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# 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 Ksh 500,00 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 Embu County. The County Government of Embu YCAF has been designed to meet the Embu County Integrated Development Plan, the Embu County Climate Action Plan and the Embu County Climate Change Adaptation Plan environmental and climate change action 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 Ksh 130,000 and a maximum of Ksh 500,000. Projects must take place in Embu County and must be led-by and serving Embu County youth residents. YCAF cannot fund existing projects, proposed projects must be new.

## Who can apply?

Applications are open to:

- Youth-Led and Youth-Serving Organizations (Not-for-profit organizations or registered charitable organizations)
- Other types of organizations can administer and manage the funds and serve as sponsors for youth-led projects.

## Who cannot apply?

- For-profit businesses
- Individuals

## What can the grant funding be used for?

Awarded funds must be used before October 31, 2025. 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
- Project implementation costs



## 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 Embu County Government regulations or by-laws

## When are applications due?

Applications may be submitted using the online form from Saturday March 1, 2025 to Friday March 14, 2025 at 4 p.m. EAT.

## 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 Embu County climate change goals, feasibility of the project, and impact on the community. Application review will occur March-April 2025. All applicants will be notified about the status of their application by April 15, 2025.

## How will applications be accepted?

Filled in applications can be submitted via email [climate.embu@gmail.com](mailto:climate.embu@gmail.com) before March 14, 2025. Paper copies of applications and additional assistance is available by contacting [climate.embu@gmail.com](mailto:climate.embu@gmail.com) .

Download the application documents at <https://www.embu.go.ke/youth-climate-action-fund-micro-grant-program>

## 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 Embu County 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 a member of equity-deserving group will be involved in this project and how.

**Part 2: Project Information**

The YCAF has been designed to meet the 2024-2027 Embu County Government environmental focus to be a leader in climate action and to empower the community to help create a sustainable county.

**Question 11: Select the focus of your proposed project:**

- **Awareness, Education, Research, Co-Development Initiatives:** Youth-Led Climate Education Programs, Youth Climate Hackathons where young tech-savvy individuals can create innovative solutions and apps to address climate challenges in Embu city, Youth-Led Climate Surveys and Research, Youth-Designed Public Art and Awareness Campaigns.
- **Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Initiatives:** Community Gardens, and Urban Farming, Youth-Managed Recycling and Waste Reduction Programs, Green Transportation Initiatives / Designing Streets with Kids, Youth-Led Reforestation and Tree-Planting Campaigns, Climate Resilience Workshops and Disaster Preparedness.
- **Governance of Local Climate Action Plans:** Youth Climate Ambassadors Within Embu, Youth-Hosted Climate Town Halls, Youth Climate Data Monitoring (Develop apps or youth citizen science platforms for tracking and reporting on local climate data), Youth-Created Climate Action Plans.
- **Any other Climate Change mitigation and adaptation projects that involve young people between the ages of 15 – 24 Years**

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 Embu.**

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 Ksh 130,000 and a maximum of Ksh 500,000.

**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 [climate.embu@gmail.com](mailto:climate.embu@gmail.com)



## **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.
- 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.

