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sustainability



Youth Climate Action Fund



Giving Albuquerque's youth real resources for local climate solutions.

CO-DESIGN SESSION PRESENTATION: ANN SIMON, ALICE MAIN, & EVAN CHANG

SUSTAINABILITY OFFICE | 07.30.2026

About Us

The Sustainability Office collaborates across city departments, with community organizations, and with residents to mitigate climate pollution and foster equitable, resilient communities. Learn more about Mayor Keller's pledge to the Paris Agreement.



Meeting Goals



Raise Awareness:

- Share program information.
- Develop a shared understanding of climate action already happening in Albuquerque.

Foster Connection:

- Introduce youth to organizations interested in becoming a fiscal sponsor.
- Identify additional groups to connect with.

Support Strong Applications:

- Share resources with participants.
- Ideate climate action themes.



Agenda & Housekeeping



Agenda:

- Introductions
- Program Overview
- YCAF Climate Priorities
- Resource Walk-Through
- Discussion & Networking

Housekeeping:

- First portion of call will be recorded and posted
- Please stay muted until Discussion & Networking
- Questions in the chat

Introductions

In the chat, please share:

- Your name
- Student or Fiscal Sponsor
- Organization/affiliation (if any)
- How you heard about this program



Program Overview

The City of Albuquerque has been selected to participate in the **Youth Climate Action Fund** program, made possible thanks to **Bloomberg Philanthropies**. The program supports youth-led climate projects that help build a healthier, more resilient city. The City will **provide money to youth to design and lead** projects that respond to **local climate priorities**. Youth must have a **fiscal sponsor**.



YCAF Basics

The Team:

- >1 youth, aged 15-24
- A fiscal sponsor

Potential Projects:

- \$1,000-\$5,000
- Innovative youth project
- Addresses at least one climate priority
 - **Waste & Circularity**
 - **Mobility & Transportation**
 - **Nature & Resilience**

Scoring Criteria:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| • Relevance to local climate action plan | • Feasibility and planning |
| • Role of young people | • Budget |
| • Innovation | • Impact |



Key Dates



- Aug 20: Co-Design Session
- Aug 5-Sept. 2: Office Hours
- **Sept 2: Applications Due**
- October 2026: Selections
- November 2026: Projects Begin
- **April 12, 2027: Projects Complete**
- April 22, 2027: Global Announcement

YCAF Climate Priorities



Albuquerque's YCAF climate priorities were carefully selected based on their ability to offer **practical, high-impact** ways for youth to advance climate goals. The three areas we will present have **direct benefits to neighborhoods, are visible, and achievable at a microgrant scale.**



Waste & Circularity



Did You Know? Studies suggest that purchased goods and services can account for up to 80% of organizational greenhouse gas emissions and household consumption is estimated to account for nearly 60-80% of global emissions.

Did You Know? 58% of Methane from landfills comes from food waste.

Did You Know? 80% of food waste is generated by households, restaurants, and other food service providers (NRDC, EPA).

Did You Know? A family of four can save nearly \$3,000 a year with food waste prevention.

Waste & Circularity Prompts



How do we get people/organizations to...

- Save money by reducing food waste?
- Compost more?
- Buy less, buy local, and/or buy responsibly?
- Refuse, reduce, reuse, repurpose, repair, recycle more?

Mobility & Transportation



Did You Know? In a typical community, up to 40% of travelers cannot, should not, or prefer not to drive (Victoria Transport Policy Institute).

Did You Know? The average American spends \$2,449 on gas every year for their vehicle (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2024).

Mobility & Transportation Prompts



How do we get people/organizations to...

- Get rid of car brain?
- Walk, bike, scoot, or bus more?
- Car share or bike share more?
- Work from home more?
- Electrify their ride?
- Live closer to where they work, worship, go to school, or play?

Nature-Based Solutions



Did You Know? Globally, soils (the PEDOSPHERE) can store about 2,300 billion tons of carbon, compared with about 550 billion tons stored in trees and other plants (the BIOSPHERE) – roughly four times as much.

Did You Know? Planting trees improves air and water quality, increases property values, reduces energy use at homes and businesses, reduces storm water runoff, and improves quality of life for citizens.

Did You Know? In Albuquerque alone, 98% of all food consumed comes from out of state.

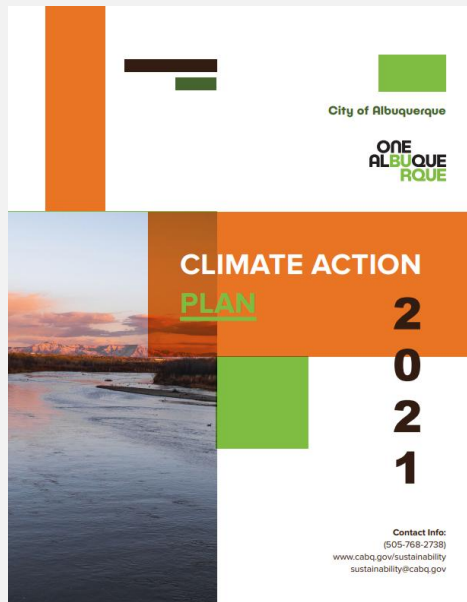
Nature-Based Solutions Prompts



How do we get people/organizations to...

