

City of Ames Climate Action Grant Program

Bloomberg Youth Climate Action Fund Program Guide



Program Overview and Requirements

The City of Ames is offering microgrants of \$1,000 to \$5,000 through the Bloomberg Philanthropies Youth Climate Action Fund to support youth-led projects that address local climate challenges and create positive change in the community.

Young people ages 15–24 are eligible to apply in partnership with an eligible sponsoring organization. Organizations can be a non-profit, student club, or other community organization and must be a legally registered entity and maintain a bank account in the organization's name. Each project must be proposed and led by at least two young people in this age range.

The Youth Climate Action Fund empowers young people to develop and implement local climate solutions. Funded projects should support the Ames Climate Action Plan, engage community members, and produce measurable benefits for Ames residents.

In addition to funding, youth participants will receive technical assistance from City staff, including support with project planning, community partnerships, implementation, and reporting requirements.

For questions or support developing a project idea, contact Nolan Sagan at 515-239-5227 or Nolan.Sagan@cityofames.org.

Eligible Project Themes

Projects must support the Ames Climate Action Plan and address one or more of the following climate action themes:

Energy

Projects that increase awareness, access, or adoption of renewable energy, energy efficiency, and conservation practices. Examples include community solar education, solar-powered demonstrations, weatherization workshops, energy-saving campaigns, LED lighting education, or clean energy displays.

Sustainable Transportation

Projects that encourage cleaner, lower-emission ways to travel, including walking, biking, public transit, electric vehicles, or other transportation options that improve air quality and reduce emissions. Examples include bike repair events, bike safety lessons, walk-to-school days, bike-to-work days, transit outreach, or electric vehicle education events.

Waste Reduction

Projects that reduce waste sent to landfills by promoting recycling, composting, reuse, repair, and waste prevention. Examples include community cleanups, recycling education campaigns, composting workshops, clothing swaps, repair events, or reusable item drives.

Nature-Based Solutions

Projects that use natural systems to improve environmental health, increase biodiversity, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and strengthen community resilience. Examples include tree planting, pollinator gardens, native prairie plantings, rain gardens, habitat restoration, or invasive species removal.

Community Climate Action

Projects that help residents learn about climate change, participate in local sustainability efforts, and inspire others to take action. Examples include sustainability fairs, youth education workshops, school or neighborhood outreach, public awareness campaigns, volunteer sustainability projects, climate-focused art, or partnerships with local organizations.

Eligibility & Program Requirements

To be eligible for funding, projects must:

1. Be proposed and led by at least two young people 15–24.

2. Align with goals or strategies identified in the Ames Climate Action Plan.
3. Include a community education and engagement component, such as a public event, workshop, presentation, outreach campaign, or other public-facing activities.
4. Be completed by April 15, 2027.
5. Partner with an eligible sponsoring organization that will receive and manage grant funds.
6. Include a detailed budget describing how grant funds will be used.
7. Demonstrate measurable outcomes that advance local climate action.
8. Submit a final report describing project activities, outcomes, measurable impacts, and supporting documentation such as photos or videos.

Application and Award Process

1. Develop a Project Idea

Work with friends, classmates, community members, local organizations, or City staff to identify a climate challenge in Ames and develop a project that addresses it.

2. Submit an Application

Applications should clearly describe the project, explain how it supports the Ames Climate Action Plan, identify youth leadership roles, provide a timeline, outline expected outcomes, and include a project budget.

3. Application Review

City staff will review applications and may contact applicants for clarification or additional information. A selection committee evaluates applications for meeting program requirements.

4. Project Implementation

Selected applicants will work with their sponsoring organization, City staff, and community partners to carry out the project. Teams should track activities, participation, expenditures, and project outcomes throughout implementation.

5. Final Reporting

Projects must be completed by April 15, 2027. Grantees must submit a final report documenting project activities, outcomes, measurable impacts, and project photos or other supporting materials.

Scoring Criteria

Grant proposals will be reviewed by a selection committee using the criteria below. Committee members will score applications individually, submit scores to a shared scoring sheet, and meet to discuss recommendations and funding decisions.

Scoring will serve as the primary basis for funding recommendations; provided applicants meet all program requirements. Funding is competitive and is not guaranteed. City staff may contact applicants if the selection committee needs additional information before making an award decision.

Criterion	Review Focus	Points
Climate Action Plan Alignment	Supports goals or strategies identified in the Ames Climate Action Plan.	20
Youth Leadership	Youth ages 15–24 lead project planning and implementation.	20
Creativity and Innovation	Demonstrates creativity and innovation in addressing local climate challenges.	10
Feasibility and Timeline	Plans, partnerships, and timelines are realistic and achievable.	20
Budget Clarity	Budget is clear, reasonable, and directly connected to project activities.	10
Community Impact and Outcomes	Identifies community benefits and measurable results.	20
Total Score		100

Application Information

All applications must be submitted through the online [Application Form](#).

Applications are open from **September 4 through October 16, 2026**.

Projects selected for funding must be completed by **April 15, 2027**.

For assistance or accommodation completing the application, contact Nolan Sagan at 515-239-5227 or Nolan.Sagan@cityofames.org.

We encourage creative, community-focused ideas of all sizes. If you have a project concept but are unsure whether it qualifies, please contact City staff for guidance before applying.