Canadian Colleges for a
Resilient Recovery

Les Collèges canadiens pour
une relance économique résiliente

Wawanesa Climate Champions
Youth Innovation Grant 2025

OVERVIEW

THE OPPORTUNITY

In alignment with Wawanesa's Youth Stewards Pillar of their Climate Champions program, Wawanesa, in partnership with Canadian Colleges for a Resilient Recovery (C2R2), are offering funding and support to help accelerate youth-led climate action innovations that have been identified as a gap in the space.

The Youth Innovation Grant will award **five** projects $30,000 each to initiate or extend a project/innovation that is youth-led and focused on climate change or climate mitigation. The awarded funds must be used within **one year** of being received.

Wawanesa Climate Champions: Youth Innovation Grant is intended to support youth-led climate-related projects in partnership with a C2R2 Partner Institution. It is encouraged that youth participants are engaged in all steps of the project, including the application process. All projects will be made possible with funding from Wawanesa Insurance. While successful projects will be enabled by C2R2 Partner Institutions, youth leaders must be closely included in each project.

There is no limit to the number of applications submitted.

If you have questions regarding eligibility or how to complete an application, please email youthinnovation@resilientcolleges.ca.

IMPORTANT DATES

Application Period | January 16, 2025—March 13, 2025

Application Review Period | March 20, 2025—April 14, 2025

Project Award Announcement | April 22, 2025

Project Funding Length | One Year

ELIGIBILITY AND PROCESS

- Applicants must be enrolled in a full-time or part-time post-secondary program or have recently graduated (within 2 years) from a post-secondary program at one of the 15 identified C2R2 Partner Institutions.

- Note: Applicants do not need to be enrolled in an environmental/climate related program as all disciplines of study have potential for climate action solutions.

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- Participants **must** be considered a youth as defined by C2R2 (**18-30 years of age**).

- Applicants must obtain application approval from a designated contact at a C2R2 Partner Institution.

- A designated contact will be assigned with appropriate contact info and process outlined before launch. They will help vet and guide applications.

- Canadian Colleges for a Resilient Recovery is a coalition with representation coast to coast to coast. We encourage youth from all backgrounds, especially those from underrepresented groups, to apply.

- Youth interested in applying must email youthinnovation@resilientcolleges.ca with their name, C2R2 Partner Institution they are enrolled with or have recently graduated from, and what their project would focus on. C2R2 will then connect those who have emailed with a contact at their home institution to discuss the project idea and complete the application form below.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

- Projects must support **youth-led climate action innovations that will help Canadian communities <u>mitigate</u> or <u>adapt</u> to climate change, ultimately helping increase climate resilience.**

- Note: Because the challenges communities face across Canada differ, projects can be focused on addressing local Canadian climate challenges and needs.

- **Mitigation example:** A project that can help increase carbon capture/sequestration.
    - Mitigation can be on an individual level (if it is scalable nationally), a community level, a national level or a sector specific level (e.g., farming).

- **Adaptation examples:** A project that helps Canadian communities adapt to the impacts of climate change. Innovations in this space can vary. A few examples are listed below as thought starters:
    - Innovations in mapping high risk fire/flood areas to help better inform communities of upcoming risks and recommend solutions that will help prevent loss in the future.
    - Innovations in affordable climate resilient housing.
    - Innovations that support farmers' ability to adapt to climate change to help protect the sustainability of our food sources.

- All applicants **must clearly and concisely outline the problem** their climate action project aims to address related to climate change and building climate resilience.

- All applicants **must briefly outline what is innovative about their project.**

- The **end impact of the project must benefit a Canadian community or multiple Canadian communities** beyond the walls of a C2R2 college.

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- All applicants must be able to share**: the projected end impact** of the project tied to building climate resilience, **how they will measure outcomes and impact,** and measurable **project outcomes at the end of the one-year** funding period.

