

Innovate MY Future

*100 GTHA youth
taking local action on
climate*



YOUTH
CHALLENGE
INTERNATIONAL



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Who We Are

Youth Challenge International believes that youth innovation drives positive change. We develop creative, market-ready solutions that catapult youth around the world to succeed and prosper.



What We Do

Our approach explores the intersection between youth and innovation by addressing health, the environment and inequality within the employment solutions we co-create.

Why Local Youth Climate Leadership?

The GTHA is
responsible for **7%** of
Canada's total carbon
emissions

(2015, The Atmospheric Fund)

Climate change
problem solving
requires **creative local
solutions & social
innovation**

youth have **incredible
capacity** for making
things happen, and are
**powerful contributors
to change**

Innovate MY Future: *The Program*

Youth Challenge International will...

- Recruit 100 Climate Action Catalysts (age 16-24) from municipalities across the GTHA
- Train and mentor 20 youth teams to become local climate leaders

Project Results

- 20 local youth-led community consultations to determine community needs and identify gaps
- 20 youth-led climate action projects
- A highly engaged network of young climate leaders

Innovate MY Future: *The Vision*

Our goal is to inspire and nurture youth in becoming highly engaged citizens, climate leaders and innovators who effectively respond to local climate change-related issues and needs.



100 Climate Action Catalysts...

What will each Climate Action Catalyst do?

Receive structured **Climate Leadership training** from local experts

Join a local **team of 5**; collaborate to run a **community consultation**

Plan & execute a 3 month **climate change action project** addressing community needs



100 Climate Action Catalysts...

LEARNING

...to become local
climate leaders &
innovators

Learning & Action Labs

DAY ONE Learning Objectives

- *Understanding the Problem:*
 - Climate change science; connecting global issues to local impacts
 - Understanding emissions sources; carbon footprint & low carbon behaviours
- *Climate Change Communications & Knowledge Mobilization*

DAY TWO Learning Objectives

- *How to lead change & get stuff done:*
 - understanding local policy development, civic engagement, advocacy
- *Team Action Planning:*
Implementation coaching & planning

100 Climate Action Catalysts...

ENGAGING

...in local climate policy & planning



Objectives

Graduation & Final Learning Event

February 2020



Celebrate and recognize the hard work and results achieved by the 100 Climate Action Catalysts



Teams present findings & recommendations to community & municipal partners for local climate mitigation & adaptation planning



Networking and collaboration opportunities for Climate Action Catalysts, municipal partners, community partners, climate leaders and policy makers

Innovate My Future

Partners:

Program Delivery Partners



Municipal Partners

- Richmond Hill
- Markham
- Newmarket
- Hamilton
- City of Toronto
- Peel Region (Fall)
- Centre for Climate Change Management at Mohawk College

Funders:

Funded by the Government of Canada under the Canada Service Corps program



Municipal Partnerships:

What We're Looking For

- **Supporting recruitment** through outreach to youth networks in local institutions within the municipality (i.e.: youth committees, libraries, youth programs).
- **Meet with the Team(s)** to inform them about municipal GHG targets, climate mitigation, adaptation and resiliency priorities & implementation plans
- Supporting **youth-led consultations** by:
 - Engaging local stakeholders to attend
 - Providing space for consultations if needed
- **Participation in the final graduation & learning event** to hear project results/recommendations from youth teams
- Including youth teams in opportunities to inform/provide input into any new or ongoing climate change planning/consultations (optional)

Municipal Partnerships:

Why Participate?

- This age group can be hard to reach... but passionate youth are out there
- Observe and play an advisory role in the youth-led community consultations
- Infuse a youth voice and end energy into your planning
- Tap into the next generation of civic leaders
- Knowledge translation & mobilization of local priorities

Now recruiting!

Our Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) communities need you!

Youth Challenge International's Innovate MY Future offers Canadian youth the opportunity to take action on local climate issues and make a real difference in their communities.

JOIN NOW

www.youthclimateaction.ca

Innovate MY Future Timeline Overview

April - May
2019

Cohort 1
Recruitment

50 youth; 10 Local teams

June
2019

Cohort 1
Onboarding
& Training

July - August
2019

Cohort 2
Recruitment

50 youth; 10 Local teams

September
2019/2020

Cohort 2
Onboarding
& Training

Feb
2020

PHASE 5
Final Event &
Knowledge
Mobilization

Thank you!

Follow along:



Sign up for our newsletter at
youthclimateaction.ca

Contact

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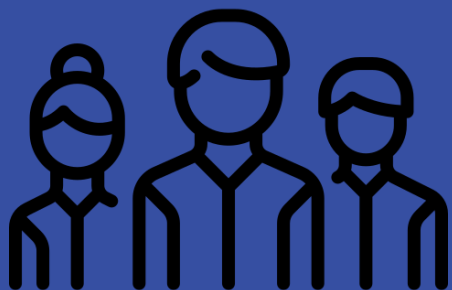
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Climate Action Catalysts:

Who are they?

University and college students seeking **resume-building & leadership experience**

- Looking for structured ways to become climate leaders: training, mentorship, support to lead their own meaningful projects
- Seeking connections with professionals working on climate change for networking and mentorship
- Motivated by this opportunity to help them gain pre-employment experience to speak to on their resume/in interviews

Ambitious **youth in underserved communities** – nominated by community partners

- May not see themselves as part of the youth climate movement but have interest in climate change, and community building
- Looking for leadership/volunteer opportunities to add to their resume to help them meet their career goals
- May face barriers to participation/engagement such as travel/transit distances

Youth-Driven Climate Action Projects

EXAMPLES

Low Carbon Behavior Change Campaigns

- Emissions reduction campaigns to promote active transportation, reducing meat consumption, and home retrofits

Enhancing Youth Climate Governance & Civic Engagement

- Creating regional environmental youth council in regions/municipalities/communities lacking youth opportunities and representation
- Engagement and civic engagement strategies such as youth voting and information campaigns

Demonstration Projects

- Biodiversity based solutions such as tree planting events or green roof projects
- Strategy to launch programs such as a neighbourhood bike share system

Awareness Raising & Knowledge Mobilization

- Structured “climate change conversation” circles

APPENDIX: Program Activities Summary

COHORT 1

May - October

May 2019

Cohort 1:
50 Youth Recruited
May= 10 Local Teams

June 2019

Group 1a:
25 Youth take part in
2 full day Labs

Group 2b:
25 Youth take part in
2 full day Labs

July 2019

Cohort 1:
Local Community Consultations

Aug- Oct 2019

Cohort 1:
Local Climate Actions

100 Climate Action Catalysts recruited in total

20 community consultations in total

100 climate action projects in total

Feb 2020

All 100 Climate Action Catalysts take part in Final Learning Event/ graduation

COHORT 2

August - January

Cohort 2
50 Youth Recruited =
10 local Teams

August 2019

Group 2a:
25 Youth take part in
2 full day Labs

Group 2b:
25 Youth take part in
2 full day Labs

Sept 2019

Cohort 2:
Local Community Consultations

Oct 2019

Cohort 2:
Local Climate Actions

Nov – Jan 2020