigns, YCAF will harness the passion, voices and actions of youth and support them to lead projects that are working towards a more resilient Guelph. The City of Guelph's YCAF has been designed to meet the [2024-2027 Future Guelph strategic plan](#) environmental focus to be a leader in climate action and to empower the community to help create a sustainable city. This funding is open to groups of youth age 15-24, no previous grant writing experience is required!

Eligibility

YCAF micro-grants are available for projects that request a minimum of \$1,500 and a maximum of \$6,500. Projects must take place in Guelph and must be led-by and serving Guelph's youth residents. YCAF cannot fund existing projects, proposed projects must be new.

Who can apply?

Applications are open to:

- Groups of two or more people can apply through a fiscal sponsor (a school or neighbourhood group with a bank account that can receive and manage the funds)
- Not-for-profit organizations or registered charitable organizations

Who cannot apply?

- For-profit businesses
- Individuals

What can the grant funding be used for?

Awarded funds must be used before December 31, 2024. Eligible costs include typical costs for community projects such as:

- Equipment or event space rental or costs
- Refreshments
- Supplies and materials to be used for the proposed project
- Professional fees

What can grant funds not be used for?

- Ongoing operating expenses
- Expenses that were spent before funding was awarded
- Non-profit/NGO incorporation fees

- Rent and utilities
- Speaker honorariums
- Single-use plastic items
- Fundraising events
- Profit-generating activities
- Direct support to individuals or families
- Scholarships, prizes, and gifts
- Memberships, conferences, and travel fees
- Partisan political organizations and political candidates
- Improvement projects primarily serving religious organizations
- Paying down debt
- Endowments and/or capital expenses such as new construction or the purchase of major equipment
- Activities that do not comply with City of Guelph regulations or by-laws

When are applications due?

Applications may be submitted using the online form from Wednesday May 8, 2024 to Friday July 5, 2024 at 4 p.m. EST.

How will applications be reviewed?

Applications are reviewed by a grant review committee and scored using selection criteria that include representation from equity-deserving youth, youth leadership, connection to City of Guelph climate change goals, feasibility of the project, and impact on the community. Application review will occur July-August 2024. All applicants will be notified about the status of their application in late August 2024.

How will applications be accepted?

Applications can be submitted using an online application available at guelph.ca/ycaf. Paper copies of applications and additional assistance is available by contacting communityinvestment@guelph.ca or 519-822-1260 extension 3967 before July 3, 2024.

Application Questions

Part 1: Applicant(s) information

Question 1-8: Applicant name, phone number, email address, and website address (if applicable).

You will be asked the name and contact details for the signing authority of the organizations where funds will be sent, if selected.

Question 9: Which of the following statements apply to your application?

- The project is led-by youth age 15-24
- The project will serve youth age 15-24

You must identify the role that youth have in the proposed project. Youth-led refers to youth being involved in the leadership and decision making related to the project. Youth-serving refers to a project with a target audience that is youth.

Question 10: How will youth from Black, Indigenous, Racialized and other equity-deserving communities be involved in your project? (150-word limit)

Tell us if you have given any consideration to equity for your project and how. Also, tell us if youth who identify as Black, Indigenous, Racialized, or as a member of equity-deserving group will be involved in this project and how. Equity-deserving groups or communities is a term that includes groups who experience oppression that can take on many forms including sexism, racism, and ableism.

Part 2: Project Information

The YCAF has been designed to meet the 2024-2027 Future Guelph strategic plan environmental focus to be a leader in climate action and to empower the community to help create a sustainable city.

Question 11: Select the focus of your proposed project:

- Climate mitigation or adaptation projects
- Educational initiatives that raise awareness about climate change
- Community participation in local climate action planning

You must select one focus area for your proposed project. Select the project's primary focus area and use the project description (question 16) if there is a need to explain how the projects may meet more than one focus area. See appendix A for a list of sample projects.

Question 12: Confirm that the proposed project is a new project.

Select yes to be eligible for the YCAF funding.

Question 13: Confirm that the proposed project will take place in Guelph.

Select yes to be eligible for the YCAF funding.

Question 14: Provide the address where the project will take place, if applicable.

Question 15: How much money are you requesting?

You must enter a minimum of \$1,500 and a maximum of \$6,500.

Question 16: Project Description

Give a detailed description of the proposed project. Include what you hope to achieve through this project. (350-word limit)

Include the goal(s), summarize the steps you will take to achieve your project, and what success would look like at the end of this project.

Question 17: Budget

Provide a summary of your project costs using the Excel budget document provided.

Include the types of expenses and the budgeted cost for each expense. Your total costs should equal the amount you are requesting for funding.

Questions can be directed to communityinvestment@guelph.ca

Appendix A: Examples of YCAF 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.

Climate mitigation or adaptation projects

- Urban greening initiatives: mobilizing volunteers to plant trees, improve our greenspaces and parks, and increase urban tree canopy coverage for better air quality and climate resilience.
- Charging station installation: working with facilities to install an e-bike or scooter charging station on a campus or school facility.
- Stream restoration projects: organizing plantings and clean-ups that improve the health of our waterways.
- Ecosystem restoration projects: building or improving native species habitats through biodiversity conservation projects to enhance ecosystem resilience.
- Urban farming projects: creating community gardens, green rooftops, and urban farming projects to promote sustainable food production and reduce carbon emissions.
- Community recycling and waste reduction: creating a program or event that educates about emissions from landfills and encourages participants to recycle, compost and reduce waste in our community.
- Sustainable transportation initiatives: promoting the use of public transportation, carpooling, biking, or walking through a local event or initiative.

Educational initiatives that raise awareness about climate change

- Climate change awareness campaigns: launching social media campaigns, art competitions, or public events to raise awareness about the urgency of addressing climate change and inspire collective action.
- Climate education programs: developing educational initiatives that target local schools and communities to increase awareness and understanding of climate issues.
- Climate hackathons: organizing hackathons where technological solutions and applications are used to address local climate challenges.
- Climate Surveys and Research: engaging youth in conducting surveys and research on local climate impacts, helping to gather valuable data for decision-making.
- Home energy efficiency modelling: creating a model house that demonstrates the benefits of heat pumps, solar panels, or EV chargers and making the model available at community events for residents to learn about fossil fuel alternatives.

Community participation in local climate action planning

- Climate Ambassadors: training and supporting youth to become climate ambassadors in our community by advocating for sustainable practices and policies and engaging with City Council and local leaders.
- Climate Town Halls: organizing town hall meetings moderated by youth where community members can discuss climate-related concerns and ideas for solutions.
- Climate Data Monitoring: developing apps or youth citizen science platforms for tracking and reporting on local climate data, helping authorities make informed decisions and involving youth in data-driven governance.