- Projects can vary from seed funding for an innovative idea to become a reality, to scaling the reach or impact of an existing youth-led innovation. Each project must achieve key activities and some outlined milestones by May 2025 with the project to be fully completed by April 2026. **All applicants must be able to provide a one-year plan outlining how funding will be used to accomplish goals during this timeframe.** If the project will continue beyond this one year, applicants must provide an outline of what this looks like and what phase this one year of funding will support. Projects can be completed in less than one year.

- All applicants must be able to commit to sharing best practices, insights, and lessons learned from the project process to other youth stewards.

- To help with impact reporting and storytelling, all applicants must be able to commit to providing ongoing updates throughout the life-course of their funding, providing quotes, photos, videos, and permissions to share information about their project and themselves for use in Wawanesa and C2R2's internal and external communications if selected.

IF AWARDED FUNDING

- You will help drive funded project recognition by working with the C2R2 Partner Institution to draft and publish a media release about the funded project and Wawanesa's support and will be available to local media as requested.

- You will help increase Wawanesa employee education by providing one employee education session (up to 30 mins.; national; virtual) to share with employees about the work being done, the importance of work related to climate change, and the positive outcomes of this kind of work.

- You will engage Wawanesa employees in the funded projects by building employee volunteer opportunities into project, as available.

- You will ensure all marketing and promotion opportunities are shared with C2R2 and Wawanesa, including the following:
    o Inviting Wawanesa to visit Funded Project site for learning and relationship building and to capture content for storytelling (personal interviews, photos, video, etc.), where applicable.
    o Inviting Wawanesa to attend Funded Project on-site events and projects, where applicable.
    o Inviting Wawanesa to attend Funded Project meetings/events, where applicable.
    o Provide Wawanesa with speaking opportunity at Funded Project event, where possible.
    o Mentioning the Funded Project and Wawanesa's support at events or in communications, where appropriate.

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APPLICATION GUIDE

Wawanesa Climate Champions: Youth Innovation Grant is intended to support youth-led climate-related projects in partnership with a C2R2 Partner Institution. It is encouraged that youth participants are engaged in all steps of the project, including the application process. All projects will be made possible with funding from Wawanesa Insurance. While successful projects will be enabled by C2R2 Partner Institutions, youth leaders must be closely included in each project.

Responses are setting the stage as to why the project matters. Please provide brief and concise responses explaining what your project is, how you will complete it, and why it matters in the long term.

There is no limit to the number of applications submitted from each institution.

If you have questions regarding eligibility or how to complete an application, please email youthinnovation@resilientcolleges.ca.

1. C2R2 Partner Institution
   - Name the C2R2 Partner associated with this application. The institution must be an active C2R2 Partner from this list.

2. Have you received approval and co-developed this application with your designated key contact from your respective C2R2 Partner Institution?
   - Select Yes or No. Only applications that have approval will be eligible.

3. Please identify your respective C2R2 Partner Institution Designated Contact's contact information if not listed as a primary or secondary contact
   - Provide all contact information for the designated contact assisting with the application if not listing as a primary or secondary contact.

4. Primary Contact
   - Provide all contact information for the individual leading the application. This could be the youth participant or the key contact at the C2R2 Partner Institution.

5. Secondary Contact (Optional)
   - Provide all contact information for the individual leading the application. This could be the youth participant or the key contact at the C2R2 Partner Institution.

6. Which of the following options best describes your relation to the C2R2 Partner Institution?
   - Select one option of Current Part-Time Student, Current Full-Time Student, Recent Graduate (within last 2 years), Institution Department Working Directly with Youth.

7. Participants must be considered youth as defined by C2R2 (18-30 years old). Are you 18-30 years old?

- Select one of Yes or No. Only youth ages 18-30 are eligible to apply for the grant.

8. Have you received funding for your project through the Wawanesa Climate Champions: Youth Innovation Grant in a previous year?
   - Select one of Yes or No. The Wawanesa Climate Champion: Youth Innovation Grant is looking to support diverse projects and as such, will not fund a consecutive year of the same project.

