

2026 Project Guidance

Who should apply?

Private sector companies, public sector organizations, or non-profits with interest, funding and capacity to directly hire a Climate Corps fellow. [The application is here](#). The deadline to apply to host a fellow in 2026 is **December 18, 2025**.

What projects will be prioritized?

All projects that Climate Corps supports will advance climate action at host organizations and build fellow skills integral to success in a sustainability career. We will consider all submitted projects and prioritize projects that satisfy any of the below conditions:

1. Timeline: Projects that are **actionable** and have a clear pathway to **implementation**
2. Scope: Projects that directly contribute to or are integral to planning for **climate targets** with **quantifiable** emissions reductions or produce deliverables with a high likelihood of **scalable** impact
3. Impact: Projects that contribute positively to building a **safe and healthy environment for all people**, especially those who have been deprived of it in the past.
4. Career Development: Projects that meaningfully **advance fellows' professional growth** and develop transferable skills for future leadership positions in sustainability

FAQ

- Does a project have to satisfy all four conditions?
 - No. We are interested in accepting projects into the program that satisfy any of the above conditions and/or fall into our project categories.
- What does it mean for a project to be actionable and have a clear pathway to implementation?
 - Through recruitment calls and the host application, we look for projects that have leadership buy-in, are part of an ongoing strategy, and have budget allocated beyond the fellow. The climate crisis is urgent; we are particularly excited about projects tied to a timeline for actionable implementation of less than 4 years
- What kinds of projects will contribute to or are integral to planning for quantifiable emissions reductions?
 - We look for projects where measurable emissions reductions are a primary goal of the fellowship. Many fellows will conduct work focused on reporting, but we will prioritize supporting projects where the reporting is tied to work to reduce emissions, rather than to fill a historical (past year) reporting need.
- What do you mean by projects that have a high likelihood of scalable impact?
 - Some projects may be related to innovation or research that can impact emissions reductions efforts across a sector or industry. For example, a renewable energy company might bring on a fellow to research policy innovations across different states, or a tech company might hire a fellow to explore how a certain technology can be applied to sustainability and emissions reductions. We know that our fellows' careers are also a form of scalable impact; projects will be prioritized that offer the fellow a leadership opportunity to advance their careers.
- What do you mean by projects that will advance fellows' professional growth?
 - Projects that confine fellows to purely administrative tasks, routine data entry, or work that doesn't build transferable skills will be deprioritized. Our programmatic goal is to ensure every fellowship experience strengthens a fellow's resume, expands their professional network, and prepares them for leadership roles in climate action.
- Will EDF accept projects focused on water or biodiversity impact assessments, or waste reduction?

- While EDF does work on some of these topics and there might be space in the Climate Corps class for this work, our program will not prioritize projects focused on these topics.

In addition to the above guidance, we are looking for projects in the following areas:

- **Climate Commitments and Roadmaps**
 - Analyze, road map and implement climate commitments through tactics such as greenhouse gas accounting, net zero goals, Science-Based Targets, and the development of climate transition action plans, especially at the enterprise level.
- **Climate Risk**
 - Identify climate risks, conduct scenario analyses, develop mitigation and adaptation strategies, and integrate findings into business continuity planning, climate disclosures, or sustainability investments.
- **Climate-Smart Food and Ag Systems**
 - Implement strategies to achieve emissions reductions in the food and agriculture sector through tactics such as target road maps for key agricultural commodities, supplier engagement and incentive programs, and transparent accounting and reporting.
- **Environmental and Climate Justice**
 - Advance climate equity plans, establish and track ECJ metrics, create and/or advance community engagement plans, and facilitate stakeholder buy-in at host organizations.
- **Renewables and Energy Efficiency**
 - Develop targeted strategies to implement on-site and off-site renewable energy and scale energy efficiency, increase demand for renewables, and roll-off fossil fuel dependent systems.
- **Supplier Engagement and Scope 3**
 - Collect, analyze and report Scope 3 emissions, identify Scope 3 reduction strategies, and engage suppliers in climate and sustainability initiatives.
- **Sustainable Finance**
 - Support investors and financial institutions by creating financial instruments that direct capital to decarbonizing efforts, including climate considerations in the investment process, and preparing engagement efforts for portfolio companies.
- **Zero-Emission Vehicles and Fleet Transition**
 - Develop frameworks, create roadmaps, and execute targeted strategies to electrify medium and heavy-duty vehicle fleets.

Examples of Project Scopes

The examples of project scopes below are for reference when filling out the host application. They are suggestions of projects that represent the “bread and butter” of each project category and are *not at all representative of the wide array of projects Climate Corps fellows are up-to-the-task of tackling during a fellowship*.

Please explore the diverse array of past projects in the [Project Database](#) for many more examples.

