

**City Council
Agenda Item 11.A
Meeting of May 18, 2026**



Title: Resolution accepting grant funds from Bloomberg Philanthropies' Youth Climate Action Fund for redistribution as microgrants for youth-led climate action projects

Report from: Ally Sutherland, Sustainability Coordinator

Submitted Through: Susan Thomas, AICP, City Planner
Julie Wischnack, FAICP, Community Development Director
Erik Nilsson, City Attorney
Mike Funk, City Manager

Presenter: Susan Thomas, AICP, City Planner

Action Requested: Motion

Form of Action: Resolution

Votes needed: 5 votes

Summary Statement

Bloomberg Philanthropies has selected the City of Minnetonka to participate in the 2026-2027 Youth Climate Action Fund global cohort of 300 cities, which mobilizes young people to develop and implement local climate action solutions. Participating cities receive \$50,000 to redistribute as microgrants for local youth-led climate action projects.

Recommended Action

Motion to adopt the resolution accepting grant funds from Bloomberg Philanthropies' Youth Climate Action Fund for redistribution as microgrants for youth-led climate action projects and to authorize the city manager to execute the funding agreement.

Strategic Plan Relatability

Sustainability, Resilience & Natural Environment

The Youth Climate Action Fund will support and activate young people in Minnetonka to create and implement real solutions for climate change mitigation and climate resiliency. As a result, this program supports three strategic profile desired outcomes: 3.1 - a more resilient community that both mitigates and adapts to Minnesota's changing climate, 3.2 - protect, manage and enhance the natural environment and 3.3 - community-wide adoption of sustainability and conservation best practices.

Financial Consideration

Yes

The city will receive \$50,000 in grant funds from Bloomberg Philanthropies to redistribute as microgrants of \$1,000 to \$5,000 to fund youth-led climate action projects. Ten percent of the grant funds may be

used for the city's administrative costs.

Background

In January 2026, Bloomberg Philanthropies launched a global call for municipalities to apply for Youth Climate Action Funds to support local youth-led climate action. This year, Bloomberg Philanthropies expanded its Youth Climate Action Fund program to support 300 municipalities in engaging young people, ages 15–24, in building real climate solutions in their own communities. To support the city of Minnetonka's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, the city applied to join the Youth Climate Action Fund global cohort of cities. It was selected from among hundreds of applicants worldwide. For the 2026-2027 program, 300 cities on 6 continents will participate. [A full list of selected municipalities can be found here.](#)

Through this program, each participating city will receive \$50,000 in grant funds to redistribute as microgrants of \$1,000 to \$5,000 to fund youth-led climate action projects. Ten percent of the grant may be used for the city's administrative costs. This grant will enable the city to directly engage at least 8 student groups in developing local climate solutions in Minnetonka.

The Youth Climate Action Fund aims to equip cities to partner with youth in developing and implementing solutions to local climate challenges, create pathways for youth ideas to move from input to implementation, build lasting structures to engage with youth, and increase trust between cities and young residents through visible collaboration and results. Since the inception of this program in 2024, the Youth Climate Action Fund has worked with 100 city halls and 100,000 young adults who have planted over 150,000 trees, created 250 new green spaces, cultivated 3,000 gardens, collected 350,000 pounds of trash and recyclables and more.

Those eligible to apply for a 2026-2027 microgrant include:

- Youth-led organizations (e.g. youth clubs or groups)
- Youth-serving organizations (adult-led organizations supporting young people)
- Sponsor organizations, such as city agencies, schools or other educational institutions, museums, or community organizations

Eligible projects are led by young people, but funds must be disbursed to organizations. To be eligible for a microgrant, organizations must be legally registered entities, be recognized as a non-profit or charitable organization under local laws (unless a public entity), and have a bank account in the organization's name.

Upon approval of the attached resolution, the city will publicly announce the program. This grant will be administered by community development. The City's microgrant applications are anticipated to open in Sept. 2026 and close 6-weeks after opening to align with the academic year of the local schools. City staff will prepare the information for the Sustainability Commission who will be the selection committee to review applications and select awarded projects. Implementation of the microgrant projects will begin in Nov. 2026 and will conclude by April 2027. Project results will be announced by the city on Earth Day, April 22, 2027. All program reporting will conclude by May 14, 2027.

ATTACHMENTS:

[Report - Youth Climate Action Fund Resolution](#)