9. Projects must be executed in Canada. Will you be residing in Canada between April 22, 2025 and April 22, 2026? Will your project be executed in Canada?
   - Select one of Yes or No. Participants must be residing in Canada at the time of funding, and executing their project within Canada. Projects that are not based in Canada will not be eligible for funding.

10. Do you self-identify as someone from an equity-deserving group? (Equity-deserving groups include Indigenous people, racialized and visible minorities, people with disabilities, 2SLGBTQIA, newcomers, and women)
    - Select one of Yes, No, or Prefer not to respond.

11. Please select the equity-deserving group(s) with which you self-identify. (Please select all that apply)
    - Select all with which you identify or choose Prefer not to respond.

12. Name of project
    - Provide descriptive name of project.
    - Maximum 10 words.

13. Identify **one** of the following. If successful, this funding will be used to:
    - Launch a new project
    - Amplify the activities of an existing project

14. Provide a brief overview of project including key goals and outcomes.
    - This is an elevator pitch for your project. If you have a few minutes to explain your project to someone, what are the most important points they should know?
    - Maximum 250 words.

15. What climate-related problem does this project address?
    - Maximum 150 words.

16. Why is this project needed or important?
    - Identify the gap your project aims to fill.
    - Maximum 150 words.

17. What is innovative about this project?
    - Describe how your project is unique in comparison to other research/projects in the field and how it will fill the gap you have identified.
    - Maximum 150 words.

18. What is the geographic area that would be impacted through the duration or completion of this project?

- Identify the region where your project will have immediate and direct impact. A region can be areas with a shared environmental landscape such as the prairies or those bordering the great lakes, a specific city, province or community, students at your institution, etc.
- Maximum 50 words.

19. What is the projected end-impact of the project?
- Describe the immediate and long-term impacts of your project and how it can empower or support the community you are working within.
- Maximum 150 words.

20. Can this project's geographic area be expanded to a national level over time? If so, please explain.
- Think of how your project can be applied on a national scale and what impact it can have across Canada in the long run, beyond the one year.
- Maximum 150 words.

21. How will youth be involved in and throughout this project?
- Eligible projects require youth-led activities. Youth is defined as 18-30 years of age.
- Maximum 100 words.

22. Please identify any opportunities within this project that could allow Wawanesa employees or others to engage or volunteer with it.
- Maximum 100 words.

23. What will be your measurable project outcomes at the end of one year?
- While allowable, not all projects are required to utilize the entire project period. Please describe your expected project outcomes at the end of one year. If you expect you will require less than one year, please describe.
- Please list your measurable outcomes in number format with a short description of each outcome (i.e., 1-xxx, 2-xxx, etc.).
- When responding to this question, consider the SMART—Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Timely—principles of goal setting.
- Maximum 150 words.

24. How do you plan to measure outcomes and impact?
- Identify how you will know that you have achieved your project goals.
- Maximum 150 words.

Additional Documents

- Please provide a one-year plan outlining how funding will be used to accomplish goals during the project timeframe. Please include any identifiable key milestones, monthly goals, future-oriented milestones, and high-level goals extending beyond one year.
  - Any format of project plan is acceptable.

- Please provided a detailed budget that outlines how the awarded funds will be used to accelerate your project throughout the proposed timeline
  - Budget template provided in application form.

- o Ensure the budget provided includes all expected costs to be incurred throughout the funding duration of the project.
- o Please ensure any salary listed does not exceed more than 75% of the budget total.
- o Budget development must be completed in close partnership with the C2R2 Partner Institution. Funds will be distributed to the C2R2 Partner Institution to enable the Youth Innovation Grants. Funds will not be provided directly to an individual youth participant.

