

Final Abstract

Final Report Approved on September 22, 2026

M.L. 2025 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2026

Project Title: Minnesota's Roadmap for Sustainability and Climate Education

Project Manager: Jill LaLonde

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Funding Source:

Fiscal Year:

Legal Citation: M.L. 2025, First Special Session, Chp. 1, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 05m

Appropriation Amount: \$491,000

Amount Spent: \$71,465

Amount Remaining: \$419,535

Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

Climate Generation laid the groundwork for a statewide, community-informed roadmap to strengthen climate and sustainability education and support protection of Minnesota's air, water, land, and ecosystems. The roadmap was not completed because Climate Generation, the project's lead organization, closed before the planned research, writing, and implementation could be finished.

Summary of Project and Outcomes

Minnesota lacked a shared statewide approach for helping educators and young people understand climate change and connect learning with action to protect the state's air, water, land, wildlife, and other natural resources. Climate Generation launched Minnesota's Roadmap for Climate and Sustainability Education to create a practical, community-informed plan for addressing this need.

The project established a core team and working groups, held two public launch events attended by 90 people, and formed an 11-member advisory committee that met three times. Five conversations with leaders of similar projects in other states helped identify lessons and promising approaches. More than 250 educators and young people expressed

interest in participating in interviews, and 19 prospective writing partners were identified.

Climate Generation hired Rainbow Research to support the research. Together, they developed interview questions, participant sign-up surveys, outreach lists, and plans for reviewing existing information. The project also produced an index of relevant reports and models, along with maps identifying communities affected by climate change and the people and organizations positioned to influence climate education. Outreach included emails to 1,550 Minnesota professionals, newsletters reaching thousands of educators and community members, a project webpage, launch events, and a national conference presentation.

The project was not completed because Climate Generation, the lead organization, closed. Work stopped in February, 2026, before interviews, writing retreats, the final roadmap, and implementation could occur. As a result, the project did not achieve its intended statewide education and policy outcomes. However, the completed research tools, planning materials, partnerships, and documented public interest provide a foundation that another organization could use to continue this work. The project demonstrates strong demand for a coordinated, inclusive approach to climate and sustainability education in Minnesota.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

Project information was disseminated through personalized emails to 1,550 Minnesota professionals, two public launch events with approximately 90 participants, newsletters reaching more than 10,000 Climate Generation audience members and 7,500 educators, a dedicated webpage, partner outreach, and a National Science Teachers Association event reaching approximately 150 attendees. Materials submitted document both outreach and work completed before the project ended. These include the launch-party recording and slide deck, one-page project summary, advisory committee charter, logic model, stakeholder and power maps, communications plan, partner lists, resource index, Rainbow Research work plan and resources, and interview protocol.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2025 Approved Final Report

General Information

Date: October 5, 2026

ID Number: 2025-143

Staff Lead: Lisa Bigaouette

Project Title: Minnesota's Roadmap for Sustainability and Climate Education

Project Budget: \$491,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Jill LaLonde

Organization: Climate Generation

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Project Reporting

Final Report Approved: September 22, 2026

Reporting Status: Project Completed

Date of Last Action: September 22, 2026

Project Completion: February 28, 2026

Legal Information

Legal Citation: M.L. 2025, First Special Session, Chp. 1, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 05m

Appropriation Language: \$491,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Climate Generation to convene community gatherings and partner with institutions and organizations across the education sector to develop a road map on how to build capacity for equitable and accessible sustainability and climate education programs that align with the Minnesota Climate Action Framework.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2028

Narrative

Project Summary: The Roadmap for Sustainability and Climate Education will mobilize stakeholders and align Minnesota's education sector to the state's goals for equitable and accessible sustainability and climate education.

Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.

Minnesota's climate is changing, leaving Minnesotans facing increased air pollution, more frequent flooding, and reduced agricultural yields. Vulnerable populations, including youth, persons of color, and low-income communities, are particularly at risk. Building the adaptive capacity of Minnesotans to the changing climate requires education and training that builds resilience with community-based resources. Minnesota's education community, including NGOs, local and state agencies, schools districts and schools, is a critical messenger of climate literacy to almost a million K-12 students.

According to the Aspen Institute, states need to "[t]ake a whole-of-state approach to address climate change and include education." The Climate Action Framework and the Due North Education Plan aim to ensure every child in Minnesota has access to and receives excellent education. To do this, Minnesota needs a coordinated state-level approach for educating the public and students on sustainability and climate-related issues and solutions. There is a mosaic of sustainability and climate education happening across a diversity of initiatives within MN. Yet, there is no state-wide roadmap for making sure key stakeholders are aligned. There is an unequal distribution of resources and initiatives, leaving the most vulnerable populations under-served. The lack of coordination creates ineffectiveness and competition, leaving most communities under-supported.

What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? Introduce us to the work you are seeking funding to do. You will be asked to expand on this proposed solution in Activities & Milestones.

Minnesota's Roadmap for Sustainability and Climate Education will convene 1,400 stakeholders, including state-level agency leaders, community-based organizations, schools, universities, and youth, to author a publicly accessible report. The report will include guidelines for the education sector to build capacity for equitable and accessible sustainability education across MN communities. Education service providers will analyze informational resources to identify current gaps and barriers, align national frameworks to a local MN context, and create a strategic vision with recommended action steps. The resulting network of coordinated stakeholders will use the roadmap as a framework for developing accessible and equitable sustainability and climate education programs in a local Minnesota context.

Report writers will convene in-person/virtually to author the report; evaluating key resources, synthesizing findings, and incorporating feedback from stakeholders and the public gathered through virtual feedback and in-person community convenings.

