



Youth Climate Projects Rules 2026-2027

What is the project funding about?

The City of Turku is distributing approximately €40,000 in project funding for youth-led projects that promote Turku's climate goals. The aim is to encourage and support young people in developing and implementing their own projects that have a positive environmental impact.

A jury will select the funded projects and decide on the grant amounts for each project based on the number of selected projects. The jury will also eliminate projects that do not comply with the rules.

The projects are funded by the Youth Climate Action Fund, supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies in collaboration with UCLG (United Cities and Local Governments) and the Bloomberg Center for Public Innovation at Johns Hopkins University.

Who can apply?

The project fund is available to youth groups consisting of at least **two young people aged 15–24** who live or study in Turku. Organizations targeting youth activities, such as associations and clubs, can also apply. Other organizations, such as libraries, museums, and schools, may also act as project fund administrators.

- At least two young people aged 15–24 must actively participate in the project's decision-making and implementation.
- The project idea must originate from young people, and youth aged 15–24 must be the primary implementers, even if an organization applies for the funding.



- Funding is not granted to individuals but only to official entities such as clubs, associations, or schools.
 - The bank account must be registered under an organization, not an individual's name.
 - The organization must be non-profit or charitable organization under local laws (unless a public entity).
- Funding is not granted to private companies.

How to apply and funding requirements

Project funding is applied via a Word form, which must be submitted between **August 19 and October 4, 2026**, to petra.svahn@turku.fi. The responsible person completes the application form and oversees the project's financial management and reporting in collaboration with the project team.

- Funding per project is approximately **€1,000, €2,500, or €4,500**. The application must specify the requested amount.
- Funded projects must be implemented and reported within the given timeframe.
- The project must be designed and executed by young people, and a brief report must be submitted.
- A single entity, such as club, association or school, can receive funding for maximum of three projects.

Timeline

The application period is open **from August 19 to October 4, 2026**, and selected projects will be notified in the beginning of November.

- Project funds will be distributed starting from early November but no later than November 13.
- Purchases must be made, and funds used by **April 18, 2027**.
- A short report (PowerPoint presentation, with a provided template) on completed projects and expenses must be submitted by **April 30, 2026**.
- After completing the project, teams must fill out a reporting form provided by the funder.

Funding restrictions

There are restrictions on how project funding can be used. Projects must be completed, and funds spent by April 18, 2027. Note that projects funded in the previous round cannot be re-applied for as they are. Previously funded project ideas must be developed further to be eligible for new funding.

Eligible Uses of Project Funding

Project funding must only be used for the approved project. Additionally, all project activities must be substance-free and based on voluntary participation.



Funding may be used for:

- Project supplies and materials, including rental and purchase of items directly needed to carry out the project, such as equipment, tools, art supplies, or technology.
- Costs for organizing community events, workshops, or educational sessions, including venue rental, printing of materials for participants, and basic refreshments.
- Costs for any necessary permits to implement the project in accordance with local regulations.
- Reasonable ground travel expenses (such as public transit, ride shares, or taxis) for youth participants or team members directly involved in project implementation.
- Promotional materials to raise awareness about the project, encourage engagement from stakeholders and the greater community, and share project results, including photography, editorial support, and videography.
- Reasonable fees for training and mentorship offered in workshops with youth participants.
- Administrative costs that local NGOs, civic groups, neighborhood clubs, schools, or other organizations may charge for administering a microgrant on behalf of youth project leads. The costs should be no more than 15 % of the microgrant value.
- Small amounts to enable youth participation such as per diems for food or gift cards if these expenses are reasonable in proportion to the activities. In no event may these expenses make up the majority of the microgrant.
- Capital investments when they do not exceed 50 % of the microgrant and are an essential part of the project suggested and led by youth

Ineligible Uses of Project Funding

Funding may not be used for:

- Services/expenses covered by existing city initiatives
- Rent or utilities, unless specified above
- Nonprofit/NGO incorporation fees
- Speaker honorariums and speaker fees
- Scholarships
- Direct support to individuals or families
- Partisan political contributions or expenses
- Expenses related to political campaigns, fundraisers, or projects
- Expenses related to lobbying (attempting to influence legislation) or voter registration
- Expenses related to commercial activities
- Capital campaigns, endowments, or endowed chairs
- Payments to government officials



- Events or fundraisers not related to youth climate action
- Regranting or sub-granting to other organizations or individuals

Expense Eligibility Examples

Eligible	
Project Description	Reason
Gift cards to a local grocery store to thank youth leads for their volunteer efforts and time commitment.	Funds to enable youth participation should be reasonable, based on the activities, and cannot exceed 50 % of the microgrant.
Paying a local environmental scientist a fee to lead a hands-on soil testing workshop with youth participants over three sessions.	Reasonable fees for training and mentorship in a workshop setting with active youth participation are covered.
Not Eligible	
Project Description	Reason
Paying a fee to a keynote speaker to give a presentation at a youth climate event.	Speaker honorariums and one-time speaking fees are not covered, even for climate-related events.
Producing and distributing pamphlets to support the election of a local political candidate.	Funds cannot be spent to support political campaigns or partisan political organizations.
Installment of solar panels for municipal buildings, like schools.	Funds should be used for youth-led activities and no more than 50 % of the microgrant should be directed to capital investments.

Considering Turku's Climate Goals

The project theme must support Turku's climate efforts. Below are some example project themes:

- Raising awareness about climate-friendly living and ways to take climate action.
- Communicating about Turku's goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2029 or envisioning a sustainable future.
- Using art, theater, and culture to promote climate awareness (e.g., recycled material art).
- Increasing awareness of energy use and conservation.
- Developing energy innovations or applications.



- Encouraging sustainable transportation (e.g., biking, walking, public transport, or carpooling).
- Urban farming or tree planting.
- Creating climate-resilient gardens or yards.
- Promoting awareness of local nature through activities like nearby hiking.
- Resource conservation in daily life, such as sharing items and spaces, repairing and repurposing goods.

Projects should strive to minimize climate and environmental impacts during implementation. For example, if organizing an event, the environmental aspects should be carefully considered—food offerings, transportation to the venue, necessary purchases, etc., should be as low-carbon as possible.

Further Information

Read more about Turku's climate efforts on the city's official website: [City for climate and nature | Turku.fi](https://cityforclimateandnature.fi)