- Expand urban green spaces and agriculture?
- Plant more pollinators or climate-ready species?
- Build healthy soil?
- Bring more shade to walking/bike paths or neighborhoods?
- Protect existing habitat and greenways?
- Harvest water in our landscapes?

Resource Walk-Through





HOME > SUSTAINABILITY > YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION FUND

Youth Climate Action Fund

Youth Climate Action Fund information for youth participants.

Program Overview

The City of Albuquerque has been selected to participate in the Youth Climate Action Fund program, made possible thanks to Bloomberg Philanthropies. The Youth Climate Action Fund supports youth-led climate projects that help build a healthier, more resilient city. The program will provide microgrants of \$1,000 to \$5,000 to youth ages 15 to 24 to design and lead projects that respond to local climate priorities. Youth must apply with support from a fiscal sponsor such as a youth-serving organization.



Key Dates

How to Apply

Resources

Potential Fiscal Sponsors

Events

Example Projects

Procurement Portal

City of Albuquerque

Open Public Opportunities

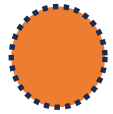
Past Public Opportunities

Search

Status ▲ Ref. # ▴ ▾ Project ▴ ▾ Close Date ▴ ▾ Days Left ▴ ▾

OPEN	RFP-2026-781-CSD-LB	RFP-Graphics Services	Jul 30th 2026, 4:00 PM MDT	2	View Opportunity
OPEN	RFB-2026-625-TRA-EW	On-Site Transit Bus Technicians	Aug 25th 2026, 2:00 PM MDT	27	View Opportunity
OPEN	Grant-2027-794-ENH-GB	Youth Climate Action Fund Microgrant Program	Sep 2nd 2026, 11:30 PM MDT	36	View Opportunity
OPEN	RFP-2026-789-HHH-RG	2026 Affordable Rental Housing Project Utilizing Workforce Housing Trust Funds	Sep 4th 2026, 4:00 PM MDT	38	View Opportunity
OPEN	RFP-2026-790-HHH-RG	2026 Affordable Rental Housing Project Utilizing HUD HOME Funding	Sep 4th 2026, 4:00 PM MDT	38	View Opportunity
OPEN	RFP-2026-788-HHH-RG	2026 Affordable Rental Housing Project Utilizing HUD HOME ARP Funding	Sep 30th 2026, 4:00 PM MDT	64	View Opportunity