The report will highlight current initiatives in MN and recommendations for aligning and expanding that work, including:

- Case studies of successful PK-12 education interventions across school subjects and grade levels.
- Methods for increasing accessibility to place-based learning in PK-12 and community-based learning spaces.
- Approaches for developing resilient and healthy communities through partnerships between stakeholders.
- Practices for supporting diversity, equity and inclusion.

What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's natural resources?

Environmental education in community-based and PK-12 learning spaces builds resilience to climate-induced changes by fostering deep understanding of local impacts and solutions. Accessible sustainability and climate-related education initiatives are crucial because they focus on the protection of Minnesota's resources, habitats, people, and communities. This project aims to generate community awareness and mobilize stakeholders to action, specifically by developing shared knowledge of the importance and accessibility of localized sustainability and climate education. The report will

serve as a roadmap, outlining innovative, practical, and scalable solutions to support the MN education sector with particular guidance around leveraging state-specific resources and systems.

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

Statewide

What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?

Statewide

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project and In the Future

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Establish Partnerships, Develop the Workflow, and Plan the Events.

Activity Budget: \$202,192

Activity Description:

Identify and confirm partnerships with up to 25 writing partners from 15 organizations focusing on sustainability and climate education and coordinate the development of the work plan and events in collaboration with these partners. Through asynchronous communication and at the writing retreats, Climate Generation and the writing partners will create a suite of state and national informational resources to support the background research for the report, determine benchmarks for report development, and identify and assign writing sub-committees for key sections of the report. We will develop a marketing and communications strategy to ensure diverse public stakeholder engagement that aligns with stakeholder and power mapping results. We will recruit and hire community ambassadors who will assist in identifying locations, dates, and times for the community convenings as well as inform the marketing strategies in each region.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Convene Climate Generation core team to create sub-working groups	July 31, 2025
Re-establish relationships with writing partners and outreach to additional writing partners	September 30, 2025
Identify and secure dates, times, and locations for 2 in-person writing retreats	October 31, 2025
Finalize writing partner contracts	November 30, 2025
Create an outreach plan for engaging diverse audiences	November 30, 2025
Identify and gather key resources and assign roles and responsibilities for writing sub-committees	January 31, 2026
Create an outreach plan for engaging 7 community ambassadors	January 31, 2026
Identify and secure dates, times, and locations for community convenings #3 - #5	February 28, 2026
Identify and secure dates, times, and locations for community convenings #6 - #7	May 31, 2026
Perform outreach and hire 7 community ambassadors	September 30, 2026
Identify and secure dates, times, and locations for community convenings #1 - #2	September 30, 2026
Review Climate Generation's Climate Convenings Toolkit and create a program outline for community convenings	December 31, 2026

Activity 2: Analysis, Writing, Public Stakeholder Comment, and Revision

Activity Budget: \$93,774

Activity Description:

To create the report writers and reviewers will engage in an interactive writing process that includes analysis, writing, feedback, and revision. Writing partners will analyze and synthesize state and national frameworks and other informational resources identified during the planning stage for report background. Climate Generation will host in-person working and writing retreats and host benchmark meetings to coordinate the work of the writing subcommittees, including stakeholder and power mapping, identifying the report's key audiences, creating an outline of key topics, and identifying case studies of powerful work happening in MN. The writing team will publish a draft report on the project's website, then solicit public stakeholder feedback through a strategic marketing campaign and direct outreach from partners. The public will be given 2 months to provide feedback after which it will be consolidated by Climate Generation and redistributed to the writing sub-committees for inclusion in the report.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Publish project website	November 30, 2025
Analyze findings from the Minnesota Landscape Analysis Project	November 30, 2025
Review the NOAA Climate Literacy Principles and the NAAEE Guidelines for Climate Action	November 30, 2025
Host writing retreat #1 and assign sub-committee tasks	January 31, 2026
Host virtual benchmark check-in #1 for sub-committees	February 28, 2026
Host virtual benchmark check-in #2 for sub-committees	May 31, 2026
Publish a draft of the report on Climate Generation's Resource Library	June 30, 2026
Host writing retreat #2 and assign sub-committee tasks	August 31, 2026
Outreach to solicit public feedback guided by engagement plan and evaluation	August 31, 2026
Host virtual benchmark check-in #3 for sub-committees to review feedback and assign tasks	September 30, 2026
Update project website	December 31, 2026
Writing Sub-Committees convene and submit drafts	March 31, 2027
Writing Sub-Committees convene and submit drafts	June 30, 2027
Host virtual benchmark check-in #4 after convenings for sub-committees; review feedback and assign writing tasks	August 31, 2027
Publish final report on Climate Generation's Resource Library after 7 community convenings	January 31, 2028
Update project website	January 31, 2028

Activity 3: Host the Community Convenings

Activity Budget: \$118,742

Activity Description:

