



CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

2025 ALLOCATION GUIDELINES FUNDED BY WA STATE LEGISLATURE

Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges

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Olympia, WA 98504

The Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges reserves the right to make changes to this document due to, but not limited to, federal, state, or local legislation or policy changes.

Deadlines and Milestones

Milestone	Dates (subject to change)
Applications for allocation are available	12/2/2024
Allocation projected to begin	1/1/2025
Allocation end	June 30, 2025
Final narrative reports due	July 31, 2025

Contacts

Proposal Process, Policy, & Guidelines Questions

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Overview

During the 2023-2024 legislative session, Washington State legislators approved \$475,000 for expanding Climate Solutions Education across our 34 community and technical colleges, contingent on the Climate Commitment Act being upheld. World-wide, climate change poses one of the most significant challenges that humanity has ever faced and will result in social, environmental, and economic impacts to the State. While climate change will affect everyone, it disproportionately affects those who are impacted by socioeconomic inequalities, including many people of color and low-income households. Climate change presents an unprecedented opportunity for innovative community-based climate solutions, green workforce development, and redesign of our education systems and institutions with a commitment to sustainability, equity and social justice. The community and technical college system (CTC's) of Washington is positioned to be a key resource in helping achieve just climate solutions and equitable green workforce development by offering relevant educational opportunities in a variety of academic programs.

The green transition will require all workers to acquire green skills — not just those working in explicitly green roles. Such skills will range from non-vocational, non-technical soft skills that are needed to excel in green jobs, to more technical, role-specific skills. **Green skills are the knowledge, abilities, values, and attitudes needed to support a sustainable and resource-efficient society.** They are in demand across all jobs, and are the foundation for transitioning to an environmentally sustainable economy. The industries most exposed to the green transition will face particularly significant pressures to equip their workers with more technical green skills, ranging from solar panel installation to carbon accounting. Meanwhile, softer skills, such as creativity and adaptability, collaborative problem solving and justice-based thinking, are growing increasingly important in sectors of the economy where core business models will remain relatively similar to their current form. Such skills will be particularly important to supporting business leaders' efforts in transitioning their businesses towards greener and more socially responsible ways of working.

Examples of Green Skills:

Environmental/climate justice awareness, community engagement, policy advocacy, systemic analysis, intersectionality and cumulative impacts analysis, high voltage safety, electric vehicle maintenance, electric heat pump installation and repair, sustainable resource management, energy efficiency analysis, renewable energy technology expertise, green building design and construction, sustainable agriculture practices, wastewater management, building automation, energy management, environmental monitoring, sustainable design, environmental remediation, compliance, policy, circularity, and waste reduction/reuse, sustainable supply chain management, and life-cycle assessment.

Why is Climate Justice important for green skills?

Ethical responsibility: Addressing the unequal impacts of climate change on marginalized populations is a moral imperative.

Effective solutions: Integrating climate justice considerations can lead to more comprehensive and sustainable solutions.

Social legitimacy: Building public support for climate action requires addressing concerns about equity and justice.

Proviso Language

(56) \$475,000 of the climate commitment account—state appropriation is provided solely for the continuation of curriculum development and program redesign to integrate climate justice and solutions-focused assignments and professional technical green workforce modules into community college curriculum across the state. Funds provided in this subsection may not be expended or obligated prior to January 1, 2025. If Initiative Measure No. 2117 is approved in the general election, this subsection is null and void upon the effective date of the measure.

Applicant Guidelines

Who May Apply

Public community and technical colleges, as defined under RCW 28B.50.030 may apply for funding. Colleges may submit only one application per institution. Professional technical, transfer and continuing education/non-credit faculty are eligible for this funding to support program improvements in both credit and non-credit, transfer and non-transfer pathways.

Use of Funding

Funding is to be used to support the following activities* in service of updating the curriculum and training to include climate justice, climate solutions, green/sustainability skills, and green technologies relevant to a climate-ready workforce.

- Curriculum development or training stipends for both adjunct and tenure track/tenured faculty
- Funding for convening local employers and industry professionals to support program improvement; new curriculum development or skills integrations, or expansion of advisory boards to include employers engaging in climate solutions and green economy sectors.
- Partnership building or curriculum development stipends to support career-connected learning, project-based learning, service learning, undergraduate research, or other high-impact curricular changes that support learning in climate solutions, green skills, or climate justice.
- Equipment and/or supplies to improve instruction or incorporate new technologies, safety training, research projects, field sites, or community engagement.
- Stipends to redesign existing programs to be more inclusive, quality career-connected pathways that amplify emerging green skills and experience for all people, from incumbent workers to new learners.
- Stipends to facilitate professional development or lead cross-campus collaborative curriculum development in climate justice.
- Multi-college curriculum collaborations and convenings for common course/curriculum development.

*[This list is illustrative, not exhaustive, and colleges are welcome to use these funds in other ways that advance this work in their unique context.]

Application Process

The Streamlined Competitive Process is an expedited funding request process that is administered and monitored outside of the OGMS system. To be equitable, please share this opportunity with all faculty, with attention to specifically reaching out to adjunct, new, and BIPOC faculty. Each college must put forward one application on behalf of the college. With the short funding period provided by the legislature, we intend to move resources to colleges as quickly as possible and facilitate ease of application and administration.

How to Apply

Circulate this opportunity and share it with your faculty to garner interest and proposals. Each college is allowed to submit ONE application for the entire college. In the Application Word document, colleges will describe the key elements of the college's plan to use funds. Colleges will need to designate an administrator for this grant, responsible for submitting the application, coordinating with faculty recipients and the business office, and submitting the final report. Colleges will need to sign the assurances document and submit it with the application.

