



Youth Climate Action Grants

Information session



Acknowledgement of Country



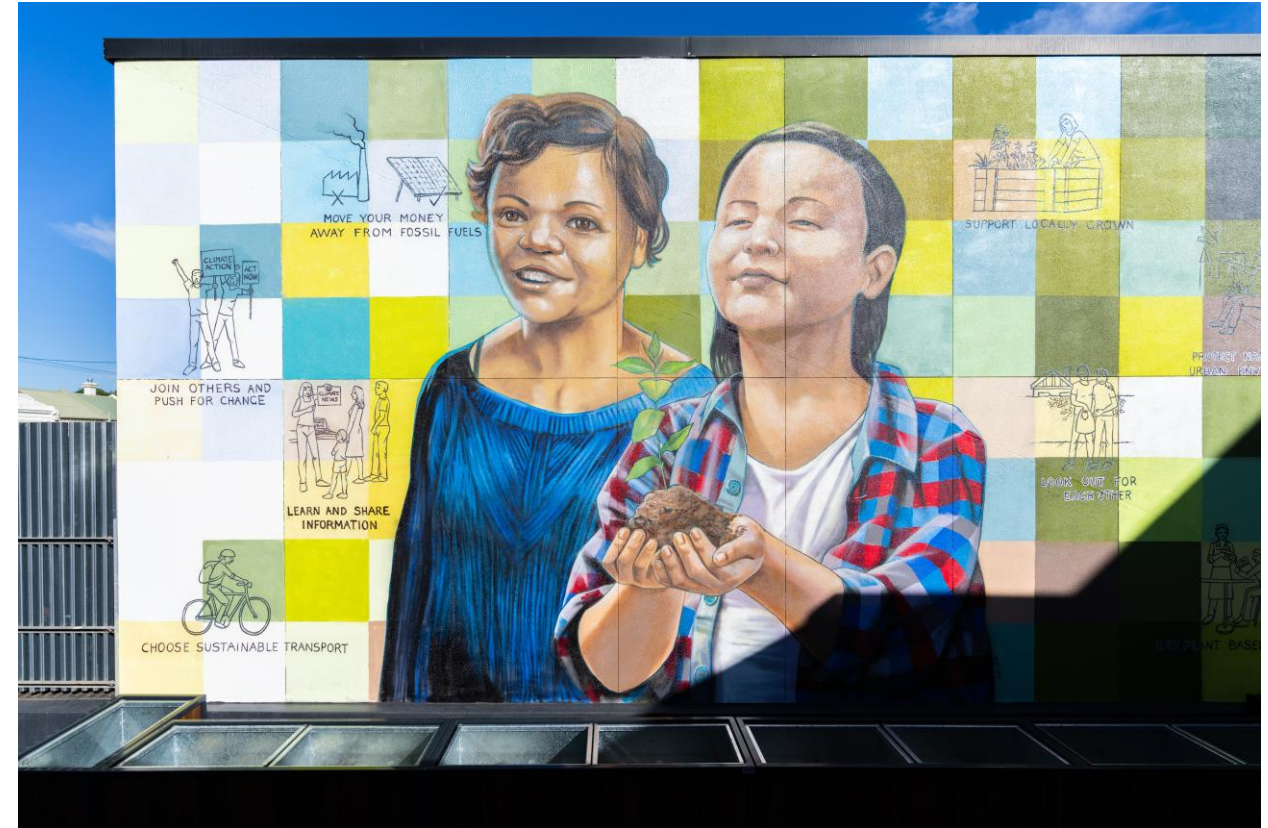
Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and true sovereigns of the land now known as Yarra.

We pay our respects to Elders from all nations - and to their Elders past and present.

Session Overview



- Grant information and eligibility
- How to turn your idea into an application
- How to apply
- Hear from project leads from previous years
- Questions



Youth Climate Action Fund Grants



“Climate change is an all-hands-on-deck challenge, and it’s critical that young people—who have the most at stake—help lead the way.”

— Michael R. Bloomberg, UN Special Envoy on Climate Ambition and Solutions

Bloomberg Philanthropies’ Youth Climate Action Fund provides funding to help cities work with young people ages 15-24 to design and deliver solutions aligned with our city’s climate priorities.



Grant information and eligibility



Apply for a grant of \$1,500 to \$7,000

Eligible applications

- ✓ Led by at least 2 young people aged 15-24
- ✓ Partnering with (auspiced by) a host organisation
- ✓ Submitted by 28 September 2026

Eligible projects

- ✓ Align with Yarra Council's Climate Emergency Plan
- ✓ At least one output (e.g. number of events) with a numerical target
- ✓ At least one outcome (result of the outputs) with a numerical target
- ✓ Equipment and infrastructure costs <50% of budget
- ✓ Completed by 15 April 2027



Grant information and eligibility



Eligible host organisations

- ✓ Incorporated associations
- ✓ Charitable foundations
- ✓ School, TAFE or university
- ✓ Social enterprise or other not-for-profits

Why do you need a host organisation?