To build public knowledge of the project and to solicit further feedback for the report, Climate Generation and partners will host seven community convenings in locations that are centrally located within each identified region and are accessible to a diverse stakeholder group. Target cities include Minneapolis/Saint Paul, Saint Cloud, Bemidji, Duluth, Mankato, Rochester, and Marshall. Community convenings will be held on Saturdays to encourage participation by stakeholders who may not otherwise be available. To garner this widespread participation, this project will use the Minnesota Department of Health Data Map and the EPA's Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool to identify and conduct direct and targeted outreach to stakeholders in school districts with greater than 50% eligibility for free and reduced price lunch and in areas with 95th percentile or higher in the EPA's demographic index (combination of percent low-income and percent minority), respectively. Further selection criteria will be considered based on the recommendations by the community ambassadors for each region.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Personally connect with organizations and groups from underserved communities as outreach for events	July 31, 2026
Coordinate with the MN Climate Action Framework staff to engage key local leaders and program administrators	October 31, 2026
Outreach to keynote speakers for community convenings	January 31, 2027
Personally connect with organizations and groups from underserved communities as outreach for community convening #1	January 31, 2027
Host community convening #1	January 31, 2027
Personally connect with organizations and groups from underserved communities as outreach for community convening #2-4	February 28, 2027
Host community convenings #2-4	March 31, 2027
Interim learning & program reports shared with community convening participants	March 31, 2027
Personally connect with organizations and groups from underserved communities as outreach for community convening #5-7	July 31, 2027

Host community convenings #5-7	August 31, 2027
Interim learning & program reports shared with community convening participants	September 30, 2027

Activity 4: Project Evaluation

Activity Budget: \$76,292

Activity Description:

This project will engage diverse partners in design and implementation, applying culturally relevant methods and measures to address power imbalances, to ensure success. Understanding the power structures in a community is an essential step to engaging new areas and audiences. To evaluate the diversity of stakeholders included in the sub-committees, public feedback, and community convenings, we will perform stakeholder and power mapping at the first working retreat. We will seek to answer the questions (1) what are participants' relationship with sustainability and climate education? and (2) what are the expected impacts of sustainability and climate education on the participants? A table and/or a graphical representation will be created to organize information about interests, power, influence and involvement. Results will be used to create pre- and post-surveys for events, including the solicitation for public feedback and community convenings. This will ensure we have reached an audience representative of Minnesota's general populace. Following an adaptive learning and iterative approach to evaluation, project design will be reviewed and revised after every major event with the intention of modifying for the future. A Graphic Recorder will be hired to attend all community convenings to capture feedback, synthesize patterns, and highlight key findings in

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Develop a plan to evaluate effectiveness of engagement; stakeholder and power mapping, pre- and post-event surveys	November 30, 2025
Solicit public feedback virtually and incorporate it into the report	October 31, 2026
Evaluate representation of commenters using surveys to assess need for further outreach	November 30, 2026
Engage in a second round of public feedback if necessary	December 31, 2026
Hire a Graphical Recorder to attend 7 community convenings.	January 31, 2027
Convene program delivery staff to assess impact and success of community convening #1	January 31, 2027
Convene program delivery staff to assess impact and success of community convening #2-4	March 31, 2027
Convene program delivery staff to assess impact and success of community convening #5-7	August 31, 2027
Create evaluation report to include in report; graphical harvests, survey results, photos, videos & written testimonials	January 31, 2028

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Community experts (including 7 Community Ambassadors, Youth Leaders, and Cultural leaders) receiving honorariums to co-plan, market, and present at trainings	TBD	CG will invite community experts and leaders in education, career training, and relevant scientific topics to present at the community convenings.	Yes
Saint Paul Public Schools	Saint Paul Public Schools	1-2 people attend the in-person planning and writing retreats, participating in a sub committee on the working and writing group. Providing outreach to teachers, suggesting and/or providing speakers.	Yes
University of Minnesota Center for Climate Literacy	University of Minnesota Center for Climate Literacy	1 - 2 people attend the in-person planning and writing retreats, participating in a sub committee on the working and writing group. Providing outreach, suggesting and/or providing speakers.	Yes
Minnesota Association for Environmental Education	Minnesota Association for Environmental Education	1-2 people attend the in-person planning and writing retreats, participating in a sub committee on the working and writing group. Providing outreach, suggesting and/or providing speakers, materials, suggesting speakers and topics relevant to environmental educators. Providing the results of the Minnesota Landscape Analysis Project.	Yes
Patty Born-Selly, Associate Professor - Education and Co-Program Director - Environmental Studies	Hamline University	Participating in the working and writing group. Providing outreach, suggesting and/or providing speakers.	Yes
Corrie Grosse, Associate Professor - Environmental Studies	College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University	Participating in the working and writing group. Providing outreach, suggesting and/or providing speakers.	Yes
Sustainability and Climate Change Education Professionals	TBD	We will invite 9 additional leaders practicing sustainability climate change education at community-based organizations, schools, and school districts to participate in the working and writing group, and provide outreach, suggesting and/or providing speakers.	Yes
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Supporting outreach, suggesting speakers and topics relevant to their work.	No
Minnesota Science	Minnesota Science	Supporting outreach, suggesting speakers and topics relevant to Earth Science education standards.	No

Teachers Association	Teachers Association		
Department of Education	Department of Education	Supporting outreach, suggesting speakers and topics relevant to the Science, Social Studies, and ELA education standards.	No
Minnesota Earth Science Teachers Association	Minnesota Earth Science Teachers Association	Supporting outreach, suggesting speakers and topics relevant to Earth Science education standards.	No
Department of Commerce: Energy Division	Department of Commerce: Energy Division	Suggesting and/or providing speakers	No
COPAL MN	COPAL MN	Participating in the working and writing group. Providing outreach, suggesting and/or providing speakers.	Yes

Dissemination

Describe your plans for dissemination, presentation, documentation, or sharing of data, results, samples, physical collections, and other products and how they will follow ENRTF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines.

