



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2027 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2027-438

Proposal Title: Minnesota's Climate Change Understanding: Lakefluence

Project Manager Information

Name: Thomas Rodengen

Organization: Climate Union

Office Telephone: (651) 497-4820

Email: tommy@climate-union.com

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: Youth art instructors will lead art contributions to the graphic novel "Lakefluence: Minnesota's Climate Change Understanding" lakeside at 15 locations around Minnesota summer of 2027. A social influencer will document.

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$119,000

Proposed Project Completion: February 28, 2028

LCCMR Funding Category: Small Projects (G)

Secondary Category: Education and Outdoor Recreation (C)

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

Narrative

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

Climate change poses a risk to both the physical and mental health of children. The community disruption and physical illnesses that result from climate change can lead to climate distress. Experiencing fear and anxiety in response to the threat of climate change is a natural and appropriate reaction (AACAP, 2026).

Reference

AACAP. 2026. https://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families_and_Youth/Facts_for_Families/FFF-Guide/Climate_Change_Climate_Distress_Youth-137.aspx

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.

At the youth's community lakeside public space, visual art will be created connecting the lake to climate change threats. Discussion with families about what will be lost and what can be done. This grant will fund the setup of a community shared artspace, dialogue organization, press, and delivery of a graphic novel that youth have created.

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?

Awareness of climate change threats to Minnesota's lake environments. Youth motivation through involvement to conserve these lake resources.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Social Marketing and Preparation for Summer 2028 Events

Activity Budget: \$40,000

Activity Description:

Social Influencer will market the 15 2028 Events. Art instructors will scout event public spaces and necessary accessibility issues.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Marketing	March 31, 2027
Scouting of Public Spaces	August 31, 2027

Activity 2: 15 Lakeside Events

Activity Budget: \$60,000

Activity Description:

Art Instructors will host 15 Lakeside events connecting the community to climate change through art. Social influencer will document and broadcast.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Hosting of first Lakefluence Event	March 31, 2027
Hosting of Last Lakfluence Event	August 31, 2027

Activity 3: Lakefluence Graphic Novel

Activity Budget: \$19,000

Activity Description:

Art instructors will compile, press, and distribute the youth-created graphic novel.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Final Draft of Lakefluence graphic novel	December 31, 2027
Distribution and Meet the Authors Events	December 31, 2027

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Cassandra Buck	Clover and Rose	Partner	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.

Social Media documentation. Creation of Lakefluence graphic novel.

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?

After leading art and dialogue contributions in 15 lakeside sites across the state, the project collaborators will compile the graphic novel "Lakefluence", print, and distribute to the youth and their families via mail. The graphic novel will also be available at art galleries like Clover and Rose.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Thomas Rodengen

Job Title: Executive Director

Provide description of the project manager's qualifications to manage the proposed project.

PhD in ecology. Instructor of the Minnesota Master Naturalist Program.

Organization: Climate Union

Organization Description:

Raising awareness of youth's involvement in climate through art

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
Cassandra Buck		Art Instructor			0%	0.3		\$25,000
Tommy Rodengen		Scientist			0%	0.3		\$25,000
Ray Starin		Social Influencer			0%	0.3		\$25,000
							Sub Total	\$75,000
Contracts and Services								
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Subaward	Reservation and cleanliness of lakeside public spaces.				0.3		\$1,500
							Sub Total	\$1,500
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
	Equipment	White Boards and Lap Tables	To illustrate ideas and allow the youth to draw.					\$835
	Tools and Supplies	Paper and Drawing Materials	Allow the youth to contribute their illustrations of local climate change to the graphic novel					\$7,311
							Sub Total	\$8,146
Capital Equipment								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								

	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	15 Statewide Events. Will work to combine trips. Miles will be >500. 3 people.	Host 15 Statewide events contributing to the graphic novel Lakefluence.					\$30,079
							Sub Total	\$30,079
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
	Printing	Printing of Lakefluence Graphic Novel	Mail final Graphic Novel to youth participants.					\$2,575
							Sub Total	\$2,575
Other Expenses								
		Snacks for 15 Events	Youth enjoy snacks when creating					\$1,700
							Sub Total	\$1,700
							Grand Total	\$119,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
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Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
State				
			State Sub Total	-
Non-State				
			Non State Sub Total	-
			Funds Total	-

Total Project Cost: \$119,000

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [6c6c354d-f41.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Climate Union Logo showing home involvement in climate change...

Financial Capacity

Title	File
Financial Capacity Note	19a6be4c-548.pdf
EIN	c6a1ea0c-308.pdf
Certificate of Good Standing	e6ed8f6c-2a1.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Letter of Authorization	6ff482da-7af.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Equipment and Tools and Supplies Budget Supplement	9b332ddc-826.xlsx

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

No

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 proposal:

Tommy Rodengen of Climate Union and Cassandra Buck of Clover and Rose

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

N/A