- ✓ Receive and manage funds (bank account)
- ✓ Provide insurance coverage
- ✓ Provide advice and support

Connecting with a host organisation

- ✓ Your school, TAFE or uni
- ✓ Youth clubs or groups
- ✓ Neighbourhood houses and other not-for-profits
- ✓ **We can help connect you with a host organisation**

Yarra Council's Climate Emergency Plan



Projects must align with one of the 7 key transformations in Yarra's Climate Emergency Plan.



1. Every choice we make and **every action we take** responds to the climate emergency.



2. **Community members at greater risk** from climate impacts are connected, supported and empowered to build resilience.



3. Yarra is active, empowered and **raising our voice together** for a stronger climate emergency response.



4. Yarra is a leading and prosperous **zero-emissions city**.



5. Yarra is **Caring for Country**. Our landscapes and waterways are healthier, greener and more biodiverse, and our communities feel at one with nature.



6. Everyone lives and works in comfortable and **climate-safe homes and buildings**, supported by **climate resilient public spaces** and infrastructure.



7. Yarra is transitioning to a **circular economy** by consuming less, repairing, sharing, and repurposing more, and sending less waste to landfill.

Turning your idea into an application



Need help?

Join a project ideas workshop to get support turning your idea into a project plan and application:

- Wednesday 19 August, 5:30 – 6:30pm
Collingwood Library
- Thursday 10 September, 5:30 – 7pm
Melbourne Town Hall

Or get in touch: climateemergency@yarracity.vic.gov.au

Ready to apply?

A link to the grant application form will go live on our webpage when grants open Monday 17 August.



Young people taking climate action

Young people across Yarra are coming together to talk about the climate emergency and take action.



Yarra City Council is excited to launch Youth Climate Action Fund Grants, giving young people aged 15-24 the chance to turn bold climate ideas into local climate action projects.

Supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies' global Youth Climate Action Fund, this initiative is part of an international effort empowering young people to design and deliver solutions to local climate challenges.

Important dates



Applications open	17 August 2026
Applications close	28 September 2026
Decisions announced	Early October 2026
Projects can start from	Mid-November
Projects must be completed by	15 April 2027
Project Acquittals due	30 April 2027

Inspiration: Example project topics



Climate education
(courses, experiences, arts)

Research
(mapping environmental health)

Resilience and adaptation
(addressing water quality or heatwaves)

Environmental protection
(reforestation, community gardens, green roofs for community buildings)

Sustainable food systems
(urban farms improving community access to fresh food)

Circular economy
(sustainable fashion; reuse or upcycling of materials)

Sustainable waste management
(sorting, collection, cleaning)

Sustainable transport
(encouraging walking, cycling, public transport)

Climate governance
(youth councils, consultation for public decision-making)

Inspiration: Past projects



Learn about more projects delivered through City of Melbourne Youth Climate Action Fund Grants in previous years at melbourne.vic.gov.au/youth-climate-action-grants

Organisation	Project name	Project summary
Sustainability Team at the University of Melbourne	Eco-Resilience: Melbourne Urban Biodiversity Expo	This project will empower young people to recognise the hidden ties between urban living and preserving biodiversity through an Urban Biodiversity Expo. This will showcase exciting local projects, run hands-on workshops and build critical awareness of links between biodiversity loss and extreme weather. Additionally, an online platform, social media, and a newsletter provide young people with resources for taking action to preserve biodiversity and mitigate extreme weather, celebrate biodiversity wins, and offer volunteer opportunities that can connect young people to nature.
St Hilda's College	Waste at St Hilda's College	This project is empowering young people to confront our waste crisis by transforming students from passive consumers to environmental leaders. The project will conduct a student accommodation waste audit, establish permanent food waste systems that continue long after funding ends and run educational workshops teaching lifelong skills in setting up, maintaining and using compost and worm farm solutions. The project's goal is to create a generation of Melbournians with the tools and motivation to revolutionise how our city handles waste.
Climate and Health Alliance	2025 Melbourne Youth Climate & Health Summit	The project will establish a Youth Leaders Council and run a two-day youth climate summit to bring together young people interested in the intersection of climate and health to share ideas, discuss policies and engage with experts. Scheduled after the Global Climate and Health Summit, there will be a strong focus on applying a health lens to understand the co-benefits of climate action solutions within the City of Melbourne. The first day will facilitate climate and health education, including guest speakers and an expert panel. Day two will be a youth hackathon for proposing actionable climate solutions.

Inspiration



James Henderson, Wattle

Clancy Lester, past grant recipient



What next?

- Do you already have an idea for a climate project?
- Do you need a partner organisation?
- Do you need help working out how to make your idea work?

Talk to us and we can assist!



More information



City of Yarra	City of Melbourne
yarracity.vic.gov.au/climate-and-sustainability/take-community-action/young-people-taking-climate-action	melbourne.vic.gov.au/youth-climate-action-grants
Email climateemergency@yarracity.vic.gov.au	Email youth@melbourne.vic.gov.au
Take a flyer or chat to us now	

