

Youth Climate Action Fund

Application Co-Creation Workshop

City of El Paso, Office of Climate and Sustainability

September 2026



About Us

The **Office of Climate and Sustainability** works to implement programs and projects that enhance sustainability and resilience across the city and municipal operations.

The team collaborates with other departments, governmental institutions, and community partners to reduce GHG emissions and address the potential impacts caused by local changes in climate as outlined in the newly adopted **Climate Action Plan**.



Meeting Goals and Agenda

- **Introductions**
- **Inform**
 - Review program information
 - Build understanding of climate action already happening in El Paso
- **Connect**
 - Introduce organizations interested in becoming a fiscal sponsor
 - Identify additional groups to connect with
- **Support**
 - Share resources with participants
 - Ideate climate solutions



Introductions

Please share:

- Your name
- Participant or Fiscal Sponsor?
- Organization/affiliation (if any)
- How you heard about this program

- Youth participants: what project idea do you have (if any)?
- Organizations: what are your (CAP-related) focus areas?



Program Overview

El Paso has been selected as one of **300 cities** globally to participate in the **Youth Climate Action Fund** program, supported by **Bloomberg Philanthropies**. This program equips cities to provide small grants aimed at empowering young people to develop their ideas into projects that they will design and lead to advance local climate priorities.



YCAF Basics

Potential Projects

- Innovative, creative youth-led projects
- Should address at least one measure from the CAP
- \$1,000–\$5,000 microgrants

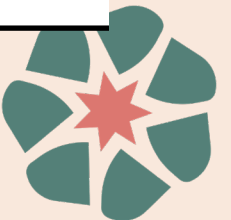
Teams

- 2+ youth, ages 15–24
- 1 fiscal sponsor



Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Scoring Details
Relevance to Climate Action Plan	Does the project directly address one of the 10 broad measures in the CAP with clear focus?
Role of Young People	Does the application clearly describe how youth will be leading the project, including their roles and responsibilities?
Innovation	Is the project approach new and experimental?
Feasibility and Planning	Does the application present a clear, realistic plan to complete the project by April 15, 2027?
Budget	Does the application present a clear budget?
Impact	Does the application provide a clear explanation of the project's impact with a clear focus? Does it include at least one measurable output and one measurable outcome?



Important Dates

- **August 28:** Application window opens
- **September 8, 9, and 10, 2026:** Project co-creation workshops
- **October 23, 2026:** Application closes
- **November 20, 2026:** Funds disbursed to fiscal sponsors
- **April 15, 2027:** Project completion deadline
- **April 23, 2027 (Earth Day):** Global announcement and showcase of projects



Climate Priorities (10 Measures)

1. Increase Energy Efficiency and Decarbonize Buildings
2. Support the Low- and Zero-Emission Vehicle Transition
3. Install Renewable Energy Systems
4. Promote Sustainable Food Systems and Waste Management Practices
5. Promote Walking, Biking, and Riding Transit



Climate Priorities (Cont'd)

6. Monitor and Improve Air Quality
7. Implement and Oversee Climate Actions
8. Cool Communities, Protect Health, and Increase Native Ecosystems
9. Build Drought Resilience and Conserve Water
10. Reduce Flood Risk



Address Impacts We All Feel

- **Extreme heat**
- Heat-related illness and death
- **Drought**
- Water supply/conservation
- **Heavy rain and flooding**
- **Wildfire**
- Worsening air quality
- Increasing asthma rates
- Rising cost of food
- Biodiversity/habitat loss
- Landfill capacity
- Climate anxiety



Examples of Eligible Projects

- **Climate education and awareness** (courses, experiences, or the arts)
- **Research and data collection** (mapping environmental health)
- **Resilience and adaptation** (addressing water quality or heatwaves)
- **Green Infrastructure, reforestation, and environmental protection** (creating parks, community gardens, or green roofs for community buildings)
- **Sustainable agriculture and food systems** (urban farms that would enrich community access to fresh food, neighborhood composting program)
- **Promotion and advancement of circular economy** (sustainable fashion or rethinking the use of discarded materials)
- **Sustainable waste management** (sorting, collection, or cleaning)
- **Sustainable transportation** (encouraging walking, cycling, and using public transportation)
- **Climate governance** (like youth councils or consultation of youth for public decisions)



Current/Upcoming City-Led Projects

- 915TreeKeepers
- Heat Awareness/Safety Campaign
- City Energy Audit
- Stewardship Program (Air Quality monitoring)
- Mini-grant program



Climate Fellowship Capstones

- Community Clean-ups
- Garden-in-a-Box
- Education
- Air Quality Monitoring



Co-Design Overview

Workshop goals:

- Ideation/co-creation of climate solutions
- Group ideas/teams
- Application support



Networking and Co-Design

Use the following materials to help guide your project ideas:

- Application printouts
- CAP booklets
- Website
- Poster boards

Office Hours: **Mondays, 3:30—4:30 PM** (link on website)

Email us! climate@elpasotexas.gov

Reach out early if you need help connecting with a fiscal sponsor!



Workshop Tasks

Create your Team

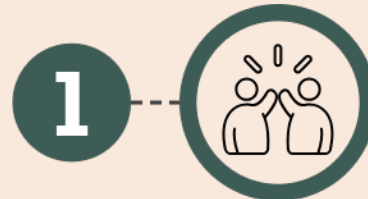
Should have 2 or more youth leads

Develop Ideas into a Project

Identify target outcomes (e.g., # of garden kits dispersed, # of clean-ups)

Begin Completing Application

What activities and steps are involved?
What impact will your project have?
How much funding is needed?
Begin drafting your project budget.



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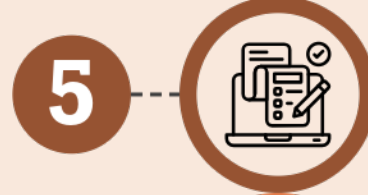
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Match with a Fiscal Sponsor

Funds are dispersed to organizations. They may act as mentors, but projects should be designed and led primarily by youth leads

Align Project to 1+ CAP Measure(s)

How will your project advance the region's climate priorities?

Use Evaluation Criteria to Fine-Tune Application



Thank You!