



# **Nova Scotia Youth Climate Bursary**

Application Guide – 2026

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## What is the Nova Scotia Youth Climate Bursary?

The Nova Scotia Youth Climate Bursary provides financial support to youth in Nova Scotia who are pursuing training opportunities, professional development, post-secondary education, or other educational experiences that will help lead to meaningful employment in the province's clean economy. *Clean economy* refers to the wide range of jobs and careers that can help address climate change or protect the environment. Nova Scotia's transition to a clean economy calls for sustainable and equitable solutions that progress towards achieving net-zero emissions.

The awards of **\$2,500 each** will be disbursed in Spring 2026.

The objective of the bursary is to empower and encourage young adults to pursue education or training related to climate change such as sustainability, conservation, clean energy, and forward-thinking innovation. This bursary will help reduce employment barriers in Nova Scotia's clean economy by providing financial support to recipients who have clearly demonstrated a commitment to climate action or climate justice through their personal interests, education, and future career goals.

The Nova Scotia Youth Climate Bursary is a youth bursary initiative of the Nova Scotia Youth Climate Council, administered by Clean Foundation and funded by the Province of Nova Scotia.

## About the Nova Scotia Youth Climate Council

The [Nova Scotia Youth Climate Council](#) was established in 2023 and is comprised of young Nova Scotians ages 14-24. The Nova Scotia Youth Climate Council is an advisory committee to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, they provide advice to the Minister on the Government of Nova Scotia's priority climate policies. The Council also engages youth across Nova Scotia in climate action through programs, events and opportunities.

The Nova Scotia Youth Climate Council is funded by the province of Nova Scotia through the Department of Environment and Climate Change. The Council and its initiatives are administered by Clean Foundation, a non-profit organization that works to address climate change challenges and opportunities in Nova Scotia, PEI and the Atlantic region.

## Who can apply?

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

- You will be between **14 and 24 years old** on May 1, 2026.
- You are a Canadian citizen, permanent resident, refugee or international student with a valid Canadian study permit.

- You are pursuing a training, certification, or education opportunity or program that will help to address climate change in Nova Scotia.
- You are **currently living in Nova Scotia** and the opportunity you are pursuing will take place within the province.

Please note that employees of Clean Foundation and the Department of Environment and Climate Change are not eligible for the Youth Climate Bursary. Current members of the Nova Scotia Youth Climate Council are also ineligible.

### Application Period

Bursary applications open on **Friday, February 13, 2026**. The application deadline is Friday, **March 13, 2026**, at 11:59 p.m. Successful recipients will be notified in April 2026. Apply via the [online application form](#).

### Eligible Expenses

Funds from the bursary will help pay for **direct training and 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 training or education, such as textbooks, course materials, field equipment, computers, personal protective equipment, 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, 2026. 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, 2026.

## Selection process

Eligible applications will be reviewed by a committee composed of Youth Climate Council members, Clean Foundation staff and Nova Scotia 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**.

- **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 (15 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 in accessing education and employment. Barriers may be identity-based, financial, geographic, or related to personal circumstances and lived experiences. Applicants from equity-deserving groups will be prioritized, and regional equity across Nova Scotia will also be considered. For more information about the definition of “barriers” please see [the Accessible Canada Act](#).
- **Personal profile (15 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.

## How to apply

Your application must be submitted through the [online application form](#).

**NOTE:** It’s a good idea to prepare your short-answer responses and your creative submission before starting the online application. The form does not allow you to save progress or return later, and your application **cannot** be edited once submitted. You will be asked to disclose if you have used AI (artificial intelligence) for any part of your application. If using AI, you must explain how you have manipulated the AI output to make it your own. Heavy use of AI without modification will negatively impact our assessment of your application.

Here are the questions you can expect on the application form:

### Personal information



- Name, pronouns, and contact information
- What region of Nova Scotia are you from?
- How old will you be on May 1, 2026?

### Education Information

- Program or course title
- Educational institution
- Application status – You will be asked to provide proof that you have applied or been accepted to the certification, training, or education program you indicated, if applicable.
- 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, personal protective 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**). For more information about the definition of “barriers” please see [the Accessible Canada Act](#).

### 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:

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

### Creative Submission

Please respond to the question:

**What is a climate change issue that has impacted you or your community? How has this influenced your training, education, or employment goals?**

For your response, choose **one** of the following submission formats, which you will be asked in the application form to share using a Google Drive, Dropbox, or YouTube link that can be accessed by the selection committee:

#### 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.

### 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](mailto: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 one-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 handwritten and mail to us.

### 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](mailto:YCC@cleanfoundation.ca)