



2023 Climate Resilient Neighbourhoods Challenge Guidelines

The potential of people and the places we live, are key to climate change resilience.

In the face of a changing climate and growing inequities, we need to strengthen community resilience and reduce our emissions in ways that address inequities. The Foundation already supports such efforts through projects such as [HotSpots](#), the [Housing Access Rating Tool](#), and the [Next Economy Jobs Challenge](#), and last year's [Climate Resilience in the West Initiative](#).

Informed by these and other efforts, we believe there is a profound opportunity to shape a more caring, healthy, regenerative, and just future for all by combining [transformative climate change adaptation, just transitions, and sustainable development](#). The International Panel on Climate Change calls this aspiration '[climate resilient development](#)'; others call it [climate justice](#).

Applying this idea at a local level, climate resilient neighbourhoods support everyone's daily health and well-being, while also strengthening climate change adaptation, disaster resilience, and the transition to net zero. As the community foundation for Greater Melbourne, we know that communities, community organisations, councils, and other local actors are critical partners in enabling such futures, and many are already working towards them. Yet we also know that many communities and community organisations can lack the support required to effectively shape such efforts so that they support community aspirations and address the roots of health inequities.

The Climate Resilient Neighbourhoods Challenge

therefore seeks to support communities and their community organisations to bring the possibilities of climate resilience to life. At their heart, projects funded through this challenge will nurture the capabilities, social capital, and community infrastructure of communities whose climate resilience is currently undermined by health inequities. Projects could be on a single site, a street, a network of sites, or beyond. They will show how peoples' lives are demonstrably improved when climate change adaptation and emissions reduction efforts are combined through a regenerative social justice lens. We imagine projects could enable community organisations to continue, re-energise, or catalyse partnerships, including those with government, researchers, or other not-for-profits. Because there is no single way to enable climate resilience, we are also open to fresh and innovative ideas, as well as those that build upon existing related efforts.

Demonstrating local climate change resilience

The challenge's **GOAL** is to demonstrate different ways climate change resilience could look, feel, and function, when regenerative social justice is at its core.

We define climate resilience as that which enables us to reduce or limit our emissions, while also adapting to and shaping our climate changing future. It depends on equity across all determinants of health, sharing in the benefits of the transition, and on strong adaptive capacities.

We use the term 'neighbourhoods' broadly, to point to the places closest to people and their lives.

To achieve this goal, the CRN Challenge **AIMS** to:

- **Support communities dealing with disproportionate climate change risks**, such as heat and food insecurity, to enact their aspirations and capabilities around caring for each other and the planet;
- **Support changemakers in these communities** to ensure climate resilience efforts are grounded in the knowledge, experiences, and possibilities of their communities;
- **Catalyse, test, or build upon community and not-for-profit efforts**, including those that could be scaled with government agencies. E.g. resilient community infrastructure, 15 minute neighbourhoods, urban greening, local food systems, local well-being economies, and community resilience generally;

- **Ensure near-term 'fixes' contribute to ongoing equitable resilience.** E.g., local food systems that provide effective emergency food relief, and ongoing access to healthy, sustainable food for all. Or community infrastructure that enables people to build bonds and learn together, that can also act as a 'refuge' during disasters, and runs on a renewable energy system that is resilient to extreme weather;
- **Strengthen evidence for action** by working with communities and other experts to share lived experiences and show how addressing climate vulnerabilities at their roots can demonstrably improve peoples' lives, build community resilience, and reduce emissions; and
- **Share tools, approaches, and insights** across communities and organisations, including other programs, about what it takes to catalyse and maintain such action and make equitable climate resilience implementable at scale

1. Grant types

A total funding pool of \$300,000 is available for successful projects and initiatives, with a maximum of \$100,000 for any project. The exact number of grants provided will depend on the total number and scale of the applications received.

2. Eligibility

The Climate Resilient Neighbourhoods Challenge is open to eligible organisations that are

- endorsed as a Tax Concession Charity (TCC) and as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) as covered by Item 1 of the table in section 30-15 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997;
- and
- Australian charities registered and operating in Victoria, particularly Greater Melbourne

3. Assessment Criteria

Proposals will be assessed against the Foundation's [granting principles](#), and the extent to which they address most or all the following criteria:

- **Place-based / rooted in a neighbourhood of Greater Melbourne** currently facing climate change risks such as increasing heat, and whose strengths, capacities, and possibilities are currently undermined by health inequities
- **Seeks climate change resilience that addresses social justice** through some combination of transformative climate change adaptation and just transitions
- **Collaborative** – involves at least two local organisations with skills and networks to help make local action happen, and seeks to involve people from different walks of life, with different experiences and perspectives
- **Strengthens evidence** – includes an evaluation framework that will enable thoughtful monitoring as the project progresses
- **Seeks to strengthen long-term resilience** - potential to achieve a measure of lasting change, and might have possible replicability or scalability if successful
- **Leverages, connects, or collaborates** with other programs and strategies, including those of the Foundation. Leverage could also include partner commitments, including in-kind, funding, knowledge, and materials that would support the collaboration's efforts come to fruition

Proposals that build upon the Foundation's related work will also be viewed favourably but are not essential.

4. Timeline

The Climate Resilient Neighbourhoods Challenge has a two-step application process.

1. **The applicant organisation will initially submit an enquiry.**
2. **Selected applicants will then be invited to submit a full application.**

Enquiries submitted
20 March – 13 April 2023

Selected enquiries invited to
submit full applications on
28 April 2023

Completed applications due
15 May 2023

Grant Advisory Panel recommends applications
to the Foundation's Board
June 2023

Successful applicants announced
July 2023

Enquiries

Enquiries must be submitted via the [Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation Grant Enquiry Form](#) to be considered.

You may be contacted by Dr Karyn Bosomworth, Program Manager, Healthy & Climate Resilient Communities, regarding your enquiry.