



Youth Climate Action Grants

Project Template: Community Climate Resilience Map and Adaptation Action Plan

This template can help you get started. Feel free to change it and add your own ideas!

Project Overview

Help your community learn about climate risk in your area and how climate adaptation can create safer neighbourhoods.

Students will create a Community Climate Resilience Map and a Climate Adaptation Action Plan for the area around their school. They will learn about climate risks in their area, find places and services that can help during emergencies, and identify places that may need extra help.

Students will then create a plan with ideas to help people get ready for climate emergencies. They will share what they learn with their school and community through posters, presentations, and other learning activities.

Why This Project Matters

Climate change is causing more heat waves, heavy rain, storms, and flooding. These events can affect people's health, homes, and daily lives. Learning about climate risks in your area can help people prepare for these challenges. Making a plan and working together can make communities stronger and better prepared.

Project Goals

Students will:

- Learn about local climate risks and adaptation methods.
- Explore ways to reduce climate risks.
- Learn how to get ready for emergencies.
- Connect with people in their community.
- Find ways to make their community safer.
- Build research, teamwork, and leadership skills.

Project Results

By the end of the project, students will:

- Create a Community Climate Map.
- Create a Community Climate Action Plan.
- Engage with people in the community.



- Share what they learned with others.
- Help others learn about climate risks and safety.

Data Collection

Students may collect and track:

- The number of students, staff, families, and community members who took part.
- Photos, maps, notes, and ideas shared during the project.
- The number of surveys, interviews, and community events completed.
- What people know about climate risks before and after the project.
- Stories and comments from people in the community.

What You'll Do

Get Organized

- Create a project team and choose a staff supervisor.
- Give each team member a role.
- Decide what you want the project to achieve.
- Create a project timeline.
- Plan regular meetings to track progress and solve problems together.

Learn and Explore

- Learn about local climate risks, such as hot weather, flooding, and storms.
- Learn how climate risks can affect people differently depending on where they live.
- Learn ways to get ready for climate-related emergencies.
- Explore projects that help people get ready for climate change in Toronto.

Define Your Study Area

- Get a map of your school and the area around it.
- Use this as your study area for your project.
- Find important places in the area, such as:

Community Assets

- Parks and green spaces
- Community centres
- Schools and childcare centers
- Health centres and emergency services

Roads and Paved Areas

- Bus and transit routes
- Major roads
- Large parking lots



Climate Risk Factors

- Places that may flood
 - Areas with little shade
 - Places that get very hot in the summer
- Think about how climate risks may affect different places and people.

Research Climate Risks

- Research local climate risks within your study area, including:
 - Places that may flood
 - Places that get very hot
 - Places affected by heavy storms
 - Areas with little shade
 - Places affected by extreme weather

Research Community Assets

- Find places that help people get ready for and stay safe during extreme weather, such as:
 - Parks and ravines
 - Places to cool down
 - Community services
 - Emergency information and services
 - Public buildings and meeting places
- Record what you find using maps, photos, notes, and public information.

Connect with Your Community

People in the area know a lot about local climate risks and what helps the community.

- Who will you talk to?
 - Students
 - Parents and caregivers
 - Neighbours
 - School staff
 - Community groups
 - Local businesses
 - Seniors
 - Emergency services
 - Environmental groups
- How will you collect information?
 - Online or paper surveys
 - Interviews
 - Small group discussions

- Classroom discussions
 - Community meetings
 - School events
- Questions to ask:
 - Where does flooding happen after heavy rain?
 - Which places get very hot in summer?
 - Where can people go to cool down?
 - What services help people during emergencies?
 - What changes would help make the area safer?
- Record what you learn:
 - Survey results
 - Notes from interviews
 - Quotes
 - Photos
 - Notes on maps

Create Your Community Climate Map

- Use what you learned to make a map that shows:
 - Climate risks
 - Places that may need help
 - Community assets and resources
 - Places that need more support

Develop a Climate Action Plan

- Use your map to find ways to help people stay safe in the study area.
- Ideas may include:
 - Planting more trees for shade
 - Creating more green spaces
 - Sharing places where people can cool down
 - Sharing emergency information
 - Helping people work together
- Choose ideas that would help the most and that can be done.

Share What You Learned

- Share your map and action plan with the school and community.
- Share your results through presentations, newsletters, social media, or events.
- Reflect on what you learned.
- Discuss what worked well and plans for continuing the project.

Suggested Project Timeline

Time	Activities
2-3 weeks	Planning, choosing team roles, learning about climate change, and choosing the study area
3-5 weeks	Research, surveys, interviews, and collecting information
2-3 weeks	Create the Community Climate Map
1-2 weeks	Create the Climate Action Plan
1 week	Sharing your map and action plan, teaching others, and holding community events
1 weeks	Reflecting on the project and sharing results

Suggested Project Supplies

- Printed maps and aerial photos
- Clipboards, markers, sticky notes, and survey materials
- Poster boards and display materials
- Name tags and sign-in materials
- Audio recorders for interviews
- Computers and mapping tools
- Printing supplies for maps and posters

Sample Project Budget

Budget Item	Description	Amount
Materials/Tools Equipment	Survey materials - clipboards, markers, sticky notes, mapping materials	\$100.00
Materials/Tools Equipment	Display materials – poster boards, display boards, presentation materials	\$100.00
Materials/Tools/Equipment	Printed maps, aerial photos and mapping resources	\$75.00
People/Labour	Emergency preparedness speaker fees	\$250.00
Barrier Reduction	Snacks and refreshments for participants	\$250.00
Barrier Reduction	Accessibility supports, translation or interpretation services	\$100.00
Education & Awareness Materials	Printing costs for final displays – maps, surveys, posters etc.	\$100.00
Education & Awareness Materials	Community showcase materials - name tags, event posters and invitations	\$25.00
	Total Budget	\$1000.00



Project Team Roles

Project Coordinator – plans meetings and helps the team stay on track.

Community Engagement Lead – organizes interviews, surveys, and community events.

Mapping and Research Lead – collects information and helps create the map.

Education & Outreach Lead – shares project results with the school and community.

Data and Reporting Lead – tracks who takes part and records project results.

Safety and Accessibility

- Offer both digital and printed ways to join the project.
- Offer both online and in-person activities.
- Use clear and easy-to-read materials.
- Make sure everyone can get to and use the meeting space.
- Offer materials in different languages when needed.
- Hold activities at times that work for many people.
- Make everyone feel welcome to share ideas.

Reflection Questions

- What did you learn about climate risks in your area?
- What did you learn from people in the community?
- Which ideas would help the most? Why?
- How can people stay connected after the project ends?
- What new skills did you learn?
- What would you do differently next time?

More Project Ideas

- Host a workshop about emergency kits.
- Invite guest speakers from local groups.
- Lead a neighbourhood walk to identify climate risks and community strengths.
- Hold regular meetings to share ideas and plan future community action.



Project Resources

- [TDSB Youth Climate Action Guide](#)
- [TransformTO Youth Climate Action Engagement](#)
- [Youth Climate Action in Toronto \(YCAT\)](#)
- [City of Toronto Maps](#)
- [City of Toronto Open Data Portal](#)
- [Toronto and Region Conservation Authority \(TRCA\) Open Data Portal](#)
- [Google My Maps](#)
- [ArcGIS for Ontario Education](#)
- [City of Toronto – Map of Cooling Locations](#)
- [Evergreen – Progressing to Resilience](#)
- [Community Resilience and Risk Reduction](#)
- [Emergency Preparedness, Hazards and Emergencies](#)
- [Community Climate Resilience Mapping](#)