This project will document all collaborative research efforts, recommendations, and stakeholder feedback in a publicly accessible report. The findings in the report will be shared through subsequent community convenings. Photo documentation and a graphical reporter will assist in summarizing partner and attendee experiences in an accessible way. Awareness for the project and the resulting report will be boosted by presentations at MN-based conferences, including the Education Minnesota Conference, the Minnesota Science Teachers Conference, and CG's annual Summer Institute for Climate Change Education. CG and the project partners will disseminate information about the project in through their communications platforms including e-newsletters and listservs. The final report will be available on CG's website & shared through social media reaching. The Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund will be acknowledged through the use of the trust fund logo and attribution language on the project website, print media, publications (e-communications, flyers, etc.), and other communications per the ENRTF Acknowledgement Guidelines.

Long-Term Implementation and Funding

Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this work be funded?

Climate Generation (CG) will maintain and pursue partnerships through annual programming to enact recommendations in the report. CG will work with school districts and community-based partners in emerging initiatives, including CG's Teach Climate Network and Minnesota-based Community of Practice (COP), and the Midwest Climate Collaborative's Educator COP. Funds will be sought through sponsorships and grant opportunities. Report outcomes will be disseminated at conferences, including the Minnesota Science Teachers Conference, the Education Minnesota Conference, CG's Summer Institute, and CG's monthly workshops, and website & social media. The report will be available to download for free on the CG's Resource Library.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Teach Science: Schools as STEM Living Laboratories	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 05c	\$250,000

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
Personnel										
Project Manager		Manage project workflow, coordinate hire contractors, coordinate writing partnerships, oversee budget, and evaluation plan			35%	0.7		\$48,280	-	-
Regional Education Coordinator		Coordinate community ambassadors, develop and implement program for community convenings			75%	1.5		\$78,610	-	-
Youth Manager		Attend the in-person planning and writing retreats, participating in a sub committee on a working and writing group. Act as the Youth liaison; providing outreach to members of the community who are between the ages of 15 and 24 years old and suggesting and/or providing connections to Youth speakers whose expertise is in related fields, like climate action, climate education, and justice or sustainable planning. All Climate Generation staff who interact with Youth, per the previous definition, must pass background checks upon hiring.			10%	0.2		\$13,102	-	-
Education Coordinators		Attend and support implementation of writing retreats and community convenings, support writing and editing report, outreach and dissemination support			20%	1.2		\$65,508	-	-
Marketing and Communications Managers		Develop community engagement and marketing plan, oversee the project website			15%	0.3		\$19,464	-	-

Communications Coordinator		Support communication, photo and video support, graphic design support pertaining to dissemination and outreach			20%	0.4		\$21,836	-	-
Program Intern		Writing Intern to support program delivery at writing retreats and authorship/editing of the report; Community Convenings Intern to support program delivery			0%	0.52		\$9,700	-	-
							Sub Total	\$256,500	\$54,903	\$201,597
Contracts and Services										
Systems Administrator: Laura Borgendale	Service Contract	Technology support, webpage integration. Web contractor with Climate Generation since 2019, hired through competitive bidding process, located in Minnesota.				0		\$10,800	\$787	\$10,013
Graphic Designer: Bryn Bundie	Service Contract	Design of the final printable report and executive summary - design contractor with Climate Generation since 2020				0		\$5,000	\$160	\$4,840
Stuidio501	Service Contract	Administrative and budget reporting support.		X		0.5		\$18,000	\$1,138	\$16,862
Videographer/Photographer	Service Contract	To capture video interviews and video/photo records of stakeholders at retreats and community convenings. Participation at 2 retreats and 7 community convenings. Create materials for program dissemination, presentations and final report graphical design.				0		\$5,000	-	\$5,000
Graphic Recorder	Service Contract	Participation at 7 community convenings. Use graphic recording to help stakeholders at community convenings better process and retain information and to synthesize convening outcomes in an accessible visual document for the final report.				0		\$15,000	-	\$15,000

Rainbow Research	Subaward	1 staff attend two writing retreats, join a writing sub-committee, virtual benchmark meetings, and community convening. 1 staff participate in the advisory committee. 2 staff lead a mixed-methods research initiative, including archival data analysis and participant interviews. Est: personnel \$21,000, travel \$3,000.				0.48		\$24,000	\$13,715	\$10,285
TBD Partner Organization #1	Subaward	2 staff attend two writing retreats, four two-hour virtual benchmark meetings, and one 3 hour community convening. Participate in a writing sub-committee; approximately 20 hours of asynchronous work and pop-up virtual meetings with the subcommittee. Est: personnel \$6,000, travel: \$2000				0.16		\$8,000	-	\$8,000
TBD Partner Organization #2	Subaward	2 staff attend two writing retreats, four two-hour virtual benchmark meetings, and one 3 hour community convening. Participate in a writing sub-committee; approximately 20 hours of asynchronous work and pop-up virtual meetings with the subcommittee. Est: personnel \$6,000, travel: \$2000				0.16		\$8,000	-	\$8,000
TBD Partner Organization #3	Subaward	2 staff attend two writing retreats, four two-hour virtual benchmark meetings, and one 3 hour community convening. Participate in a writing sub-committee; approximately 20 hours of asynchronous work and pop-up virtual meetings with the subcommittee. Est: personnel \$6,000, travel: \$2000				0.16		\$8,000	-	\$8,000