Email the following to lshaver@sbctc.edu for a complete application:

1. A signed assurance document.
2. A completed Climate Solutions Application Word document.

Colleges will describe the key elements of the college's plan to use funds. Colleges will need to designate an administrator for this funding, who will be responsible for submitting the application, coordinating with faculty recipients and the business office, and submitting the report.

Allocations will be determined based on the competitive criteria as well as scaled proportionately according to the size of the request and the number of colleges requesting, relative to the amount of resources available.

Criteria

Awards will range from \$20,000-\$40,000.

Requests that prioritize the following features will be most competitive:

Competitive proposals:

1. The proposal is feasible in the 6-month time frame with all work completed by June 30, 2025, leading to curricular implementation by Fall quarter of 2025 and ongoing implementation thereafter.
2. The targeted green skills or climate justice/solutions-related learning outcomes are articulated.
3. Changes are made across the curriculum to serve students in many pathways.

Excellent proposals:

4. The proposal outlines strategies for utilizing the curricular changes for equity, increasing access, and responsiveness for disadvantaged student populations.
5. The proposal outlines strategies for pairing the curricular changes with high-impact teaching practices that make learning more active and meaningful for students (for example, prof-tech hands-on learning, career-connected learning, field-based learning, service learning, civic engagement, and undergraduate research).
6. New partnerships (broadly defined—between faculty/across the college, between colleges, external partnerships) are created to support curricular changes, to provide ongoing program responsiveness and skills alignment to the emerging green economy, to increase diverse student success, or to create new learning opportunities for students in climate solutions.

Funding Information

Funding available for FY25 (2024-2025) totals \$475,000 for community and technical colleges. Funding for approved applications will be allocated to colleges as quickly as possible following the review date. Funding must be fully-expended by June 30 of the fiscal year in which it was allocated, with no "carryforwards" allowed. In other words, funding that is not fully expended in the fiscal year it is allocated lapses.

Work with your college's business office to access these funds once you're notified of an approved allocation. These funds are to be used as stated by state legislation and must follow state-wide accounting rules.

Funding is subject to the amount of available resources. SBCTC reserves the right to proffer scaled-down funding should conditions of funding limitations or the scope of proposals necessitate such.

Reporting

Reporting will consist of a final narrative report summarizing the activities, how funds were spent, and key outcomes to advancing climate justice and solutions education and green workforce development. The SBCTC will provide a template that identifies the minimum items to address in the report. The final narrative is due July 31, 2025 and should be emailed to Irene Shaver, ishaver@sbctc.edu.

Disclaimer

SBCTC reserves the right to refrain from awarding allocations to any or all applicants. Any offer or award of on-going funding is provisional and contingent on state funding availability for the specific intent and purposes stated in these guidelines. Additionally, SBCTC reserves the right to add additional requirements to applicants meeting minimum criteria to receive funds but that are deemed to be higher risk. Additional requirements may include, but are not limited to, additional reporting requirements or additional monitoring to assess the applicant's ability to adhere to requirements. Any additional requirements will be outlined for individual applicants prior to applicants accepting any resulting funding.

Terms & Information

General

Funds are provided to the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) from the WA State Legislature.

Allowable Activities

Allowable activities are defined above and in approved applications.

Allowable Costs

Applicable Washington State Regulations

The State Administrative and Accounting Manual ([SAAM](#)) must be followed.

Expenditure Accounting

These funds must be kept in an account separate from all other funding sources.

Non-Discrimination

No individual shall be excluded from participation, denied the benefits of, subjected to discrimination under, or denied employment in the administration of or in connection with any such program because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap, or political affiliation or belief.

Publicity

The recipient shall submit to SBCTC all content or materials that it produces for distribution that are related to this allocation. No statements, press releases, or other documents describing this project shall be made without prior input from SBCTC.

Records Retention

Financial management systems shall reflect accurate, current, and complete disclosure of all cost expenses for activities. Recipients must maintain books and records, supported by source documentation, that sufficiently and properly reflect the source of funds and all costs expended for program purposes. These records and financial statements are subject to inspection, review, reproduction, and/or audit by SBCTC or its designee for at least six years after the dispersal of funds, the termination or expiration of the contract, or the resolution of litigation or audits related to the program, whichever is latest. Additional information on records retention may be found in Chapter 7 of the [SBCTC Policy Manual](#).

Copyright

Recipients must release all deliverables (including curriculum and materials) under a [Creative Commons Attribution License 4.0](#).

Termination

This funding may be terminated by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) upon giving notice in writing to the recipient at least thirty (30) days in advance of the date of termination. If the funding is terminated for any reason, all reports and data gathered by the recipient prior to termination shall at the option of the SBCTC, become the property of the SBCTC. If termination shall occur pursuant to this section, reimbursement to the recipient shall be made on the basis of work performed prior to the effective date of termination as mutually agreed upon by both parties. Determination of final adjustments, either payments or refunds, shall also be mutually agreed upon by both parties.

Termination for Cause

If for any reason, the recipient violates any terms and conditions of the Climate Solutions program, SBCTC will give the recipient notice of such failure or violation. Recipient will be given the opportunity to correct the violation or failure within thirty (30) days. If failure or violation is not corrected, this award may be terminated immediately by written notice from SBCTC.

Savings

In the event funding from state, federal, or other sources is withdrawn, reduced, or limited in any way after the effective date of this allocation and prior to normal completion, the SBCTC may terminate the allocation, without the thirty-day notice requirement, subject to renegotiation at the SBCTC's discretion under those new funding limitations and conditions.



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