Climate Commitments

Company will enlist its 1st Climate Corps fellow to set robust and ambitious emissions reduction targets and evaluate pathways for reducing Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions in the company’s global project offices. The fellow will focus on the following projects: 1. Reviewing baseline and current emissions inventories and recommending near- and long-term emissions reduction targets aligned with The Net Zero Standard. 2. Engaging stakeholders to understand opportunities for office-based emissions reduction activities (e.g., behavior change campaigns, on-site renewable generation projects, RECs, green tariffs). 3. Executing a research and recommendation project focused on pathways for reducing Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions at

global project offices. 4. Summarizing and presenting ideas to senior leadership and other relevant stakeholders.

Climate Risk

As an EDF Climate Corps Fellow at Company, you will be driving progress forward on our first Climate Scenario Analysis (CSA). Your analysis will identify climate-related risks relevant to our business and evaluate their potential impact across several Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) emissions scenarios. Your pathway modeling will span our 50+ leased and service offices and consider variables like different levels of emission reduction ambition, costs to deliver risk mitigation and potential cost savings from implementing your plan. As time permits you will also support our emissions reductions pathway modelling to help us develop our science-based targets (SBTs).

Climate-Smart Food and Ag Systems

The fellow will prepare Company's first forestry, land use and agriculture (FLAG) emissions reduction targets, utilizing guidance from SBTi and WRI. The fellow will gather internal data and prepare analyses to recommend targets and opportunities to reduce FLAG emissions in our supply chain. This may include engaging suppliers on incorporation of renewable energy, soil health restoration, manure management, etc.

Environmental and Climate Justice

The fellow will facilitate the design of a participatory engagement framework tailored for and co-designed with rural residents in the XYZ area of the County, that will focus on identifying and documenting community needs and solutions for establishing a Resilience Hub(s) serving residents daily, during emergencies, and can assist with a disaster recovery effort. This work centers on six rural unincorporated communities contained in US Census Tract 1234, which the EPA's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool identifies as containing overburdened and underserved communities. Specifically, the fellow will:

- 1) Research community engagement models and tactics in rural communities to develop a recommended framework;
- 2) Work in partnership with County staff to implement planned community engagement activities; and
- 3) Work with community members to identify existing community strengths and document priorities for building or further developing these strengths considering the impacts of climate-driven natural hazards.

Developing a network of resilience hubs within the County is a priority identified through our Climate Action and Natural Hazards Mitigation Plans and this work will inform future approaches taken in other rural communities.

Renewables and Energy Efficiency

The fellow to help analyze the availability, feasibility and cost of on-site and off-site renewable energy strategies that will support their sustainability, procurement, and operations teams in the development of a multi-year renewable energy roadmap with the goal of powering all events from renewable energy. The company is close to completing its baseline GHG footprint indicating that energy use at its 200+ venues is a primary driver of Scope 2 emissions. Additionally, the fellow will support the development of engagement strategies that involve stakeholders in this important mission. Some deliverables might include: conducting research & documenting federal, state, and local energy policies and programs that could impact venues; assessing cost and feasibility of renewable energy programs & available incentives; developing tools to help operationalize emissions reductions & renewable energy approach; description of financing and funding mechanisms available with associated benefits & risks; engagement strategies for employees and other stakeholders to leverage our platform to help tell the story of our renewable energy journey.

Supplier Engagement and Scope 3

Company is developing our climate action and decarbonization plan to support our science-based net zero target along with interim goals for scopes 1-3. A key focus is to work with our suppliers to help them reduce upstream and downstream emissions of our products. Our Climate Corps fellow will help develop and implement a supplier engagement approach to include the following: Enhance supplier data collection approach/system with a focus on climate targets and emissions reduction efforts of priority suppliers; help develop incentive and monitoring options; develop actionable guidance/steps and resources/training to meet suppliers where they are in their climate journey; build roadmap for ongoing communications/engagement to educate/support suppliers; and develop resource guide/materials for merchants to support engagement with suppliers.

Sustainable Finance

The fellow will support development and launch of our decarbonization program, which seeks to engage our investment portfolio on emissions measurement and decarbonization. Specifically, the fellow will support two projects:

- Analysis of our portfolio carbon footprint, including conducting custom analysis to target engagement efforts and designing dashboards and KPIs to track progress on emissions reductions over time.
- Development of an engagement toolkit for use by our portfolio companies, which may include decks, guidance documents, preferred vendor lists, and other tools as well as KPIs for engagement tracking.

Zero Emission Vehicles and Fleet Transition

Given that California has been a leader in driving zero emission transportation in North America, Company is enlisting a Climate Corps fellow to assess current and forthcoming rules and regulations, such as those under CARB and SCAQMD, and what they mean for our company. We are looking for an in-depth analysis on how and when these rules and regulations will impact its fleet of trucks and vans in California. We would like to understand impacts around the timing and cost of the identified regulations. The fellow will develop an EV transition plan for California for the next 3-5 years based on their analysis.