TBD Partner Organization #4	Subaward	2 staff attend two writing retreats, four two-hour virtual benchmark meetings, and one 3 hour community convening. Participate in a writing sub-committee; approximately 20 hours of asynchronous work and pop-up virtual meetings with the subcommittee. Est: personnel \$6,000, travel: \$2000				0.16		\$8,000	-	\$8,000
TBD Partner Organization #5	Subaward	2 staff attend two writing retreats, four two-hour virtual benchmark meetings, and one 3 hour community convening. Participate in a writing sub-committee; approximately 20 hours of asynchronous work and pop-up virtual meetings with the subcommittee. Est: personnel \$6,000, travel: \$2000				0.16		\$8,000	-	\$8,000
TBD Partner Organization #6	Subaward	2 staff attend two writing retreats, four two-hour virtual benchmark meetings, and one 3 hour community convening. Participate in a writing sub-committee; approximately 20 hours of asynchronous work and pop-up virtual meetings with the subcommittee. Est: personnel \$6,000, travel: \$2000				0.16		\$8,000	-	\$8,000
TBD Partner Organization #7	Subaward	2 staff attend two writing retreats, four two-hour virtual benchmark meetings, and one 3 hour community convening. Participate in a writing sub-committee; approximately 20 hours of asynchronous work and pop-up virtual meetings with the subcommittee. Est: personnel \$6,000, travel: \$2000				0.16		\$8,000	-	\$8,000
TBD Partner Organization #8	Subaward	2 staff attend two writing retreats, four two-hour virtual				0.16		\$8,000	-	\$8,000

		benchmark meetings, and one 3 hour community convening. Participate in a writing sub-committee; approximately 20 hours of asynchronous work and pop-up virtual meetings with the subcommittee. Est: personnel \$6,000, travel: \$2000								
TBD Partner Organization #9	Subaward	2 staff attend two writing retreats, four two-hour virtual benchmark meetings, and one 3 hour community convening. Participate in a writing sub-committee; approximately 20 hours of asynchronous work and pop-up virtual meetings with the subcommittee. Est: personnel \$6,000, travel: \$2000				0.16		\$8,000	-	\$8,000
TBD Partner Organization #10	Subaward	2 staff attend two writing retreats, four two-hour virtual benchmark meetings, and one 3 hour community convening. Participate in a writing sub-committee; approximately 20 hours of asynchronous work and pop-up virtual meetings with the subcommittee. Est: personnel \$6,000, travel: \$2000				0.16		\$8,000	-	\$8,000
TBD Partner Organization #11	Subaward	2 staff attend two writing retreats, four two-hour virtual benchmark meetings, and one 3 hour community convening. Participate in a writing sub-committee; approximately 20 hours of asynchronous work and pop-up virtual meetings with the subcommittee. Est: personnel \$6,000, travel: \$2000				0.16		\$8,000	-	\$8,000
TBD Partner Organization #12	Subaward	2 staff attend two writing retreats, four two-hour virtual benchmark meetings, and one 3 hour community convening.				0.16		\$8,000	-	\$8,000

		Participate in a writing sub-committee; approximately 20 hours of asynchronous work and pop-up virtual meetings with the subcommittee. Est: personnel \$6,000, travel: \$2000								
							Sub Total	\$173,800	\$15,800	\$158,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies										
	Tools and Supplies	Retreat and convenings materials (markers, flipchart paper, snacks \$200/event)	For activities and support of writing retreats and community convenings	X				\$1,800	-	\$1,800
							Sub Total	\$1,800	-	\$1,800
Capital Equipment										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Travel In Minnesota										
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	Retreats: 3 staff travel for writing retreats and one trip for planning (Retreats: 2 nights each location, 2.5 days of per diem each location for each person (, plus round-trip= \$2,500 mileage for 2 retreats = \$1,350; Planning: mileage for 1 round-trip = \$675) Convenings: 3 staff travel for 7 community convenings, mileage for planning convenings =\$4725	For travel to writing retreats and convenings					\$9,300	\$762	\$8,538
	Conference Registration Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	Minnesota Science Teachers Conference Exhibit and Registration	Program dissemination and presentation					\$250	-	\$250

	Conference Registration Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	Education Minnesota Exhibit and Registration	Program dissemination and presentation					\$500	-	\$500
							Sub Total	\$10,050	\$762	\$9,288
Travel Outside Minnesota										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Printing and Publication										
	Printing	Handouts, activity outlines for events (\$215 per event), printed reports (\$2,000 total)	Writing retreat and convenings materials, plus printed reports					\$3,500	-	\$3,500
							Sub Total	\$3,500	-	\$3,500
Other Expenses										
		Facility Rental for 2 writing retreat locations (\$6,250 x 2 = \$12,500)	2 writing retreats including lodging and co-working space for up to 25 people per event					\$11,500	-	\$11,500
		Facility Rental for 7 community convenings (\$750/location x 7 = \$5,250)	7 community convenings for up to 200 people per event					\$5,250	-	\$5,250
		Writing retreat and community convening meals for participants (Retreats Meals for 1 day, plus one dinner: \$40 * 25 people * 2 retreats - \$2,000 Light snacks for 7 community convening: \$15 * 100 people (average) * 7 convenings = \$10,500)	Writing retreats will be held over a day and a half. Providing breakfast and lunch for one day, plus dinner for two nights will be critical to maximize time and make the event useful.	X				\$12,500	-	\$12,500
		Speaker Honorariums: \$200/speaker, 3 speakers/convening*7 convenings	Speakers will attend community convenings to share their expertise and will need compensation	X				\$4,200	-	\$4,200
		7 Community Ambassadors (7 convenings * 15 hours planning & community outreach)	Community Ambassadors will be paid a stipend for their	X				\$11,900	-	\$11,900

			work planning the convening, building relationships among stakeholders in their region, and doing event outreach.							
							Sub Total	\$45,350	-	\$45,350
							Grand Total	\$491,000	\$71,465	\$419,535

