



Nova Scotia Youth Climate Bursary

Application Guide – 2024

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Bursary Overview

The Nova Scotia Youth Climate Bursary provides financial support to young adults in Nova Scotia who are pursuing post-secondary education, professional development or training opportunities that lead to meaningful employment in the province’s clean economy. (Note: *Clean economy* refers to the wide range of jobs and careers that can help address climate change or protect the environment).

There are **four** awards of **\$2,500 each** that will be disbursed in Spring 2024.

The objective of the bursary is to encourage young adults to pursue education or training related to climate change and to reduce employment barriers in Nova Scotia’s clean economy. Bursary recipients will demonstrate a personal commitment to climate action or climate justice through their education and future employment.

This bursary program is being offered by the Nova Scotia Youth Climate Council. Youth members of the Council have designed the application process and will review applications to select recipients.

About the Nova Scotia Youth Climate Council

The [Nova Scotia Youth Climate Council](#), established in 2023, is a council of young Nova Scotians ages 14-24 who are committed to addressing climate change in our province. The Council provides ideas, advice and recommendations directly to the provincial government on how to take climate action that is aligned with youth priorities. The Council also engages youth across Nova Scotia in climate action through programs, events and opportunities.

Funded by the province of Nova Scotia through the Department of Environment and Climate Change, the Nova Scotia Youth Climate Council is facilitated by Clean Foundation, a non-profit organization that works to address climate change challenges and opportunities in Nova Scotia.

Applicant Eligibility

To be eligible for the bursary, you must meet all the following criteria:

- You are **24 years old or younger** on May 1, 2024.
- You are **currently living in Nova Scotia** and pursuing education or training within the province.
- You are a Canadian citizen, permanent resident, refugee or international student with a valid Canadian study permit.
- You are pursuing an education program or professional training opportunity that will help to address climate change in Nova Scotia.

Application Period

Bursary applications open on **March 11, 2024**. The application deadline is **March 31, 2024**, at 11:59 p.m. Successful recipients will be notified by May 2024. Apply via the [online application form](#).



Eligible Expenses

Funds from the bursary will help pay for **direct educational expenses** only.

Direct educational expenses may include:

- tuition for a registered post-secondary education institution (all levels of post-secondary education are eligible, i.e. Bachelors, Masters, Diploma, Certificate, etc.);
- fees for other professional training programs, courses or certifications; and,
- equipment and materials that are required for your education, such as textbooks, course materials, field equipment, computers and other technology (to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis).

All fields of post-secondary study may be eligible (i.e. STEM, Arts, Trades, Social Sciences, Health, etc.) as well as many training programs, individual courses or professional certifications. However, you must clearly demonstrate how your education or training will lead to a job opportunity that helps address climate change in Nova Scotia.

The bursary must be applied towards education or training that begins after May 1, 2024. If you are currently a post-secondary student, the bursary can be applied towards your next semester(s) of study.

Ineligible Expenses

- Cost of living expenses (housing, groceries, transportation, etc.)
- Any other expenses not directly related to education or training
- Reimbursement for past education or training that started before May 1, 2024

Application Process

The bursary application process will include two components*.

1. Online application form – You will need to complete an online application form. The form will include selected response and short-answer questions about:

- your basic personal and contact information;
- information about the education/training you plan to pursue and its connection to climate change;
- proof that you have applied or been accepted to the education/training program (if applicable);
- summary of your previous work, volunteer and leadership experiences (optional);
- self-identification for equity categories.

2. Creative submission – You will also need to provide a creative submission that responds to the question: *How is climate change impacting your community, and how do you want to make a difference?*

For your response, you will choose one of three different submission formats: visual art, written or video.

**A complete overview of the application questions and ‘creative submission’ criteria are provided at the end of this guide.*

Alternative Application Options

Accessibility and inclusivity are important to us. If the standard bursary application process presents any barriers for you, please **email us** and we would be happy to offer support or work with you to find an alternative application format that is more accessible: YCC@cleanfoundation.ca

Some examples of possible alternative application formats include (but are not limited to):

- We can accept verbal responses (over the phone) to the online application form questions.
- You can complete the entire application process over a 1-hour video call with one of our team members (the call will be recorded). You will be asked to provide verbal responses to the application questions and a response to the ‘creative submission’ question.
- We can give you a printable copy of the application form to complete hand-written and mail to us.

