



There's a place for YOU
in Climate Action!

WHY JOIN CLIMATE FELLOWS?

- Find your place in Climate Action
- Make an Impact in our community
- Project Development Skills
- Build connections with both local youth and local leaders
- \$500 Fellowship Award!

IMPORTANT DATES & TIMELINES

- Application Opens: 8/14/26
- Info Zoom & Q&A: 9/15/26
- Application Closes: 9/23/26
- Selection Announcement: 9/28/26
- Orientation: 10/14/26
- Session #1: 10/28/26
- Earth Fair: 4/25/27
- Program Celebration: May 2027



Sustainability Institute Climate
Fellows is in partnership with
the City of La Crosse.

SUSTAINABILITY  INSTITUTE
sustaininstitute.com/cfp
email@sustaininstitute.com

WHAT IS THE CLIMATE FELLOWS PROGRAM?

Sustainability Institute Climate Fellows Program is a cohort-based leadership and learning experience that empowers young adults to design, implement, and lead meaningful climate action projects in the La Crosse community. Through a partnership between the Sustainability Institute and City of La Crosse, this program looks to build on previous Youth Climate Action Fund (YCAF) success by combining what worked from the past two cycles with the structure of a previous multi-year program, MPower. Sustainability Institute Climate Fellows combines hands-on project development with collaborative learning, mentorship, and connections to local sustainability.

From October through May, Fellows participate in monthly cohort sessions that explore climate action through current local and global examples, lessons from past youth-led projects, conversations with community leaders, and opportunities to learn about the City of La Crosse's Climate Action Plan. As the program progresses, participants move from learning and relationship-building into project ideation, gathering community feedback, collaborative planning, and ultimately implementing a climate action project that creates meaningful impact in our community.

By blending education, collaboration, and real-world action, Climate Fellows equips participants with the skills, confidence, and experience to discover their role in advancing a more sustainable and resilient future.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Sustainability Institute Climate Fellows is open to young adults from all academic backgrounds who are passionate about making a positive impact in their community through climate action. The program welcomes **students enrolled at a college or university in the La Crosse area and/or young adults ages 18-24 who have graduated high school**, regardless of their field of study or previous experience with sustainability.

Successful applicants should be curious, collaborative, and committed to participating in sessions and project completion. Whether you're studying environmental science, business, education, engineering, the arts, or another discipline, Sustainability Institute Climate Fellows provides an opportunity to develop leadership skills, gain hands-on project experience, and work alongside peers to create meaningful climate solutions.

HOW DO I APPLY?

A short application will be **posted** on our website and remain open until September 23rd at 4PM. A committee will review all applications and select five Fellows to be a part of our 2026/27 cohort year.

ANTICIPATED PROGRAM OUTLINE

SESSION TOPICS, DATES & DETAILS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS APPLICANTS ARE SELECTED AND A PROJECT IS DEVELOPED. MOST SESSIONS WILL BE 2 HOURS AND HELD ON WESTERN TECHNICAL COLLEGE'S CAMPUS.

- Orientation - October 14, 2026 6-7:30PM
- Session #1 - October 28, 2026 (Your Place in Climate Action & City of La Crosse Climate Action Plan)
- Session #2 - November 2026 (Project Ideation & Connecting the Dots)
- Session #3 - December 2026 (Gathering Feedback & Refining Ideas)
- Session #4 - January 2026 (Project Planning - flying solo!)
- Session #5 - February 2027 (Project Planning & Making Connections)
- Session #6 - March 2027 (Project Work)
- Session #7 - April 2027 (Project Work, Wrap up & Public Outreach at Earth Fair on April 25, 2027)
- Session #8 - May 2027 (Sharing your wins & Celebration)

WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE FOR A SUSTAINABILITY INSTITUTE CLIMATE FELLOW?

Successful Sustainability Institute Climate Fellows are committed, engaged, and take action to complete a meaningful climate action project. To successfully complete the Fellowship, **participants are expected to:**

- Attend Orientation and at least 7 of the 8 monthly in person sessions.
- Actively participate in session discussions and project planning activities.
- Dedicate time outside of scheduled sessions, both independently and with teammates, to plan, implement, and complete a climate action project with the cohort.
- Attend Earth Fair on Sunday, April 25th to showcase Climate Fellows & your project.

Climate Fellows who successfully complete these expectations will be recognized publicly at the May Celebration and receive a \$500 Fellowship award.

SUPPORTING THE CITY OF LA CROSSE'S CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

A key component of Sustainability Institute Climate Fellows is a youth-led climate action project that impacts the City of La Crosse and addresses key needs from the City of La Crosse's Climate Action Plan. The City of La Crosse's Climate Action Plan aims for a 40% to 50% decrease below 2019 greenhouse gas (GHG) levels by 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. The plan emphasizes the need for creation and resilience, underscoring the importance of community engagement. [Continue reading](#)

