

Mesa Youth Climate Action Fund (MYCAF)

Program Results 2024 - 2025



Bloomberg
Philanthropies



Youth Climate Action Fund Global Reach & Impact

Three Focus Areas of the Youth Climate Action Fund

1 Government Innovation

2 Climate Change

3 Young People



BSA Troop 3030 constructing a Monarch Waystation within the Monarch Haven & Reading Sanctuary at the Red Mountain Library

Global Program Impact

Youth Climate Action Fund Global Reach & Impact

Program Highlights Around the World 2024-2025

98

cities
participated

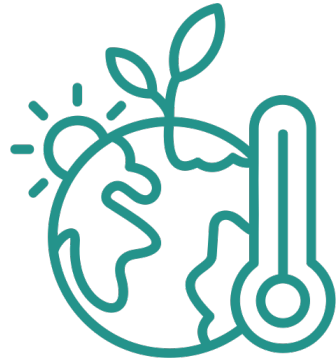
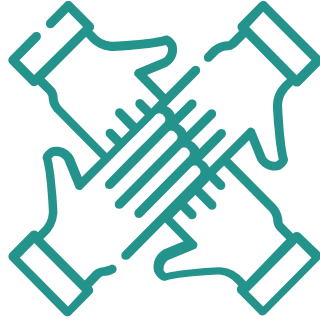


38

countries were
represented

10,000

young people
(age 15–24) led local
climate projects



3,000

projects funded by
city microgrants



\$11.3M

total funding (USD) disbursed
globally by cities

average microgrant
award (USD) was

\$3,800



Program Highlights and Results Mesa, Arizona 2024 - 2025



Mesa Youth Climate Action Fund Outputs

10

Local organizations engaged

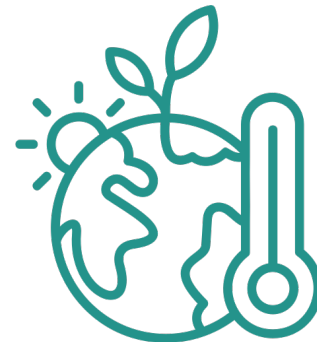
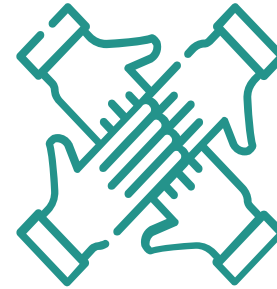


Projects focused on
Air Quality,
Energy,
Food Systems,
Heat Mitigation,
Materials Management,
Water Stewardship

YOUTH-LED PROJECTS

82

Youth leading
local projects
and events



30

Youth-led projects
focused on
climate action



\$150,000

Funding for local
youth-led projects

Average MYCAF funding

\$4,463

MYCAF Project Highlights



2024 - \$50,000

150 youth engaged
12 projects
145 trees planted
3 locations of garden beds
9 air quality sensors
Research in agrivoltaics

2025 - \$100,000

1100+ youth engaged
18 projects
1 Zero-Waste Workshop
1 Water system diverting 83K/gal/yr
2 Solar water systems
2 Monarch gardens
2 Solar water systems
2 Water stations/500 refillable bottles
4 Clothing swaps
5 Benches
10 Solar racking systems
17 garden beds
29 trees planted
385 cookbooks
750 lbs food waste diverted

Crescordia Award

Arizona Forward
Environmental Excellence Award
Curriculum-Based and Youth
Environmental Education

Project Highlight

Wildlife Sanctuaries in Urban Areas

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Students from the Environmental Club at Red Mountain High School designed garden beds and planted native vegetation in areas with low biodiversity to **support wildlife, improve air quality, reduce erosion, and lower campus heat.**

“We have kicked off a new era of environmental focus on our campus thanks to MYCAF.” – John Romero, MYCAF Project Advisor

PROJECT IMPACT

\$5,000 MYCAF award

22 youth participants

5% increase in usable agricultural land



High school participants spent Saturday mornings constructing nine garden beds and installing irrigation for local wildlife sanctuaries

