

Climate Change Youth Challenge - Teacher Package

Climate Change Action Plan

In December 2019 the City of Mississauga approved the first Climate Change Plan for the corporation and the community. The Climate Change Action Plan outlines actions that will help the city mitigate and adapt to the changing climate and move towards becoming a low carbon and resilient community. We are now taking action to implement the plan and are engaging the community in helping to create innovative solutions to the challenges we face.

Youth are powerful advocates for environmental sustainability and climate change action and play an integral role in insisting on action from all levels of government. Thus, youth have been identified as a key audience to engage in the City of Mississauga's Climate Change Action Plan, a priority for the City as a whole. (CCAP Action 20-3 Develop targeted outreach and engagement opportunities for youth in Mississauga). Through this Challenge, youth will have the opportunity to engage in meaningful learning project opportunities that will address real climate change challenges faced by the city.

About the Challenge

We are calling on Mississauga youth to get involved and help solve some of the biggest climate concerns facing Mississauga.

- The challenge is open to high school and post-secondary students (ages 14-25)
- Teams must contain at least 4 members up to a maximum of 10 members*
- One class/grade can register multiple teams
- The number of teams and challenge questions should be selected prior to registration
- There will be a specific registration portal for teachers to register their teams
- Teams can work on their challenge question for any duration of time between their registration (open between October 2020-January 2021) and the end of the Challenge (March 2021)
- The challenge can be used:
 - as a class assignment/project
 - as a project in an extracurricular club (i.e. ecoclub)

**Note: It's up to you how you would like to divide your class/extracurricular group and which theme challenge questions you'd like them to work on (teams can work on the same question or they can all pick different ones)*

Mission to Earth: Save our city before it's too late!

We are heading for an uninhabitable earth: monster storms, killer floods, devastating wildfires, crazy heat waves and wind storms. Climate change is here and our cities are at the frontline. Mississauga has declared a climate emergency. But there is still hope. The climate solutions exist and if we act quickly, we can transform Mississauga into a world-class green city. Mission to Mars? No way. Let's transform our cities and MISSION TO EARTH!

The Mission: Youth teams will select a theme and create a plan to transform Mississauga to both mitigate and adapt to climate change.

MISSION TO EARTH







Climate Change Youth Challenge

Transform Mississauga to a world-class green city and save the city before it's too late

Learn ● Innovate ● Transform ● Connect

The Four Challenge Themes

Each of the four themes in the Challenge connect with one or more of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) and are further divided into theme challenge questions. Each theme contains resource packages for students with topic information, Mississauga specific context, and local data. We will be connecting students to inspirational sustainability mentors and subject matter experts per each theme.

THEMES	UN SDGs
<p>1. ELECTRIC CITY</p> <p>Challenge question 1. Renewable Energy & Innovative Systems</p> <p>Challenge question 2. Energy Conservation Projects</p>	
<p>2. CONNECTED COMMUNITIES</p> <p>Challenge question 1. Transportation</p> <p>Challenge question 2. Community Climate Resiliency Hubs</p>	
<p>3. NATURE AND WELLNESS</p> <p>Challenge question 1. Nature Conservation</p> <p>Challenge question 2. Local Food & Food Security</p>	
<p>4. CIRCULAR WASTE</p> <p>Challenge question 1. Single Use Plastics</p> <p>Challenge question 2. Sustainable Purchasing</p>	

The Challenge is framed within four pillars:



Within this framework, youth will work throughout the Challenge to:

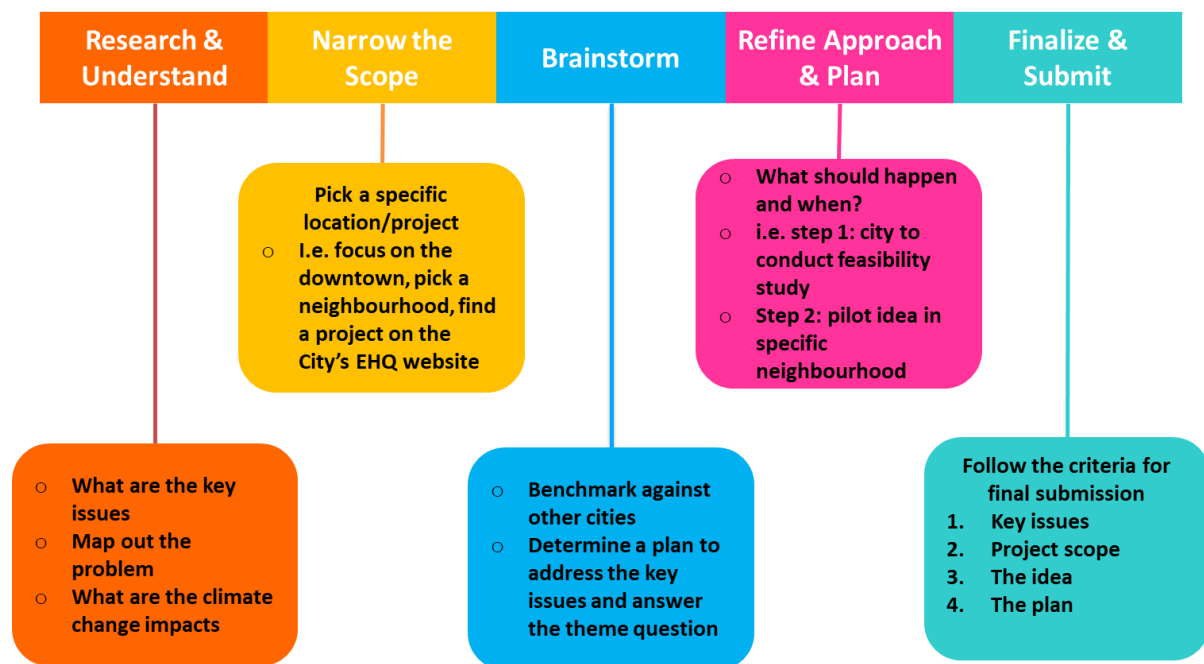
- Participate in creating climate solutions
- Connect with like-minded youth
- Network with subject matter expert mentors
- Expand knowledge and skills
- Learn about localizing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Starting the Challenge

