Youth Climate Action Fund 2026

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
Updated: October 5, 2026

GOAL ALIGNMENT

Q: What are Philadelphia's climate priorities?

A: The City of Philadelphia published a 2015 Climate Action Plan, issued a 2025 Climate Action Update, and is in the process of updating the Climate Action Plan for 2027.

The School District of Philadelphia GreenFutures promotes sustainability in schools with a focus on energy efficiency, waste reduction, and creating healthy environments.

Philadelphia goals include:

- Achieve carbon neutrality by 2050
- Divert waste from landfill and incineration
- Expand urban agriculture opportunities
- Protect our waters
- Grow, protect, and care for our tree canopy (Philly Tree Plan)

PROJECT SCOPE

Q: What role should young people have in the project?

A: All projects must be led by at least two individuals ages 15-24, who actively participate in decision-making and oversight. Organizations administer the project including managing the funds, completing the reporting requirements, and providing project support and oversight.

Q: When does the need to project be completed by?

A: Thursday, April 15, 2027

ELIGIBILITY

Q: What types of organizations are eligible to apply?

A: Eligible organizations are:

1) School District of Philadelphia High Schools; or
2) Community-based organizations with nonprofit 501(c)(3) status—including youth-led organizations (e.g. youth clubs or groups), youth-serving organizations (adult-led organizations that support young people), and sponsor organizations (museums, community organizations, etc.).

Eligible organizations must have formal incorporation or status, a bank account in its name, and the ability to manage the funds.

Private companies, individuals, and organizations affiliated with political parties are not eligible micrograntees.

Q: How do District High Schools receive the funds?

A: All District High School microgrants will be administered by the Fund for the School District of Philadelphia.

Q: Can independent and charter schools apply for YCAF?

A: Yes, independent and charter schools are eligible and should apply as a Community Partner with 501(c)3 status.

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BUDGET

Q: What budget costs are eligible?

A: Eligible costs include but are not limited to project supplies and materials, equipment and infrastructure improvements, transportation, food, events, communications, and other support.

Ineligible costs include: Services covered by existing city initiatives; rent or utilities; lobbying or voter-registration efforts; commercial activities; payments to government officials; nonprofit/NGO incorporation fees; speaker honorariums and speaker fees; scholarships; direct support to individuals or families, partisan political organizations, political campaigns, fundraisers, or projects; capital campaigns, endowments, or endowed chairs; events or fundraisers not related to youth climate action.

Q: Is there a maximum amount that can be spent on equipment and capital investment for infrastructure improvements?

Yes, equipment and capital infrastructure improvements must represent less than 50% of the project's microgrant budget.