



CLIMATE ROOTS

# YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL PACKET



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**INTRODUCTION ..... 1**

- PURPOSE
- OVERVIEW OF THE COUNCIL MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

**COUNCIL ORGANIZATION ..... 2**

- CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP
- STRUCTURE AND HEIRARCHY

**ROLES OF OFFICERS ..... 3**

- DESCRIPTION OF ROLES
- ELECTION PROCESS
- TERM LIMITS AND SUCCESSION PLANNING

**MEETINGS AND ORIENTATION ..... 7**

- FREQUENCY AND SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

**RESPONSIBILITIES ..... 8**

- DETAILED BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES
- PROJECT OVERSIGHT AND DIRECTION
- COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT
- COMPETITION MANAGEMENT

**TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT ..... 10**

- ORIENTATION FOR NEW MEMBERS
- ONGOING TRAINING PROGRAMS
- LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**AMENDMENTS AND REVISIONS ..... 11**

- PROCESS FOR MAKING CHANGES TO THIS GUIDEBOOK
- SCHEDULE FOR KEEPING THIS GUIDEBOOK UP TO DATE

**APPENDIX ..... i**

- ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

# INTRODUCTION

## **Purpose:**

The Youth Leadership Council (YLC) at Climate Roots is a student council focused on amplifying youth voices in climate activism. The council serves as a platform for young leaders to voice their perspectives and contribute actively to the Climate Roots mission. Council members represent youth interests and develop educational initiatives.

## **Overview of the Council's Missions and Objectives:**

The YLC is committed to furthering Climate Roots' mission by engaging youth in developing sustainable and resilient solutions for food and nutritional security. Through its foundational tenets of Aspiration, Innovation, and Momentum (A.I.M.), the council aspires to reshape global views on climate and food resilience at every scale- from local neighborhoods to entire cities and nations.

## **Purpose of this Packet:**

This introductory packet is designed to provide comprehensive information about the YLC, including application procedures, membership requirements, roles, and an operational framework. The framework is intended to guide the council's activities, embodying a philosophy of innovation, agency, initiative.

This document is a living resource that will evolve to reflect new learnings and subsequent changes in the council's organizational structure, goals, and outcomes.

# COUNCIL ORGANIZATION

## Criteria For Membership:

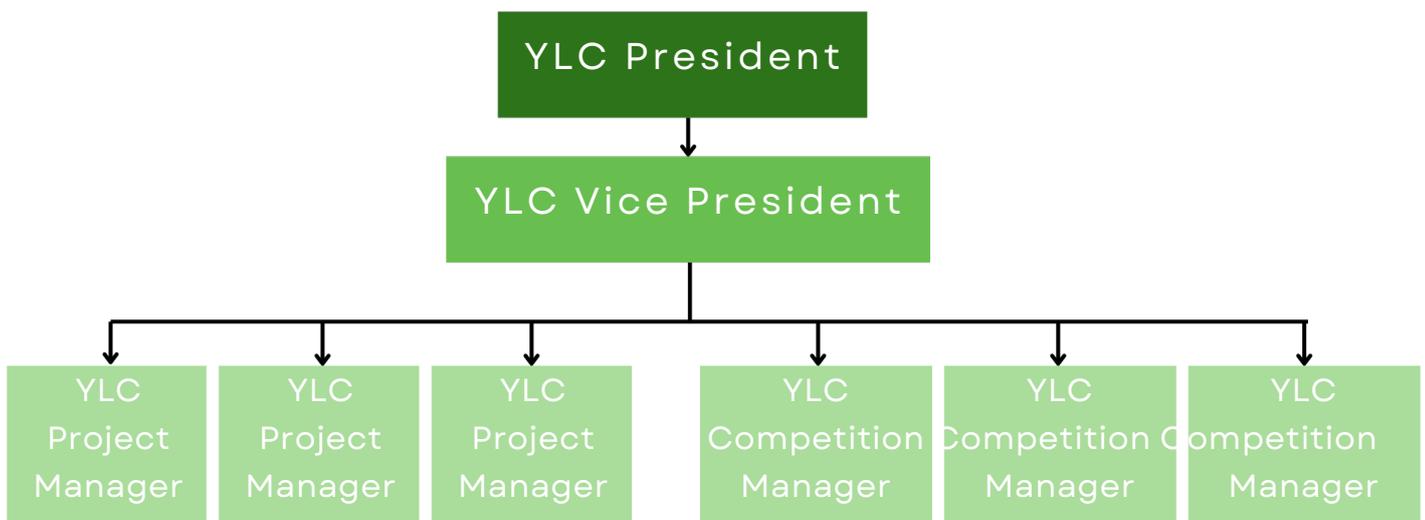
To become a member of the Youth Leadership Council (YLC) at Climate Roots, individuals must meet specific requirements:

