

ABOUT

What is the Google.org Impact Challenge on Climate?

The Google.org Impact Challenge on Climate is an open call to support organisations throughout Europe who are working towards a greener, more resilient future. Google.org will provide grants to selected organisations out of a €10M fund.

What do you mean by “on Climate”?

We are looking to fund new and existing charitable projects across Europe that use technology and innovation to accelerate Europe’s progress towards a greener, more resilient future. These are projects that will mitigate the impacts of climate change in Europe and beyond, and increase communities’ resilience to its effects. We are looking for ideas that address topics like increased access to or use of renewable energy, decarbonisation of transportation, improvements to air quality, natural resource planning and protection, and circular economy and design.

Why is Google hosting the Google.org Impact Challenge on Climate?

Google is inspired by the exceptional work taking place throughout Europe to accelerate Europe’s progress toward a greener, more resilient future and wants to fund big, bold ideas that use technology in innovative ways to further this.

When is the Google.org Impact Challenge on Climate?

We will accept applications from September 14 - November 6, 2020. The organisations selected to receive grants will be announced no earlier than March 2021.

What will grant recipients receive? How big will the grants be?

Google.org will provide grants to selected organisations out of a €10M fund and customised post-grant support to help bring their ideas to life. We expect each grant may range from €250,000 to €2,000,000, but will ultimately be allocated based on project needs. We encourage applicants to submit budgets that accurately reflect the scope of their proposal. Likewise, any additional resources provided will also be tailored to project needs.

What if I still have questions after reading the FAQs?

Please contact us at climate-challenge@google.com. We will review every email, and post responses to commonly asked questions on our FAQ here.

ENTRY & ELIGIBILITY

Who is eligible?

The Challenge is open to any not-for-profit charity, other not-for-profit organisation, public or private academic or research institution, or for-profit social enterprise company with a charitable project that is located in one of the following countries: Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Moldova, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, and United Kingdom. Unfortunately, individuals without organisational affiliation are ineligible.

Can we apply if we’re a for-profit business with a social impact?

For-profit businesses that are registered or formed under the laws of one of the eligible countries may apply if their suggested projects have an explicit charitable purpose. We're looking for innovators who understand the needs within both their local communities and around the world and are working to create a greener, more resilient future. Final discretion as to which organisations and which projects are funded is up to Google.

Can my organisation submit a joint application with another organisation?

Only one organisation may be the applicant of record, but we welcome and encourage collaboration - especially between technical and social sector experts. The application allows you to specify partners who will be critical to your work. If your application is selected to receive a grant, the applicant organisation will be the sole recipient of the grant, but may subgrant or subcontract with other organisations to complete the proposed project as long as all organisations comply with the terms of the grant agreement.

In what language should I submit my application?

Applications should be submitted in English. We are willing to work with organisations with varying levels of English ability throughout the review and selection process.

Can my organisation submit more than one idea?

We encourage you to strongly consider which project best resonates with our submission criteria and your organisation's strengths. However, if you feel you have two unrelated projects that would each make good candidates, please submit a separate application for each. We will review each one independently. No organisation may submit more than two applications, except as described below.

What if I work for a large organisation, like a university, that has many departments - can we submit multiple applications?

Large organisations like colleges and universities are permitted to submit multiple applications. In the case of colleges and universities, we ask that each Principal Investigator submit only one proposal.

Confidential information / IP

Will details of the project idea we submit be kept confidential?

No. Google.org will not treat your application as confidential or proprietary, and the details of your project may be shared with internal or external experts to evaluate your proposal: please do not submit any proprietary or confidential information in your application. Please keep in mind that if your organisation is selected to receive a grant, your project summary will be made available to the public on the Google.org Impact Challenge on Climate website.

Who owns the intellectual property created by the grant recipients?

We believe that projects supported by our funding should be able to benefit everyone. If you are selected to receive a grant, the standard grant agreement will require any intellectual property created with grant funding from Google.org be made available for free to the public under a permissive open source license. If your organisation is selected for further consideration, and you have a compelling reason why your organisation needs to own the intellectual property created with grant funding, you will have an opportunity to request an exception and provide support for your request.

Project info

What do you mean when you say "project"?

A project is your organisation's proposed concept and implementation plan for how you will use technology to accelerate progress towards a greener, more resilient future or support others to do so. If selected for a grant, grant funds will be supporting the implementation of this project - so we need to know exactly how the grant will help you realise your plan.

Can the project be in the idea stage? Does this have to be a new idea for my organisation?

Yes - we're happy to consider early-stage ideas with a clear and feasible plan for implementation that will benefit society. Ideas need not be brand new - in fact, they may already be a work in progress. In all cases, we would like to hear exactly how a grant will change the trajectory of your progress toward implementation, scale, and impact.

What kind of support will Google provide to help me implement my project?

All selected grantees will be invited to participate in the Google for Startups Accelerator. By submitting your project, you are agreeing to arrange for senior staff members to participate in the Accelerator programme (either virtually or in-person).

Google may also work with your organisation to scope possible pro bono support or employee volunteer engagements to help you with certain aspects of your project. The options may include a UX Design audit, a marketing consultation, coaching and mentoring support, and more. Additionally, we may select one grantee for [Google.org Fellowship](#), during which a group of Googlers work pro bono with the selected grantee full-time for an extended period (up to 6 months) on an agreed upon project(s).

If another organisation is currently implementing a similar concept, can we still submit the idea?

Yes, but please note that projects will be judged in part on their innovative approach and potential to scale. Please tell us how and why your implementation is innovative for the community, why your organisation is uniquely suited to implement the concept in a way that will be more successful, or how you plan to partner with other organisations to achieve success.

Over what time period should the grant funds be spent?

We expect the grant to be spent over the course of 12 to 36 months.

Can the grant be used to fund overhead and staffing costs?

Yes, but the large majority of the award should be devoted to the implementation of the project. For-profit organisations may only use grant funds for staffing and overhead directly related to the charitable project. For universities and other academic institutions, overhead expenses should be limited to 10% of the total budget or less. This maximum rate applies to the primary grantee, sub-grantees, and sub-contractors.

PROCESS

Can I get a copy of the application questions before I fill out the application?

Yes, you can find a copy of the application questions [here](#).

Can we include appendices or additional information to the application?

The application includes an opportunity to provide links to additional resources. Unfortunately, we are not able to accept any attachments beyond those linked as additional materials in the application form.

Can I save a draft of my application on the site if I want to edit it later?

No. Applications can't be saved for later completion, so we recommend drafting your responses in a separate document first and only completing the application form when the entire application is ready for

submission.

How do I make sure my application is successfully submitted?

Make sure all required fields are populated and within the given word limits, then click the "Submit" button. If the application has been successfully submitted, you should see a screen with a message confirming that we received your application, and you should also receive a confirmation email to the email address you provided.

I've submitted my application. What do I do now?

That's great news. No further action is required. We'll reach out if we need any additional information, and will announce the selected grantees no earlier than March 2021.

Do I need a Google account to apply?

No, you don't need a Google account.

Will every single application be reviewed?

Yes, we will review all eligible applications received.