

Climate Change Statements: FAQs

Why is the Foundation requesting this information from us?

We want to build awareness of the problems posed by climate change and help our grantees understand that they can play a role in addressing this critical issue.

What is the Gund Foundation doing about climate change?

The Foundation has for many years promoted awareness of global climate change and actively supported measures to combat it through its grantmaking. This has included not only grants in our environment program but also grants in other program areas that strengthen the urban core and support public policies to fight sprawl and rebuild cities.

We also have made a number of changes in our office operations. We completed an energy audit, and as a result of recommendations from that study have switched from incandescent to energy-efficient lighting, installed timers on lights in certain areas and started composting food waste and recycling paper, glass and cans. We also used recyclable carpets and nontoxic paints in our recent office renovation. We use recycled paper for most of our work, purchase “green” office products whenever possible and set our printers to automatically print on both sides. The Foundation also provides employees with subsidized transit passes to encourage the use of public transportation. We recognize that, like everyone else, we can always do more to combat climate change. As such, we will continue to set ambitious goals and strive diligently to meet, if not exceed them.

What type of information should we include in our grant application?

Tell us in a simple one-page statement what your organization is doing or thinking about doing with regard to climate change. This should refer to both your programs and your office operations. We have provided sample [statements](#) as well as a [list of steps](#) your organization might consider.

How does The Gund Foundation intend to use the information it collects?

We will use the information to help others understand how they can address this serious problem. From time to time we will share what we have learned and what we see as best practices in the Foundation’s e-newsletter.

Will our grant application be looked upon more favorably if our organization is addressing climate change in its practices or will we be denied a grant if our organization is not doing anything to curb climate change?

At this time we are primarily interested in raising awareness about this urgent issue and learning what our grantees are doing to address the problem. In the future, an organization’s practices with regard to climate change may become a factor in our grantmaking process.

If we need money to address our climate change impacts, will the Foundation provide funds for this?

While we will consider requests related to climate change as part of any grant request, many solutions result in savings to an organization rather than costs. Also, it is important that all citizens and organizations take responsibility for their roles in influencing climate change.

How can we make a difference in our organization? We do not know where to begin.

A number of [resources](#) are provided on our website to help you get started.

We rent our office space and have no control over our landlord's policies and practices.

What can we do to curb climate change?

You might be surprised by what you can do in your office. Small steps with regard to energy usage, waste reduction and recycling can substantially reduce your organization's contribution to climate change.

Is the Foundation solely interested in office operations or is there a requirement to account for program activities as well?

We are interested in all of your organization's goals and activities with regard to climate change. Many programs, such as those aimed at improving the quality of life in the urban core, help to address climate change because they combat sprawl and the energy consumption it encourages.

Our organization's budget and staff are small and overextended. How can we afford to do this?

Many measures involve just changing habit patterns and may cost nothing. Some will even save money—like turning off the lights and computers when you do not need them or printing on both sides of a page.

Where can we learn more about climate change and find out what individuals and organizations can do to curb climate change?

Our website includes a [list of resources](#).

What are carbon offsets?

A carbon offset is a way to negate the carbon emissions of your activities by funding a project that removes carbon from the atmosphere or results in the avoidance of emissions that would have otherwise occurred. Offsets typically go to fund renewable energy or energy efficiency projects that wouldn't have been feasible otherwise. [The Cleveland Carbon Fund](#) offers a way to purchase offsets that fund local projects in the Cleveland area.