



Youth Climate Action Fund

Grants Guidelines for participants

YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION FUND

Supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies





Youth Climate Action Fund

Grant Guidelines 2026-27

“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

Welcome to the Youth Climate Action Fund.

This is a global cohort of 300 cities working to strengthen how cities partner with young people to develop local climate solutions. Together, we will engage more than 300,000 young people aged 15 to 24 across the program to put these ideas into action in local communities.

The Youth Climate Action Fund is established and supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies and delivered in partnership with the Bloomberg Center for Public Innovation (BCPI) at Johns Hopkins University, C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) as a fiscally sponsored project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors (RPA).

The development of the program and this charter have benefited from the evaluation research by the Good Services Lab, Bloomberg Center for Cities at Harvard University.

Youth Climate Action Grants

City of Yarra is honoured to be one of 300 cities in the world awarded a Bloomberg Youth Climate Action Fund to administer.

Bloomberg Youth Climate Action Fund grants are micro grants that support youth-led climate projects.

Guidelines

- Projects must be proposed, designed and led by at least 2 young people aged 15-24
- Projects must align with Yarra's Climate Emergency Plan*
- Projects must be completed by 15 April 2027
- Projects can apply for between AUD\$1500-\$7000
- Projects must be auspiced by an eligible organisation**
- Projects must have at least one output (a direct deliverable, such as number of events held) and at least one outcome (the result of those activities) and a numerical target for both
- Document your project: collect data, take photographs, etc.
- Write an acquittal (report) on your project

*7 key transformations of the Yarra Climate Emergency Plan

Your project should align with one of these key transformations from Yarra Council'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

****Auspice organisations**

Projects must be proposed, designed, and led by young people, with assistance from an eligible organisation.

Auspice organisations must be a registered not-for-profit or charitable organisation or public entity with a bank account.

Eligible organisations include:

- Incorporated association
- Charitable foundation
- School
- University or TAFE institution
- Social enterprise

Not eligible: Private companies, individuals, political parties or party-affiliated organisations

The role of an auspice organisation is:

- To assist the youth project leaders to turn their idea into a project plan
- To stay in contact with the youth team and project during its development and implementation
- To submit (in conjunction with the Youth Leaders) the application for a grant in Smartygrants
- To receive and manage successful grant funds

- To supply Public Liability Insurance to cover the project and participants
- To supply a Child Safe Plan and workplace Child Safety certificate if required
- To assist the youth project team to document their project
- Comply with grant conditions such as the use of logos and credits in print and online
- To assist the Youth project team to acquit (report on) their project
- Auspice organisations may retain up to 15% of the project budget as an administration/auspice fee.

Eligible Project Expenses

- Project supplies and materials, including rental and purchase of items directly needed to carry out the project, such as equipment, tools, art supplies, or technology.
- Costs for organising community events, workshops, or educational sessions, including venue rental, printing of materials for participants, and basic refreshments.
- Costs for any necessary permits to implement the project in accordance with local regulations.
- Reasonable ground travel expenses (such as public transit, ride shares, or taxis) for youth participants or team members directly involved in project implementation.
- Promotional materials to raise awareness about the project, encourage engagement from stakeholders and the greater community, and share project results, including photography, editorial support, and videography.

- Reasonable fees for training and mentorship offered in workshops with youth participants.
- Administrative costs that local not-for-profit organisations, civic groups, local clubs, schools, or other organisations may charge for administering a grant on behalf of youth project leads. The costs should be no more than 15% of the grant value.
- Small amounts to enable youth participation such as per diems for food or gift cards if these expenses are reasonable in proportion to the activities. These expenses must not make up the majority of the grant.
- Capital investments when they do not exceed 50% of the grant and are an essential part of the project suggested and led by youth.

Ineligible Project Expenses

- Services/expenses covered by existing city initiatives
- Rent or utilities, unless specified above
- Not-for-profit or other organisational incorporation fees
- Speaker honorariums and speaker fees
- Scholarships
- Direct support to individuals or families
- Partisan political contributions or expenses
- Expenses related to political campaigns, fundraisers, or projects
- Expenses related to lobbying (attempting to influence legislation) or voter registration
- Expenses related to commercial activities

- Capital campaigns, endowments, or endowed chairs
- Payments to government officials
- Events or fundraisers not related to youth climate action
- Regranting or sub-granting to other organizations or individuals

Expense Eligibility Examples

Project Description	Eligibility	Reason
Gift cards to a local grocery store to thank youth leads for their volunteer efforts and time commitment.	Eligible	Funds to enable youth participation should be reasonable, based on the activities, and cannot exceed 50% of the grant.
Paying a local environmental scientist a fee to lead a hands-on soil testing workshop with youth participants over three sessions.	Eligible	Reasonable fees for training and mentorship in a workshop setting with active youth participation are covered.
Paying a fee to a keynote speaker to give a presentation at a youth climate event.	Not Eligible	Speaker honorariums and one-time speaking fees are not covered, even for climate-related events.
Producing and distributing pamphlets to support the election of a local political candidate.	Not Eligible	Funds cannot be spent to support political campaigns or partisan political organisations.
Installation of solar panels for municipal buildings, like schools.	Not eligible	Funds should be used for youth-led activities and no more than 50% of the grant should be directed to capital investments.

Storytelling Acknowledgement and permissions

Document your project with photographs, video, collateral (flyers, social media posts, documents etc.)

If you are successful, you will be given logos and social media handles to add to any communications about your projects. You will also be asked to supply photographs etc of your project to promote your project and the program within Australia as well as part of the global Bloomberg Philanthropies program.

Acquittal

Successful grant recipients will be required to submit a report (acquittal) on their project by April 30 2027.

The acquittal should include:

- details of how you spent the funds, including receipts for items and services
- photographs and videos of every stage of the project
- data collected
- information on your project output and outcome

IMPORTANT DATES

Information sessions	• Wednesday 12 August 6-7pm online • Thursday 3 September 5.30-6.30 online
Project Workshops	• Wednesday 19 August 5.30-6.30pm Collinwood Library, Stanton Street Collingwood • Thursday 10 September 5.30-6.30 Melbourne Town Hall
Applications Open	Monday 17 August 2026, 9am
Applications Close	Monday 28 September 2026, 5pm
Outcomes announced	late October
Projects start	mid November
Projects finish	15 April 2027
Project acquittals due before	30 April 2027

The City of Yarra Climate Emergency and Grants teams can support applicants and auspice organisations with grant writing, project development resources, and assistance in person, by phone or by email.