Tackle Albuquerque's Carbon Emissions



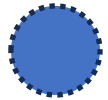
Municipal Footprint

Unknown, Estimated 163,000 Metric Tons of CO₂e



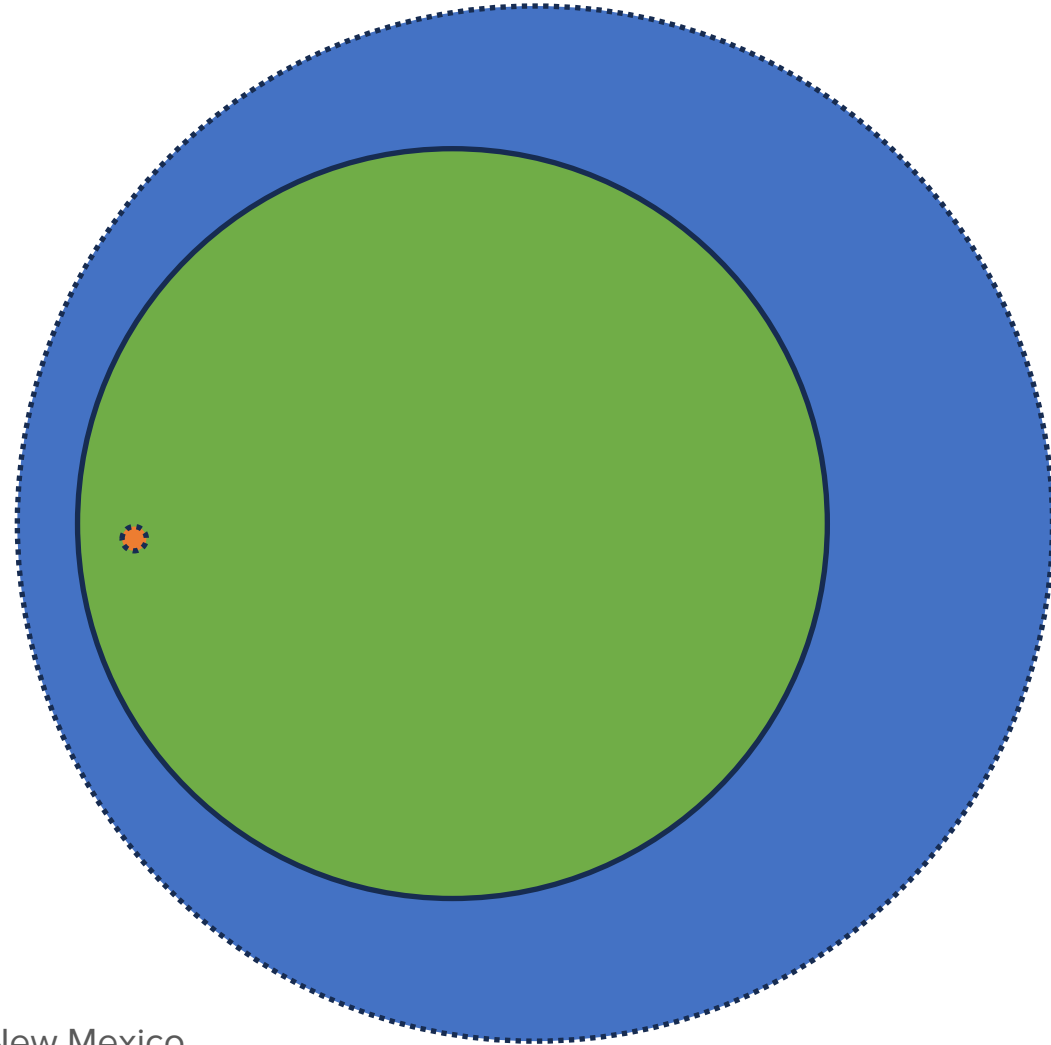
Local Community Footprint

Known, 5,107,902 Metric Tons of CO₂e in 2023



Consumption-based Community Footprint

Unknown, Estimated 1.5-2x Local Emissions > 7,660,000 Metric Tons of CO₂e



Learn More: [Climate Pollution Overview](#) (Chapter 5, Central New Mexico Comprehensive Climate Action Plan) and [2025 Albuquerque GHG Inventory](#).

Address Impacts We All Feel

- Climate migration
- Hotter and drier
- Fire and floods
- Dirty air
- Increased asthma rates
- Heat-related illness and death
- Rising cost of food
- Fragile supply chains
- Increasing insurance rates
- Overflowing landfills
- Biodiversity loss
- Habitat loss/migration



Learn More: [New Mexico Climate Risk Map](#) (local risks), [Climate Trace](#) (pollution Plumes), [Climate Check](#) (risks by address), [CDC's Environmental Justice Index](#) (remaining EJ dataset).

Embed Indigenous Perspectives



- Respect for the land, water, plants, and animals
- Taking only what is needed
- Living in balance and harmony with nature
- Thinking about the well-being of future generations

Learn More: [Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing](#)

Credit: Cheryl Smith

Balance Systems Change and Individual Action

Citizen	Professional	Investor	Consumer	Role model
Contact your political representative	Advocate in your professional field	Choose a fossil-free bank	Cut down on flights	Build a climate community
Take part in a peaceful protest	Use your particular skills	Donate to climate charities	Reduce car emissions	Walk the talk
Elect leaders who'll make and implement strong climate policies	Work with colleagues to meet science-based targets	Change to a green pension or retirement portfolio	Follow the planetary health diet	Talk about the walk
Join a political party or organization working for climate action	Divest funds supporting fossil fuels at your workplace	Divest from personal investment funds supporting fossil fuels	Use renewable electricity in your home	Start conversations and listen
Create media attention on the climate crisis	Take climate action throughout your organization			Inspire cultural change to support climate action

Learn More: [Project Drawdown's SHIFT](#)

Build on Local Solutions



- **Cultural assets:** Acequia communities, adobe, agriculture, value of water.
- **Waste:** Soilutions, Little Green Bucket, recycling, fix-it clinics, thrift stores, etc.
- **Mobility:** Trail system, zero-fare buses, AMP, PNM e-bike rebate, Together for Brothers, etc.
- **Nature:** 100,000 tree goal, Let's Plant ABQ, NM Tree Alliance, Backyard Refuge Program, urban ag convenings, greenways, etc.

Learn More: [Central New Mexico Comprehensive Climate Action Plan](#) (Existing Efforts and Resources).

In-Person Co-Design Session Overview

Date: August 20th, 2026
Time: 5-7 pm
Location: Room 201
L Building CNM Main Campus
1828 Coal Ave SE
Albuquerque, NM 87106

Meeting Goals:

- Ideate solutions
- Theme/group ideas/teams
- Application support



Discussion & Networking

Unrecorded portion of the meeting where we will be answering questions and discussing priority areas. We will post anonymized questions in the FAQ portion of our website.

Please **unmute** and join the conversation!





Thank You!

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