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
Contracts and Services - Studio501	Service Contract	Administrative and budget reporting support.	Climate Generation doesn't have internal staff dedicated to overseeing monthly financial statements, including tracking expenses and payments to contractors and sub awardees. Climate Generation contracts out these services to Studio501, an accounting firm based in MN. The extensive financial tracking required by LCCMR funded projects to ensure that Climate Generation can submit the information required for successful reimbursement is only possible with Studio501.
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies		Retreat and convenings materials (markers, flipchart paper, snacks \$200/event)	We understand that food is generally ineligible but believe that providing snacks at the writing retreats will be critical for maximizing time and making the event useful.
Other Expenses		Writing retreat and community convening meals for participants (Retreats Meals for 1 day, plus one dinner: \$40 * 25 people * 2 retreats - \$2,000 Light snacks for 7 community convening: \$15 * 100 people (average) * 7 convenings = \$10,500	We are including expenses for participant meals at our writing retreat for a day and a half. Writing retreats will be held over a day and a half. Providing breakfast and lunch for one day, plus dinner for two nights will be critical to maximize time and make the event useful. Our estimated cost of \$40 per person for a day and a half's worth of meals is below the U.S. GSA's FY24 per diem rates for Minnesota.
Other Expenses		Speaker Honorariums: \$200/speaker, 3 speakers/convening*7 convenings	We believe that speakers at community convenings should be compensated for their time and expertise through an honorarium.
Other Expenses		7 Community Ambassadors (7 convenings * 15 hours planning & community outreach)	Community Ambassadors are essential to the success of this project as we aim to create a Roadmap that reflects the needs and hopes of the diverse communities and people of MN. Community Ambassadors that come from the communities that we seek to represent will play a vital role in planning, securing venues, community outreach, and program facilitation at the convenings.

Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	\$ Amount	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
State						
			State Sub Total	-	-	-
Non-State						
Cash	Xcel Energy Foundation	Teacher Network Support	Pending	\$10,000	-	\$10,000
In-Kind	Climate Generation	Executive Director Time Supporting Project	Secured	\$10,000	-	\$10,000
Cash	Avangrid Foundation	Teacher Network Support	Potential	\$50,000	-	\$50,000
In-Kind	Climate Generation	Curricula materials already developed that can be used to support the project	Secured	\$15,000	-	\$15,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$85,000	-	\$85,000
			Funds Total	\$85,000	-	\$85,000

Total Project Cost: \$576,000

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [17aa053b-50f.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

A timeline of events for the project and a map of target communities....

Financial Capacity

Title	File
FY22 990	5d66715c-efc.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Board Resolution for LCCMR 2024	11456c6a-5d6.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

Capital Project Questionnaire, Budget Supplements, Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other

Title	File
Hamline University Letter of Support	6dd51294-9e6.pdf
Center for Climate Literacy Letter of Support	f42a9e43-99b.pdf
College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University Letter of Support	c9bdf366-a08.pdf
Saint Paul Public Schools Letter of Support	dc5b948c-74b.pdf
COPAL Letter of Support	b83b88bf-653.pdf
MN Roadmap Logic Model	f2840984-967.pdf
LCCMR Roadmap Stakeholder Map	dae011-ad9.pdf
LCCMR Roadmap Power Map	dd0837c4-adc.pdf
LCCMR Roadmap Communications Plan	1be4dcd7-bf3.docx
LCCMR Roadmap Advisors and Writing Partners	a796cd54-f50.xlsx
LCCMR Roadmap Index	40cc4d99-e91.xlsx
MN Roadmap Rainbow Research Work Plan	476c961b-3b9.docx
LCCMR Roadmap Advisory Committee Charter	18ce9c11-669.docx
MN Social Service Resources from Rainbow Research	ac51cf73-a83.docx
Interview Protocol from Rainbow Research	27c1ee75-0a7.docx

Media Links

Title	Link
Launch Party Recording	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NWvMTicRCo4U_iNzS-waN7Yi50UGf3h-/view?usp=sharing
Launch Party Slide Deck	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pszTh5r65fN_M00I517x9IOIKMFmgFYG/view?usp=sharing
One-page Project Summary	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aBWqqNPrOD8mcPX2GA7qBg6fAOQro1Hd/view?usp=sharing
Project Interest Form	https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScaxlod5W9CdvMlVAwxwP2-DYNenwyocEuY_NoWmLdoNvllrg/viewform?usp=sharing&oid=109831869675976421740

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

Some of the activity benchmarks dates were adjusted to meet the anticipated timeline of the project. Specifically, we extended the end date for the project by 3 months to give the writing partners more time to integrate public feedback

and community-based information from the convenings. Likewise, we rearranged the timing of the second writing retreat to be after the public feedback session for the same reason.

Additional Acknowledgements and Conditions:

The following are acknowledgements and conditions beyond those already included in the above workplan:

Do you understand and acknowledge the ENRTF repayment requirements if the use of capital equipment changes?

N/A

Do you understand that travel expenses are only approved if they follow the "Commissioner's Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan?

Yes, I understand the Commissioner's Plan applies.

Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, sale of products and assets, or revenue generation?

No

Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?

N/A

Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF?

N/A

Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No

Does your project include the pre-design, design, construction, or renovation of a building, trail, campground, or other fixed capital asset costing \$10,000 or more or large-scale stream or wetland restoration?

No

Do you propose using an appropriation from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to conduct a project that provides children's services (as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 299C.61 Subd.7 as "the provision of care, treatment, education, training, instruction, or recreation to children")?

