

# Call for Open Climate fellows

## THE 2023 OPEN CLIMATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

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### KEY DATES

Call for application released	November 22, 2022
Public information webinar	December 6, 2022 - 3PM UTC <a href="#">[Sign up here]</a>
Application deadline	December 11, 2022
Interview dates	January 9-12, 2023
Fellowship dates	January 30-May 30, 2023 (17 weeks)

Apply by December 11, 2022 at: [open-climate.org/fellowship](https://open-climate.org/fellowship)

### 1. Purpose and description

We are facing a critical planetary emergency. How we openly share knowledge for climate action is key to create relevant local solutions for a global problem. However, there are few coordinated spaces for the open and climate movements to collaborate in knowledge production, sharing, reflection, and action. Open Climate seeks to create this space of exchange to bring together climate action and movement builders, and to fully connect them to the open movement people, tools and approaches. Since 2020, Open Climate has been coordinating this space through monthly calls and collaborative writing. We seek to identify opportunities for free and open source communities to support climate action and solutions.

Building on the insights from this journey, the Open Climate Fellowship will create a space for transdisciplinary collaboration, peer learning and community building. We expect to develop a network of Open Climate practitioners working across all facets of the open and climate movement who can advance climate justice with an open lens. This program will encourage fellows to share the skills and experience gained from their fellowship with the communities and organizations that they are a part of, to ultimately develop a culture that translates the principles of open practices into the climate action movement.

Acknowledging the lack of similar opportunities, in particular for practitioners in the regions that are most affected, throughout this fellowship program, Open Climate is offering a part-time paid professional development opportunity that provides a platform for learning, creative exchanges, and access to mentors and collaborators.

Fellows will engage directly with, and support Open Climate's efforts to address the following questions:

- How can open source digital infrastructures address environmental impact and climate justice?

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- What are good examples of localized open climate practice in areas such as science, technology, and community engagement?
- How can the collective knowledge commons, such as Wikipedia or Open Street Maps, support climate action?
- How can we encourage intersectional operation between the open and climate movements?

## 2. Priorities for 2023

Since our first community call, Open Climate has hosted conversations with people who bring insights about how open practices can strengthen climate action. Over the course of 12 community calls, we identified five issues where the open movement could become a key actor to pursue a sustainable future:

1. Our information environment is polluted by companies and governments who deny or delay climate action. This can be countered by a robust knowledge commons.
2. Openness can help address the environmental impact of digital infrastructures.
3. Downscale climate science to local levels and work for the “smallest possible policy-maker.”
4. Freeing access to climate information can be done by growing the socio-technical capacity of community spaces.
5. The open movement is a cultural movement in principle, and it can offer value to other movements by operating intersectionally.

We expect applicants to respond to one or more of these issues and are also open to other issues where open practices could be key driving forces for climate action.

You can read more about these issues on [Branch Magazine](#) and the [Climate Justice & the Knowledge Commons report](#).

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### 3. Eligibility

Fellows are expected to come from various disciplinary and cultural backgrounds to engage in exchanges with other open climate practitioners alongside activists, researchers, emerging leaders and other individuals working at the intersection of the open movement and the climate crisis, to support new and existing initiatives and ongoing research and pilots. Fellows will also help develop an Open Climate Agenda for 2030, and community-engagement activities to deliver on mission and core values.

Open Climate seeks seven (7) mid career professionals for the 2023 Open Climate Fellowship Program. We welcome applicants from backgrounds across the open and climate movements such as researchers, activists, developers, and educators who are excited to:

- Explore the intersections between open technology projects and the climate crisis.
- Connect with new people working with open technologies and/or climate and environmental justice, coordinating with our team to put ideas, projects and partnerships out into the world. Network development, community building, and sharing ideas are always at the top of your mind.
- Center the expansion of the knowledge commons for addressing climate change in your work.

In addition, we ask that candidates have some of the following:

- Practical experience with free and open source development practices and communities.
- Relevant experience working with grassroots movements and/or community led programs.
- Knowledge about open community projects (for instance in FOSS, Open Hardware, or Wikipedia)
- Knowledge about climate justice, climate change, and/or the environmental crisis.

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- Experience communicating in a multicultural, diverse environment, with ability to communicate in English for an international audience.

