



Is this Climate Resilient Communities Grant a good fit for your organization?

This guide is designed to help organizations determine whether their organization and work is a strong fit for the PGE Foundation's new Climate Resilient Communities grant program before investing time in an application. Our goal is to be transparent, reduce unnecessary effort for applicants, and focus review time on proposals that align closely with the strategy.

If, after reviewing this guide, you're still unsure about fit, we encourage you to reach out to the program officer (melissa.dubois@pgn.com) with specific questions.

Start Here: What This Funding Is (and Is Not)

This grant program supports projects that strengthen climate resilient communities by addressing real, on-the-ground climate impacts in Oregon.

At its core, this funding is meant to:

- Support communities facing climate-related risks
- Strengthen systems, capacity, and preparedness
- Advance equitable outcomes for communities most impacted by climate change

This funding is **not** intended for:

- General environmental education or awareness-raising without a clear resilience outcome
- Standalone conservation, restoration, or land stewardship projects that do not connect to community resilience
- Projects that are primarily research-only, advocacy-only, or planning-only without clear implementation or community benefit

Funding Parameters (Pilot Year)

For this pilot year, the Climate Resilient Communities grant program will award:

- Grants of up to \$15,000
- Project periods of up to one year



Projects should be appropriately scoped to achieve meaningful progress within these limits. Proposals that rely on larger, multi-year investments to be successful are unlikely to be a good fit during this pilot phase.

Step 1: Basic Eligibility Check

Climate Resilience grants are available to any eligible 501(c)(3) organization that is based in Oregon and serves Oregonians (see additional eligibility criteria here: [Apply for Funding](#)).

Your organization's *mission & proposed project* **must** meet at least one of the following:

- Wildfire Hazard & Preparedness: Supporting community-driven strategies to reduce wildfire hazards, enable preparedness & response, and build long-term recovery capacity in fire-prone areas before fire comes.
- Nature-Based Solutions: Investing in community stewardship through habitat restoration, tree canopy, and green infrastructure projects that cool communities, improve water and air quality, and protect ecosystems.
- Parks & Public Spaces: Expanding, enhancing, and sustaining equitable access to safe, climate-resilient outdoor community gathering spaces where people connect and find refuge.

If you do **not** meet these criteria, this program is not a good fit.

Please note: Organizational mission is a key evaluation area for the PGE Foundation. We prioritize funding organizations for whom these priority areas are core to who they are.

For examples of activities that could be included, but not limited to, for consideration for each focus area, please refer to the end of this document.

Step 2: Does your work align with the Climate Resilient Community fund outcomes?

Competitive projects will clearly advance most of the following outcomes:

- Community: Increased local capacity and ongoing stewardship for resilience strategies (especially small and rural organizations)
- Environmental: Measurable improvements in wildfire preparedness, canopy cover, restoration, and green infrastructure
- Inclusivity: Greater access to climate-resilient public spaces



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- Systems Change: stronger collaboration and learning network across sectors.

If you answered **no** to two or more of these outcomes, this grant is likely not the right fit.

For exemplars of projects for each focus area that address multiple outcomes, please refer to the end of this document.

Step 3: Where Do You Fit?

Environmental Education or Workforce Development

Environmental education or workforce projects **may be eligible** if they:

- Are directly connected to one or more focus areas
- Lead to tangible climate resilient community outcomes

Programs focused on general environmental awareness **without a clear community resilience link** are unlikely to be competitive.

Step 4: Equity and Community Connection

Competitive proposals typically:

- Are community-led or deeply community-informed
- Center frontline, tribal, rural, or historically underserved communities
- Compensate community members for their time and expertise
- Build on existing community energy rather than duplicating efforts

If your project does not meaningfully engage affected communities, it may not be a strong fit.

Quick Fit Check: Flow Chart

Start →

1. Does your organization meet basic eligibility requirements?
 - a. No → **X** Not a fit
 - b. Yes → Continue



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2. Does the project address a clear climate impact and improve community resilience?
 - a. No → ✗ Not a fit
 - b. Yes → Continue
3. Does the project align with at least one focus area and multiple intended outcomes?
 - a. No → ✗ Not a fit
 - b. Yes → Continue
4. If proposing nature-based solutions, is there a clear, community-centered resilience benefit?
 - a. No → △ Likely not competitive
 - b. Yes → Continue
5. If proposing education or workforce activities, are they directly tied to community-centered resilience outcomes?
 - a. No → △ Likely not competitive
 - b. Yes → Continue
6. Are impacted communities meaningfully engaged in and benefiting from the work?
 - a. No → △ May be less competitive
 - b. Yes → ✓ Likely a good fit

Still Unsure?