- Age Requirement: Candidates must be **enrolled in high school or in undergraduate/community college**
- Term Limit: Members are elected for a one-year term and may be elected for up to two consecutive terms in any given position

Council Members are expected to:

- Attend monthly Council meetings
- Actively participate in council discussions and decision-making processes
- Engage in activities including but not limited to events, community projects, and outreach efforts
- Fulfill specific duties related to their positions, such as maintaining food gardens, building greenhouses, or engaging student communities

## Council Structure and Hierarchy



# ROLES OF OFFICERS

## Description of Roles:

The YLC is structured to ensure effective leadership and collaboration among members, comprising various roles with distinct responsibilities:

- **President:**  
Acts as the leader of the council, setting agendas, overseeing meetings, and providing strategic direction. The President serves as the primary liaison between the YLC and other organizational components, ensuring that youth perspectives are integrated into broader goals.
- **Vice President:** Assists the President in their duties and takes on leadership responsibilities in their absence. This role involves close collaboration with the President to coordinate council activities and maintain team cohesion.
- **Project Manager:** Oversees individual or community-based projects. Project Managers spotlight student projects, measure the impact, and ensure alignment with Climate Root's mission.
- **Council Member:** Assists with general initiatives or works under a project member. Can start own initiative.

Being a part of the YLC is a significant responsibility, offering members a platform to empower their peers, inspire community change, and create lasting impact across generations.

# ROLES OF OFFICERS

**Election Process:** Following the submission, a selection panel will review applications to ensure that all candidates meet the necessary criteria and have demonstrated a commitment.

Candidates who pass the initial review will be invited to participate in online interviews which will result in another round of down selection. The selected candidates will progress to the final stage of the election process- voting.

During the voting period all Climate Roots members will have the opportunity to cast their votes for the candidates they believe will best align with the mission of Climate Roots. This democratic process ensures that the elected council members truly reflect the voice and choice of the community they are set to represent. The currently appointed YLC will be allowed special supervotes, accounting for 10% of total votes.

The YLC election process is designed to be transparent, inclusive, and representative, ensuring that every council member is well-equipped and genuinely motivated to make a significant impact in advancing food security, climate resilience, and youth advocacy.

# ROLES OF OFFICERS

## **Term Limits and Succession Planning:**

To incubate fresh ideas and promote equitable opportunities for leadership, council members are limited to two consecutive terms in any position in the YLC. For example, a member could be appointed for one year as a Council Member and another year as Vice President. After these terms, they must take at least a one-year gap before they can be appointed to a new role, such as the President. This policy promotes diversity in leadership and prevents the concentration of power, fostering a dynamic and inclusive council environment.

The end of the election cycle features a transition meeting between the outgoing members and the incoming members of the YLC. This meeting serves to facilitate transfer of knowledge and operations from one group to another ensuring continuity in council initiatives.

# MEETINGS AND ORIENTATION

## **Frequency and Schedule of Meetings:**

The YLC meets every Sunday to ensure consistent communication and effective management of ongoing projects and initiatives. These meetings are essential for maintaining alignment among council members, discussing progress on various tasks, and strategizing for future activities. They are a platform for all members to voice their opinions, share updates, and collaborate on decision-making processes.

The President and Vice President are accountable for general oversight, progress, and outcomes of the YLC. These reviews are crucial for ensuring that each department is on track with its responsibilities and goals.

# RESPONSIBILITIES

## **Board Responsibilities:**

The Youth Leadership Council (YLC) plays a crucial role in the governance of Climate Roots, acting as a bridge between the youth and the organization's leadership. Members are tasked with ensuring that youth perspectives are integrated into the strategic planning process. They regularly attend board meetings to present updates, participate in critical decision-making, and advocate for policies that reflect the interests and needs of young people. Additionally, they are responsible for reviewing organizational performance and contributing to the development of long-term goals, ensuring that the council's activities align with the broader mission of Climate Roots.