And a few practicalities:

- Applicants should have proficiency in English to engage with the fellowship program. Fellowship outputs are able to be created in other languages.
- Some availability to meet and participate in activities between 1-4PM UTC
- An initial idea to explore, which will evolve and materialize over the course of the fellowship. We welcome application material in different formats that will best help to distill your idea – video and audio in addition to text are acceptable.
- We encourage people who identify as [Most Affected People and Areas](#) to apply.

If you don't believe you meet all qualifications as described, we still encourage you to apply. The best candidates for the fellowship will possess a combination of skills, motivation and experience.

## 4. Program requirements

Fellows will collaborate with the Open Climate team from January 30, 2023 – May 30, 2023 (4 months). We anticipate that on average fellows will spend ~20-30 hours/month completing the following requirements:

- Engage in a facilitated peer-learning process to build projects based on their communities and areas of interest, with support and mentorship from the Open Climate team.
- Join and participate in regular cohort calls to exchange feedback and learnings with peers.
- Help shape public-facing programming and contents related to Open Climate's mission.
- Learn in the open, contributing to Open Climate's resources.

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### 5. Fellowship benefits

- Mentorship and network building  
Fellows will have access to experienced open movement organizers and practitioners during the duration of the fellowship, which will also offer opportunities for direct engagement with leaders across the open movement and climate action initiatives over digital platforms.
- Professional Development  
The Open Climate Fellowship will lead to new learnings and relationships that will help the Fellow further their career objectives. Open Climate will assist Fellows in their future endeavors by facilitating new connections, sharing information about funding opportunities and emerging opportunities in the field, as well as offering continued mentorship.
- Stipend  
\$2,500 (paid in two installments over the fellowship period)

### 6. Application process

To apply, please fill the following form available at: [open-climate.org/fellowship](https://open-climate.org/fellowship) by no later than 11:59 pm UTC on December 11, 2022.

#### Application form

- Full name
- Preferred pronouns
- Email
- Location where you will conduct your fellowship from
- Affiliation (optional)
- CV/resume (PDF format, no more than 3 pages)
- Upload a Letter of Intent\* where you address the following topics/questions:

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- Your project proposal: What would you like to work on during the fellowship?  
The fellowship aims to bridge open practices with climate action. Please briefly describe your proposed project:
  - Who would you like to work with and who would benefit from your work?
  - Do you already have an existing project or do you want to start something new?
  - Which of five themes indicated above does your proposal respond to and how?
- How have your past experiences equipped you to pursue this project?
- How do you think you would benefit from the Open Climate Fellowship program?

\* Allowable formats for Letter of Intent: PDF: up to 2 pages; Video: .mp4 / 3-min long; Audio: .ogg,.wav,.mp3 / 3-min long; Slideshow: PDF up to 3 slides

## 7. Review and selection

Applications will be evaluated by the Open Climate team.

### PLEASE NOTE:

- The deadline for submissions is 11:59 pm on Friday December 11, 2022
- Successful applicants will be contacted by December 16, 2022 to arrange interviews on the following dates: January 9-12, 2022
- Should you require further clarification or have any questions, please email [info@open-climate.org](mailto:info@open-climate.org)

In an effort to support all applicants' ongoing professional development, Open Climate will conduct a follow-up session in late January to highlight opportunities for continued engagement with the

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initiative, including participating in community events, contributing to the forum and volunteer opportunities related to ongoing programming and operations.

## 8. Additional information

### About Open Climate

Open Climate is a collective of people dedicated to exploring the intersection between the open movement and the climate crisis. Open Climate seeks to identify and establish links between the planetary and digital commons in order to understand ways that the open movement – through data, science, policy, hardware, open knowledge production – can better support climate actions. Established in partnerships between team members of Open Environment Data Project, Mozilla Foundation, Green Web Foundation, Wikimedia Foundation, Wikimedistas de Uruguay, and University of Notre Dame, the Open Climate community has been a generative space to understand how the knowledge commons can better serve the goals of climate justice. What if we could contribute the power of community and work around convivial technologies to better connect communities across languages, geographies and impacts of climate change, creating better access to information and solutions?

*The Open Climate Fellowship is made possible in part by an award from the Wikimedia Alliances Fund.*

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