Reach out to Melissa Dubois Lewis with a brief description of your organization, project idea, and specific questions.

We appreciate your interest and commitment to building climate-resilient communities.

Appendix 1: Examples of eligible activities per focus area

The examples below are offered as a very small sampling of projects that reflect some of our early thinking about how organizations and communities may wish to respond to this opportunity. We look forward to learning through practice in the coming year(s) to better understand how our investments may have the most impact on local communities.



Wildfire Risk & Preparedness:

- Community-led wildfire protection, defensible space, and vegetation management projects aligned with local hazard mitigation plans, prioritizing rural and high-risk areas.
- Partnership with tribes and Indigenous practitioners to incorporate Good Fire and other ITEK-informed practices in appropriate landscapes.
- Culturally relevant education and outreach on wildfire risk, smoke health impacts, and community preparedness.
- Cross-sector workforce development in wildfire mitigation, response, and recovery (e.g., training local residents, youth, or Tribal members).
- Strengthening communication networks and shared learning across communities to build long-term wildfire resilience.

Nature-Based Solutions:

- Tree canopy expansion and long-term care (watering, pruning, and survivability) in heat-vulnerable and low-canopy neighborhoods, with continued financial support to reduce burdens on residents.
- Habitat and watershed restoration using native species and nature-based methods that improve soil health, prevent erosion, and enhance water quality through partnerships with local and Tribal organizations.
- Projects that address urban heat islands and reduce exposure to pollution, prioritizing areas with low canopy cover and high vulnerability.
- Indigenous- and community-led restoration efforts that integrate cultural knowledge, natural infrastructure, and long-term stewardship.
- Technical assistance and workforce development for local and under-resourced organizations to plan, implement, and sustain nature-based projects over time.

Parks & Public Spaces:

- Creation or enhancement of community-driven resilience hubs and public spaces that serve as trusted, accessible gathering points during heat and wildfire events.
- Green infrastructure and shade projects (depaving, tree planting, pervious materials, shade structures) in heat-vulnerable and low-canopy areas, with measurable outcomes such as surface-temperature reduction and canopy expansion.
- Climate-adaptive accessibility improvements to ensure people with disabilities, elders, and frontline communities can safely access cooling, refuge, and outdoor spaces during climate-related events.



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- Community stewardship and education programs that build long-term care, volunteer engagement, and advocacy for climate-resilient public spaces through shared ownership and cross-sector collaboration.
- Collaborative planning or small capital projects that measure and demonstrate impact (e.g., canopy increase, surface temperature reduction, community partnerships) to inform replication across the region.

Appendix 2: Exemplar projects with related outcomes

The exemplars below are offered as a very limited view of how PGE Foundation may view project proposals as they pertain to outcomes. Successful applications will address more than one of the desired outcomes for the grant program, and we anticipate that most successful applications will address three or four outcomes. We look forward to learning through practice in the coming year(s) to better understand how our investments may have the most impact on local communities.

1. Wildfire Risk & Preparedness Example

Project: A tribal- and community-led “Good Fire & Preparedness Collaborative” focused on training residents in defensible space and cultural burning practices.

- Community: Builds local capacity by training residents, youth, and Tribal members in wildfire mitigation and emergency response.
- Environmental: Restores forest health and reduces wildfire intensity through culturally informed prescribed burning and vegetation management.
- Inclusivity: Elevates Indigenous ecological knowledge and ensures Tribal voices lead regional wildfire planning.
- Systems Change: Establishes an enduring cross-sector model that links local fire districts, Tribal governments, and nonprofits in coordinated wildfire resilience.

2. Nature-Based Solutions Example

Project: A community-based tree care and watershed restoration initiative focused on heat-vulnerable neighborhoods.

- Community: Strengthens neighborhood stewardship through resident training in tree maintenance and green workforce pathways.
- Environmental: Expands canopy cover, improves air and water quality, and stabilizes soil to reduce flood risk.



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- Inclusion: Prioritizes investments in historically under-shaded, low-income areas where residents face higher heat exposure.
- Systems Change: Creates replicable local partnerships among city agencies, CBOs, and residents that embed long-term maintenance into urban planning.

3. Parks & Public Spaces Example

Project: Transformation of a neighborhood park into a community cooling hub through shade structures, native plantings, and climate education events.

- Community: Builds local resilience by providing a safe, trusted gathering space during heat and wildfire smoke events.
- Environmental: Reduces surface temperatures and increases local biodiversity through tree planting and pervious materials.
- Inclusion: Ensures equitable, climate-safe access for elders, families, and residents with disabilities.
- Systems Change: Demonstrates a scalable public-private partnership model for integrating resilience design into local park systems.