Project Highlight

Red Dirt Girls

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Student researchers collected soil samples from grassy lawns and desert landscapes across 11 Mesa parks to compare how much carbon dioxide each type of soil released and stored. They presented findings at a scientific conference, providing evidence that **certain types native desert landscaping can improve air quality and reduce water use.**

PROJECT IMPACT

\$5,000 MYCAF award

8 youth participants

Soil collected from **11** City of Mesa parks for analysis



Red Dirt Girls analyzed the soil samples taken from 11 Mesa's city parks for their research into carbon sinks

Project Highlight

Ready, Set, Grow



ABOUT THE PROJECT

Benedictine University's Garden Club, "Ready, Set, Grow," created and led a community composting program connected to an indoor hydroponic garden, where plants were grown in water instead of soil to save both space and water. The project **diverted more than 1,500 pounds of food scraps from landfills each year, turned waste into nutrient-rich compost, and produced fresh, locally grown food** for the community.

PROJECT IMPACT

\$5,000

MYCAF Award

300

Youth Participants

3

**Indoor hydroponic
gardens constructed**

2

Compost bins created

Youth Climate Fund Impact in Mesa



“

Before I did this project, I felt like our leaders were very unreachable, but after participating in the Youth Climate Action Fund, **I have realized that it's because I hadn't been informed of the different ways in which I am able to communicate with those leaders.**

— MYCAF Participant

“

The most meaningful outcome was **empowering young people to turn concern into action.** Through 18 projects led by 47 youth, more than 1,100 young residents tackled real climate priorities—from water and heat to air quality and energy, building practical solutions and lasting community leadership for Mesa's future.

— Mayor Mark Freeman

“

MYCAF is a really special program because it **empowers youth and students to go out in their community, to have the resources, to have the confidence, and to have the funds to make changes that they wish to see happen...** I think it's taught me how to be a leader in my community as well. And that's something that I'm just eternally grateful for.

— MYCAF Project Lead

Highlights from MYCAF 2024-2025



At-Home Garden Kits distributed by members of Por La Tierra-Por La Cultura at a “Halloween Boo” event at the Dobson Ranch Public Library.



This high school community garden now includes raised beds, trellises, composting receptacles, and irrigation upgrades.



FFA members plant low-water-use trees around their high school campus and a neighboring elementary school.



Where does Mesa go from here?



ADDITIONAL FUNDING in 2026

We need your help - 2026

Once again, Bloomberg Philanthropies selected Mesa to empower young people to design and deliver climate solutions through projects that are aligned with citywide priorities.

\$40,000

Total funding for Mesa's youth-led projects

\$1000-5000

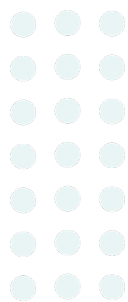
Grant amounts

Project Team

**2 – Project Leads (15-24)
1 – Project Advisor (18+)
1 – Sponsor Organization**



Key Learnings Across Cities



Key Learnings Across Cities

Insights from Mesa and others participating in the Youth Climate Action Fund

Young people deliver when given responsibility

Across cities participating in the Youth Climate Action Fund, this work demonstrates that young people are effective organizers, communicators, and problem-solvers when they are trusted with responsibility, resourced appropriately, and given space to lead.

Collaboration is shifting how cities work

Cities are embedding youth voice in decision-making, expanding pathways for youth leadership, and showing that small, targeted grants can help catalyze broader, longer-term change.

Co-creation strengthens outcomes and ownership

By designing projects with young people, our city and others are seeing more creative and relevant climate solutions, along with stronger ties between local government, youth, and communities.

Partnerships amplify impact

Cities have built new cross-sector partnerships spanning schools, youth organizations, NGOs, universities, and local government, strengthening relationships that extend beyond individual projects and support sustained impact.

"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."
– Jane Goodall

YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION FUND

Supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies



mesaaz.gov/MYCAF