# YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION FUND IDEA BANK

## 2026 Youth Climate Action Fund

Supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies



CITY of LINCOLN

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# About the Youth Climate Action Fund

The **Youth Climate Action Fund** offers $1,000–$5,000 microgrants for young people ages 15–24 to lead real climate projects right here in our city! Lincoln is one of 300 cities worldwide selected to participate in this exciting initiative, supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies. Lincoln's Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird and the Resilient Lincoln team are opening applications August 26th, 2026.

Lincoln has chosen four priority themes that align with our Climate Action plan to guide your projects, including: **Climate Resilience**, **Transportation**, **Waste**, and **Local Food**. The following slides are here to give you ideas of potential projects you could propose that align with any of the four selected sectors, feel free to use these slides as inspiration!

# REMINDERS

1. Applications open **August 26th, 2026** and **close October 7th, 2026.**

2. Funds for selected projects will be disbursed on **November 13th, 2026.**

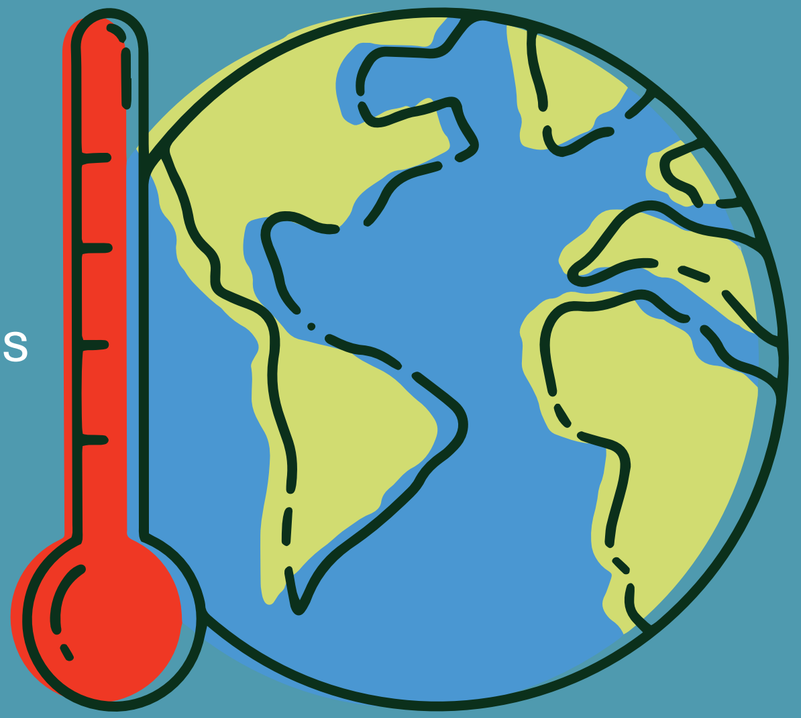
3. Through the Youth Climate Action Fund you have the ability to make a real difference in your community. Don’t be afraid to think big and reach for the stars!



# CLIMATE RESILIENCE

## What do Climate Resilience projects include?

Solar energy, flood reduction, tree planting, extreme heat responses, strengthening neighborhood connections — anything that helps Lincoln and your peers prepare for the weather ahead!



# PROJECT IDEAS

## Rain Garden Kit Distribution

Distribute rain garden kits at school to reduce stormwater runoff and help Lincoln become more resilient to heavy rainfall and flooding.

## Youth Resilience Camp

Students put together a day camp for youth to improve sustainable practices, learn about nature, and the importance of climate resilience.

## Solar Power Community Installs

Install solar-powered lighting around community gathering spaces to increase access to safe, well-lit public spaces while demonstrating the use of renewable energy.

# TRANSPORTATION



## What do Transportation projects include?

Biking, scooting, walking, transit, electric vehicles, car sharing — projects that make getting around Lincoln cleaner, safer, and easier for everyone!

Projects could empower people to learn, try, or access alternative ways to get around. Students may also encourage carpooling and shared transportation.

# PROJECT IDEAS

## Provide Free Bike Repairs

Host pop-up events where youth teach basic bike maintenance and help residents repair bikes.

## Lincoln Walkability Audit

Youth identify barriers to walking around their school or neighborhood and develop recommendations for improvements.

## E-Mobility Charging Stations

Students install e-mobility charging stations on campus for electric scooters, bikes, skateboards, etc. The goal is to decrease greenhouse gas emissions around campus via increasing access to alternative transportation options.




# WASTE

## What do Waste projects include?

Reducing waste and single-use plastics, composting, recycling, upcycled fashion — projects that keep materials out of the landfill and in circulation.

Get creative with waste by finding new ways to reduce, reuse, repair, recycle, and repurpose!

# PROJECT IDEAS

## School Waste Audit

Host a hands-on activity where students collect, sort, and weigh the trash and recyclables a school produces to see what's being thrown away. Come up with ideas to improve sustainability!

## Thrift & Reuse Pop-Up

Organize a fashion show, and have your peers design outfits sourced from thrift stores or repurposed from trash while educating about the effects of the fast fashion industry.

## Community Repair Class

Host events where youth and volunteers help residents repair clothing, bikes, small household items, or electronics instead of throwing them away.




# LOCAL FOOD

## What do Local Food projects include?

Community gardens, selling locally grown food, food access for those who need it most, reducing food waste — projects that connect people to healthy, sustainable food in Lincoln.

**Local Food** can connect the community through food and climate resilient food systems! Strengthening local food initiatives addresses impacts of climate change and strengthens our local economy!

# PROJECT IDEAS

## Host Community Meals with local ingredients

Plan a series of community meal events that highlight produce from local farms, gardens, or non-profits. Also, educate your peers about the importance of Local Food

## Community Garden Revamp

Students use their school/community garden to provide produce for students in need or residents in need.

## Create a Community Garden

Create a communal garden for residents to harvest, plant, share, and connect. This supports future and present micro ecosystems and community needs.

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**Thank you for strengthening your community!**