Selection Criteria

To be considered, you must demonstrate that you meet all the eligibility criteria for the bursary. Eligible applications will be reviewed by a committee composed of Youth Climate Council members, Clean Foundation staff and Department of Environment and Climate Change staff.

Bursary recipients will be selected based on the following criteria. Applications will be scored out of 100 points. The different criteria are weighted as outlined below.

- **Personal commitment to climate action (20 points)** – The committee will consider an applicant’s commitment and/or desire to contribute to climate action or climate justice in Nova Scotia.
- **Education and career path (25 points)** – The committee will consider an applicant’s ability to explain how their education or training will lead to a career that helps address climate change. The applicant should communicate their pathway to employment in Nova Scotia’s clean economy.
- **Quality of creative submission (20 points)** – The committee will consider the quality of an applicant’s creative submission and how clearly and creatively it responds to the prompting question.
- **Equity of opportunity (25 points)** – The committee will consider barriers that an applicant has faced to accessing education and employment. Barriers may be identity-based, financial, geographic or based on personal circumstances and lived experiences. Applicants from equity-deserving groups will be prioritized, and regional equity across Nova Scotia will also be considered.

- **Personal profile (10 points)** – The committee will consider an applicant’s past experiences (volunteering, work experience, leadership, hobbies, etc.) and how these activities demonstrate the applicant’s personal qualities, skills, or commitments.

Application Questions

This section provides an overview of the questions in the online bursary application form. Your official application must be submitted through the [online application form](#).

It’s a good idea to prepare your written short-answer responses and your creative submission before beginning the online application form. In the form, your answers cannot be saved to return to later, and your application cannot be edited after submission.

Education Information

- Program or course title
- Educational institution
- Application status – You will be asked to provide proof that you have applied or been accepted, if you select one of these responses.
- What is the total tuition or registration cost for this program/course?
- What is the estimated cost of any required materials or equipment that you'll need for this program/course? (For example: Textbooks, course materials, field equipment, computers and other technology. Please list each item and its associated cost).

Short-Answer Questions

1. Describe what skills, knowledge or qualifications you hope to gain from your education, and how this will support you to work in Nova Scotia’s clean economy (maximum **250 words**).
2. Tell us about your job or career goals, and how your work will help to address climate change in Nova Scotia (maximum **250 words**).
3. How will this bursary help you reach your goals? Tell us about any barriers or challenges you face that this bursary could help you overcome (maximum **250 words**).

Activity Profile

Tell us a bit more about you! Please describe a minimum of two (and up to five) experiences or activities you've participated in. These can include:

- work experience;
- volunteering;
- community leadership; and,
- personal projects or hobbies (such as art, sports, music, outdoor activities, etc.).

For each activity listed you will be asked to:

- provide a description of the activity (maximum **50 words**); and,
- select the category that best describes the activity (work experience, volunteering, leadership or personal project/ hobby)

Creative Submission

Please respond to the question:

How is climate change impacting your community, and how do you want to make a difference?

For your response, choose **one** of three different submission formats. The criteria for the different submission formats are as follows.

Option #1: Visual Art

- Make a creative visual piece that responds to the question. Use any medium of your choice (drawing, painting, textiles, sculpture, digital art, poster, photography, etc.)
- In addition, please write a short artist's statement to accompany your piece (maximum **200 words**).
- File type - Upload your submission as a maximum of five image files (**JPG** or **PNG**) that show us your creative piece. Also upload a single **PDF** document with your artist's statement.

Option #2: Written

- Write a short piece responding to the question.
- All writing styles are accepted (letter, speech, poetry, prose, etc.) Maximum **500 words**.
- File type - Upload your submission as a single **PDF** document.

Option #3: Video

- Film a short video responding to the question. All types of videos are accepted (speech, conversation, interview, live action, animation, musical, etc.) Maximum **3 minutes** in length.
- File type - Upload your submission as a single **MP4** file.

Contact Us

If you still have questions or need assistance with your application, please **email us** and we will do our best to assist you: YCC@cleanfoundation.ca