Yes

Do you certify that background checks are performed for background check crimes, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 299C.61, Subd. 2, on all employees, contractors, and volunteers who have or may have access to a child to whom children's services are provided by your organization?

Yes

Provide the name(s) and organization(s) of additional individuals assisting in the completion of this project:

Susan Phillips, Executive Director - Climate Generation

Do you understand that a named service contract does not constitute a funder-designated subrecipient or approval of a sole-source contract? In other words, a service contract entity is only approved if it has been selected according to the contracting rules identified in state law and policy for organizations that receive ENRTF funds through direct appropriations, or in the DNR's reimbursement manual for non-state organizations. These rules may include competitive bidding and prevailing wage requirements

Yes, I understand

Work Plan Amendments

Amendment ID	Request Type	Changes made on the following pages	Justification For Amendment Request (word limit 75)	Date Submitted	Approved	Date of LCCMR Action
1	Reporting Schedule	Previous Reporting Schedule: Mar 1 / Sept 1 New Reporting Schedule: Apr 1 / Oct 1	-		Yes	June 27, 2025
2	Amendment Request	• Budget • Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts • Attachments	We request to reallocate \$16,000 from two Writing Partner stipends to Rainbow Research (RR), increasing their support to \$24,000. RR will join advisory and writing activities while leading mixed-methods research, including archival data analysis and participant interviews, to provide qualitative and quantitative insights on Minnesota's climate education landscape. This adjustment maintains the goal of engaging diverse MN-based organizations while deepening participant involvement and leveraging existing climate and education data to inform the Roadmap.	October 1, 2025	Yes	November 3, 2025
3	Completion Date	Previous Completion Date: 06/30/2028 New Completion Date: 02/28/2026	Changed by staff to facilitate ending project early.	January 29, 2026	Yes	January 29, 2026
4	Project Manager	Previous Manager: Lindsey Kirkland (lindsey@climategen.org) New Manager: Jill LaLonde (jill@climategen.org)	Current Project Manager, Lindsey Kirkland, is leaving the organization and passing off ownership to Jill LaLonde.	February 19, 2026	Yes	February 19, 2026

Status Update Reporting

Final Status Update April 14, 2026

Date Submitted: September 17, 2026

Date Approved: September 18, 2026

Overall Update

Climate Generation made strong progress in launching Minnesota's Roadmap for Climate and Sustainability Education. We built a core project team, formed sub-working groups, and convened an 11-member advisory committee to guide the work. Two public launch events with 90 participants and three advisory meetings helped engage stakeholders in shaping the project's vision, scope, and ongoing roles. To inform planning, we held five learning calls with national partners and compiled an index of relevant frameworks and resources. We also contracted with Rainbow Research to support the Roadmap development through a mixed-methods approach, including archival research and interviews, to better understand Minnesota's climate education landscape and opportunities to strengthen connections between educators, youth, and climate action planning. More than 250 educators and youth registered interest in participating in interviews. We created a stakeholder map and power map to identify impacted communities, key influencers, and outreach strategies, which were reviewed by the advisory committee. Outreach efforts included launch events, newsletters reaching over 10,000 educators and partners, a dedicated webpage, and presentations at a national conference—building strong awareness and momentum as the Roadmap advances. Work on advancing this project stopped January 27th, after which we moved to close out activities only.

Activity 1

Climate Generation (CG) has made strong progress toward establishing empowered and ready project teams. CG established a core project team and created working groups for administration, events, marketing and communications, and financial management to support Minnesota's Roadmap for Climate and Sustainability Education. We also hosted two public events to share the project vision, identify supporting roles, and gather input from 90 participants and convened an 11-member advisory committee representing organizations across Minnesota. Across three meetings, the advisory committee developed a draft charter, clarified their vision and contributions, and reviewed key planning materials, including the index of relevant frameworks and projects, stakeholder and power maps and the grant proposal. Based on feedback from advisors and event participants, we built an outreach list and confirmed 19 partners who were expected to serve as writing partners; contracts were negotiated but not finalized before the project ended. We secured The Saint Paul Humanities Center as the venue for the first writing retreat scheduled for Feb. 2026, which was later canceled with a fee. Drawing on research and insights from national partners, we drafted a plan for the writing process that would have been reviewed with advisors and used to form sub-writing committees.

Activity 2

Climate Generation (CG) began this activity by convening national partners through five listening calls with leaders from similar projects. These conversations informed best practices for collaborative, community-driven efforts; highlight lessons from other states; and guide how to create a framework that is both applicable and evergreen for Minnesota communities.

CG hired Rainbow Research (RR) to assist in writing the Roadmap. Using a mixed-methods approach—including archival data analysis and interviews, Rainbow Research supported the design and implementation of an equity-centered research initiative by developing core research tools, strengthening participant recruitment processes, and providing strategic guidance. Deliverables included development of an interview protocol and interview questions, review of data dashboard options, refinement of outreach lists, creation of participant sign-up surveys, and participation in advisory committee meetings to support project strategy, stakeholder engagement, and relationship building. In addition,

Rainbow Research advanced inclusive outreach efforts by identifying and engaging diverse climate leaders, educators, and community members to ensure representative participation in the research.

In preparation for writing, CG compiled an index of relevant frameworks, reports, and inspiring projects from across the country to share with advisors and writing partners.

Activity 3

No work began on this activity, as it was scheduled for Summer 2026.