## **Project Oversight and Direction:**

Council members oversee a range of environmental projects, from local community initiatives to larger advocacy campaigns such as maintaining the operations of community food gardens, educational outreach through community colleges and farmers markets, and creating educational content for the community. The council ensures that each project aligns with the organization's strategic objectives and makes effective use of resources. The council will have access to funds appropriated for the delivery of the projects they manage. Regular monitoring and evaluation are conducted to assess the impact of these projects, with adjustments made as necessary to maximize effectiveness and reach.

## **Community Education and Engagement:**

A significant part of the YLC's responsibilities involves engaging with the community to raise awareness and promote active participation in climate-related issues. Members organize workshops, seminars, and public speaking events to educate the community about food security and sustainable agricultural practices assisted with modern technology.

# RESPONSIBILITIES

**Competition Management:** The YLC is responsible for organizing and managing initiatives within the organization. Project members are responsible in carrying out funding and outreach with the help of other YLC Members

## TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

### **Orientation for New Members:**

The Youth Leadership Council (YLC) places great emphasis on ensuring that new members are well-prepared to contribute effectively from the start of their terms. An orientation program is designed to familiarize them with the council's mission, governance structure, and their specific roles and responsibilities. This comprehensive orientation covers operational procedures, communication protocols, and an overview of ongoing projects and initiatives. Additionally, new members are introduced to key personnel within Climate Roots and are provided with resources and contacts that will support their work on the council. This introductory phase is crucial for integrating new members into the team and equipping them with the knowledge and tools they need to succeed.

### **Ongoing Training Programs:**

To enhance the skills and knowledge of YLC members, ongoing training programs are provided throughout their term. These programs cover a variety of topics, including project management, effective communication, environmental policy, and advocacy techniques. Workshops and seminars are conducted by experts in the field, offering members insights into the latest trends and best practices in environmental activism and leadership. The council also encourages peer learning through regular knowledge-sharing sessions where members can exchange ideas and learn from each other's experiences. This ongoing training is vital for keeping members informed and engaged, ensuring they remain effective advocates for their cause.

# TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

## **Leadership Development Opportunities:**

Recognizing the potential of YLC members to become future environmental leaders, the council provides numerous leadership development opportunities. These include mentorship programs where experienced leaders from the industry, government organizations, and academia, mentor council members. Leadership roles within the council, such as project leads or committee chairs, offer practical experience in managing teams and leading initiatives. Additionally, members are often encouraged to represent the council at public events, conferences, and workshops, further developing their leadership and public speaking skills. These opportunities not only enhance their capability to lead within the council but also prepare them for future roles in their academic and professional careers.

# AMENDMENTS AND REVISIONS

## **Process for Making Changes to This Guidebook:**

The Youth Leadership Council (YLC) ensures that the guidebook remains a dynamic and relevant resource by establishing a clear process for making amendments and revisions. Changes to the guidebook can be proposed by any council member who identifies the need for updates or improvements based on new information, feedback from users, or changes in organizational strategy. Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing to the V, who will add the item to the agenda of the next council meeting for discussion.

During the council meeting, the proposed changes are debated thoroughly. Each member is encouraged to provide input to ensure that all perspectives are considered and the best possible decisions are made. If a consensus is reached, the amendment is approved. If not, the proposal may be revised and tabled for further discussion at a future meeting. Once approved, the changes are formally documented, and the guidebook is updated accordingly.

### **Review Schedule for Keeping This Guidebook Up to Date**

To ensure the guidebook accurately reflects the most current practices, policies, and procedures of the YLC, a regular review schedule is implemented. The guidebook is reviewed biannually by a designated committee, which includes the President, the Vice President, and at least one other council member. This review assesses the relevance and effectiveness of the content, taking into consideration any changes in the council's operations, shifts in environmental policy, or feedback from council members and stakeholders.

This biannual review may also coincide with the induction of new council members, ensuring that the guidebook remains a useful tool for orientation and ongoing reference. Should significant changes be needed outside of the regular review schedule, special reviews can be conducted as necessary. These proactive measures ensure that the guidebook remains a vital, up-to-date resource that effectively supports the work of the council and the fulfillment of its mission.

# APPENDIX

## **Additional Resources**

For questions/concerns about this guidebook please fill out the contact form on the website. Based on the content of your query, the contact form will appropriately direct your message to the proper internal manager.

Application and further YLC details:

<http://climateroots.org/youth-leadership-council/>

Requirements to be on the board:

<http://climateroots.org/application-terms/>

Requirements to apply:

<http://climateroots.org/board-criteria/>