RUBRIC

The evaluation committee holds the right to decide on which projects will receive the final funding, however, the following rubric will be used to aid application assessments:

Criteria	Select	
INSTITUTION SUPPORTED - *Is the project supported by C2R2 institution representation?*	□ Yes	□ No
YOUTH-LED – *Is there Youth involvement and leadership in the project?*	□ Yes	□ No
CLIMATE FOCUSED – *Does the project demonstrate climate mitigation or adaptation activity?*	□ Yes	□ No
PROJECT TYPE – *Is the project new activity or an expansion of previous work?*	□ New	□ Existing

Criteria	1	2	3	4	5
PROJECT IDEA	Project idea is not strategically aligned with funding opportunity. Project plan is not clearly outlined.	Project idea is marginally aligned with funding opportunity. Project plan is provided but is lacking detail.	Project idea is somewhat aligned with funding opportunity. Project plan is outlined but requires further detail.	Project idea is aligned with funding opportunity. Project plan is clearly outlined and provides adequate detail.	Project idea shares strong strategic alignment with funding opportunity. Project plan is outlined in great detail.
TIMELINE	Project timeline is not provided, is not clear, or does not strategically align with funding opportunity.	Project timeline is provided but is not detailed. Project timeline is not strategically aligned with funding opportunity.	Project timeline is provided and is somewhat strategically aligned with funding opportunity. Project timeline requires further detail.	Project timeline is provided. Project timeline is detailed and is aligned strategically with funding opportunity.	Project timeline provided has great amount of detail and is strongly aligned strategically with funding opportunity. Project timeline provides future-oriented milestones detailing potential further scope and longevity of project.
INDUSTRY OR COMMUNITY NEED	Project does not clearly articulate industry or community need.	Project somewhat articulates industry or community need. Project lacks detail on how it will address identified need.	Project articulates industry or community need. Project requires greater detail into how it will address its identified need.	Project clearly articulates industry or community need. Project provides adequate detail into how it will address its identified need.	Project articulates industry or community need and is strongly aligned with the project plan and funding opportunity.

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Criteria	1	2	3	4	5
PROJECT IMPACT (*climate impact*)	Project does not clearly identify how it will address an environmental need or impact climate.	Project somewhat identifies how it will address an environmental need or impact climate. Project plan lacks detail on how various milestones will create long-term impact toward identified goal.	Project identifies how it will address an environmental need or impact climate. Project requires greater detail into how its milestone will achieve long-term impact.	Project clearly identifies how it will address an environmental need or impact climate. Project provides adequate detail into how it will create long-term impact.	Project very clearly identifies how it will address an environmental need or impact climate. Project milestones strongly detail how long-term impact will be achieved.
GEOGRAPHIC IMPACT AND PROJECT SCALABILITY (*Local, provincial, national*)	Project does not clearly identify the geographic area that would be impacted in project duration or completion. Project does not identify potential scalability.	Project somewhat identifies the geographic area that would be impacted in project duration or completion. Project does not clearly identify potential scalability.	Project identifies the geographic area that would be impacted in project duration or completion. Project identifies potential scalability but requires further detail into future geographic impact that can be made.	Project clearly identifies the geographic area that would be impacted in project duration or completion. Project clearly identifies potential scalability and opportunity to expand geographic impact.	Project strongly identifies the geographic area that would be impacted in project duration or completion. Project is scalable and has opportunity to expand geographic impact to national level.
RESOURCES & BUDGET	Project does not identify resources required to complete project. Budget has not been provided to detail how awarded funds would be used to facilitate project success.	Project somewhat identifies resources required to complete project but lacks detail. Budget has been provided but is not clear in how awarded funds would be used to facilitate project success.	Project identifies resources required to complete project but requires some additional detail. Budget has been provided band details how awarded funds would be used to facilitate project success.	Project clearly identifies resources required to complete project. Project provides a clear budget that outlines how awarded funds would be used to facilitate project success.	All project resources are needed for success are very clearly identified. Project budget is very detailed, outlines how awarded funds would be used to facilitate project success, and identifies any additional streams of funding they may pursue to achieve greater project success.
FINAL SCORE					**/30**