Activity 4

Building on Climate Generation's 20 years of experience in climate education, as well as feedback from launch party participants and project advisors, we developed a stakeholder map and powermap. The stakeholder map identifies communities most impacted by climate change and education, along with individuals and organizations that can most influence the project's goals. It informed invitation lists for the launch parties, advisory committee, and writing partners. The powermap is being used to guide relationship-building and outreach with key stakeholders who hold positions of power and influence. Both maps were reviewed and refined with advisors. The Advisory Committee also began a draft Logic Model, which would inform the Evaluation Plan for the project. The intention was for the Advisory Committee to review and add to this plan after their fourth meeting where they defined the scope and goals of the Roadmap report. Results from Rainbow Research's anticipated 1:1 Interviews and archival data analysis would have also been used to answer these questions, but we were unable to complete that work prior to the project ending.

Dissemination

Here is a list of materials and events where we have showcased the project:

Personalize emails sent to 1,550 MN professionals within identified stakeholder groups showcasing a one-page summary of the Project, the interest form, and an invitation to the launch parties.

Launch Party - August 27, 2025; A project summary and invitation to sign up for supporting roles sent to 49 registrants.

Launch Party - September 3, 2025; A project summary and invitation to sign up for supporting roles sent to 40 registrants.

Climate Generation's e-newsletter - September 2025; Sent to 10,000 of CG's audience members.

Teach Climate Tips e-newsletter - September 2025; Sent to 7,500 formal and nonformal educators across the U.S.

Project webpage published in the first week of October 2025 www.climategen.org/minnesotas-roadmap-for-climate-and-sustainability-education

National Science Teachers Association Climate Cafe - Nov 12th, 2025; 150 attendees visiting a table with information about the project.

Newsletters sent to 10,000+ educators and Youth in MN featuring the interview opportunity; amplifying organizations included Climate Generation, Rainbow Research, MN Earth Science Teachers Association, MN Alliance with Youth, Saint Paul Public Schools, Green Steps Schools, and Rural Renewable Energy Alliance

Status Update Reporting

Status Update October 1, 2025

Date Submitted: October 1, 2025

Date Approved: November 3, 2025

Overall Update

Climate Generation (CG) has made strong progress launching Minnesota's Roadmap for Climate and Sustainability Education. We established a core project team, formed subworking groups, and formed an advisory committee with seven confirmed members and five additional invitations pending. Two public launch events engaged 90 participants in shaping the project's vision and scope, with invitations extended to serve in supporting roles. To strengthen planning, CG held 1:1 calls with national partners to learn from similar projects and contracted Rainbow Research (RR) to support writing the Roadmap. RR is developing a mixed-methods research plan, including archival data analysis and participant interviews, to assess Minnesota's climate education landscape and identify opportunities for growth. CG also compiled an index of relevant frameworks and resources for writing partners. Building from 20 years of experience, CG developed a stakeholder map and power map to identify impacted communities, key influencers, and outreach opportunities. These tools will be refined with advisors in October and with writing partners in January. The project has been promoted through launch events, newsletters reaching over 10,000 educators and supporters, a dedicated webpage, and upcoming national conference outreach, ensuring broad awareness and engagement as the Roadmap moves forward.

Activity 1

Climate Generation (CG) has established a core project team, including working groups for administration, events, marketing and communications, and financial management. We organized subworking groups with clear roles and responsibilities and formed an advisory committee of seven confirmed members from organizations across Minnesota, with five additional invitations pending. To launch the Roadmap project, CG hosted two public events where we shared the project vision, identified needed supporting roles, and gathered input to refine the project's scope and purpose. 90 participants registered, received slides and a recording, and were invited to sign up for supporting roles. Based on event feedback and advisor input, CG developed an outreach list for writing partners, with invitations going out in early October.

Activity 2

Climate Generation (CG) has begun planning for this activity by convening national partners through 1:1 listening calls to learn from similar projects. These conversations will inform best practices for collaborative, community-driven efforts; highlight lessons from other states; and guide how to create a framework that is both applicable and evergreen for Minnesota communities. CG has hired Rainbow Research (RR) to assist in writing the Roadmap. Using a mixed-methods approach—including archival data analysis and interviews—RR will provide qualitative and quantitative insights into Minnesota's current climate education landscape and opportunities for growth. RR is currently developing its research plan in partnership with CG. In preparation for writing, CG has compiled an index of relevant frameworks, reports, and inspiring projects from across the country to share with writing partners. Additionally, CG has launched a project webpage (www.climategen.org/minnesotas-roadmap-for-climate-and-sustainability-education), which serves as the central hub for public updates. Designed to evolve with the project, the site allows audiences to follow along as the work progresses.

Activity 3

No work has begun on this activity. We expect to begin in Summer 2026.

Activity 4

Building on Climate Generation's 20 years of experience in climate education, as well as feedback from Launch Party

participants and project advisors, we developed a stakeholder map and powermap. The stakeholder map identifies communities most impacted by climate change and education, along with individuals and organizations that can most influence the project's goals. It informed invitation lists for the launch parties, advisory committee, and writing partners. The powermap is being used to guide relationship-building and outreach with key stakeholders who hold positions of power and influence. Both maps will be reviewed and refined with advisors at their first meeting in mid-October and with writing partners at their kickoff in January.

Dissemination

Here is a list of materials and events where we have showcased the project:

- Personalized emails sent to 1,550 MN professionals within identified stakeholder groups showcasing a one-page summary of the Project, the interest form, and an invitation to the launch parties.
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- National Science Teachers Association Climate Cafe - scheduled for Nov 12th, 2025; We anticipate up to 150 attendees visiting a table with information about the project.