1. Determine theme challenge questions teams will work on
2. Determine number of teams
3. Register teams! (mid-later October)

Working Through the Challenge - Key Milestones

Teams can work on their challenge question for any duration of time between their registration (open between October 2020-January 2021) and the end of the Challenge (March 2021). These are suggested key milestones and guiding questions that can be used to help guide youth teams through the development of their projects.



Challenge Submissions

Teams will be required to document their project from beginning to end in a project summary.* A 5-10 minute video outlining their project, learning process, and a visual demonstration of their idea must be submitted by the Challenge end date (March 31, 2021).

**Note: Project summary template will be available online and in the resource packages.*

Program Schedule

Registration for the program opens on October 19th and will remain open until January 31, 2021*. Teams can sign up for the Challenge at any point during this period. Registration for the Challenge will close on January 31, 2021 and we will no longer accept youth teams at that time. Between October and January teams can register and work on their projects for as long or as little as they want. Project submissions will be due by March 31, 2021.

**Note: To accommodate the schedule variations at each school/institution as a result of the public health situation this year, registration will remain open from October 19, 2020 until January 31, 2021. Youth teams will be able to work on their projects as soon as they register. All project submissions must be submitted by the deadline of March 31, 2021.*

EcoSchools Canada Connections

EcoSchools Canada has released a COVID-19 update to reflect the current school year with a number of actions available for certification (<https://ecoschools.ca/covid19/>).

In general, the Challenge will connect to **Environmental Literacy** and **Create your Own Action**, however each Challenge theme connects to the following EcoSchools actions:

1. **Electric City** – Heating and Cooling; Make the Switch; Phantom Power; School Energy Exploration; WWF Earth Hour
2. **Connected Communities** – Anti-idling; Sustainable Transportation; Walk and Roll to School Day
3. **Nature and Wellness** – Build Homes for Wildlife; Community Science; Grow a Food Garden; Indoor Gardening and Greenhouses; Low-mow zone; Meatless Mondays; Pollinator Garden; Supporting Species at Risk; Tree planting and maintenance
4. **Circular Waste** – Conduct a Waste Audit; GOOS paper; Recycle your Personal Electronic Waste; Reduce Harmful Single-use plastics; Repurposing and innovative Recycling; Sort your Waste; Textile Recycling; Scrap Your Food Waste; Vermicomposting and Outdoor Composting; Waste-Free Lunch

Youth Summit

The Youth Challenge will culminate at a summit event* that will bring together youth, community members, local government leaders, and industry leaders to celebrate and showcase the students innovative climate solutions. Additionally, a judge’s panel will be present to select award recipients per theme and award students with prizes. The Youth Summit may also include a key note speaker, vendors and exhibitors.

**Note: The summit may take place online depending on public health guidelines.*

Judging Criteria

The following criteria will be used to assess Challenge submissions. Theme submissions will first be reviewed by City of Mississauga’s Youth Challenge team and the top 3-5 submissions per theme will go forward to the judges panel, where teams will present their solutions at the Youth Challenge Summit.

The judging criteria and awards are below:

Components	Description
Thoroughly Researched	Thorough analysis and understanding of the theme challenge and key issues
Out of the Box Thinking	Most innovative and creative (i.e. leveraging partnerships, funding sources)
BIG Impact	Solution has measurable impacts (i.e. decrease in GHGs, more food grown, less litter, increased biodiversity)
Team Synergy	Team worked well together and equally while creating a positive atmosphere for all members
Execution/Delivery	Submission was well executed (clarity, confidence in communication, quality of slides, good flow of presentation)