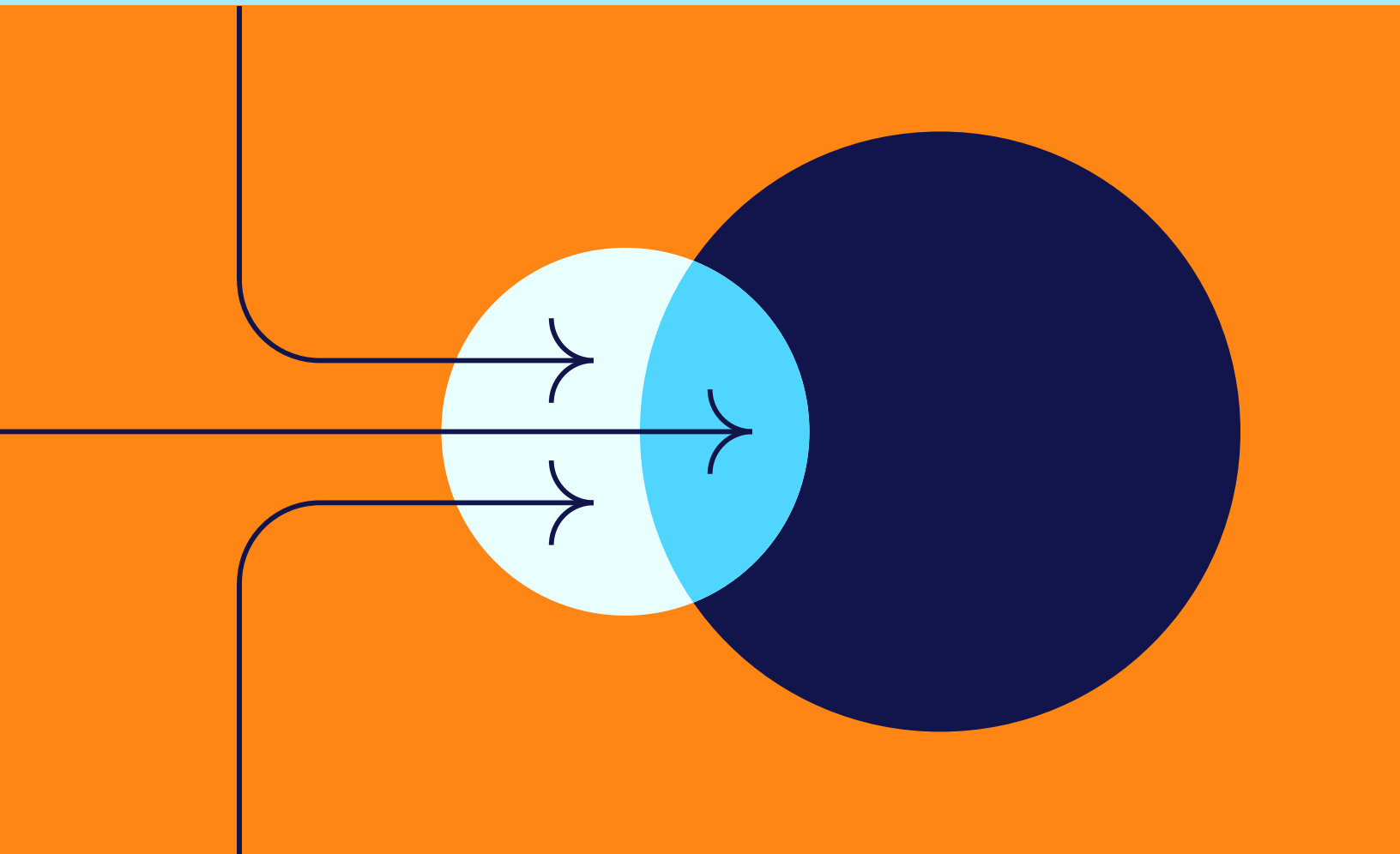


The Power of Collaborative Philanthropy:

# Giving Together to Address the Climate Crisis

An overview from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Climate Lead



In this decisive decade in our battle against climate change, the science is clear: We must cut emissions in half by 2030 to stay within a safe degree of planetary warming and avoid even worse outcomes. This requires protecting the natural ecosystems that absorb more than 50 percent of greenhouse gas pollution. It also means making major transitions in every industry and corner of the globe as equitably as possible—shifting how we grow our food, manufacture goods, move products, and power our lives.

Climate philanthropy has never been more important. Many high-impact solutions—such as transitioning to renewable energy, stopping deforestation, and mobilizing sophisticated global movements—already exist. And there has been a welcome surge of interest among philanthropists who can use their resources to advance solutions quickly. Yet despite growing awareness and concern, less than 2 percent of philanthropic giving currently goes to climate solutions globally.<sup>1</sup>

The emergence of collaborative giving platforms over the past decade is a means of actively advancing climate solutions at speed and scale. These platforms are efficient—often staffed by experts to help new and experienced philanthropists work collectively, confidently, and swiftly to achieve far-reaching and outsized impact in their giving. This document showcases a variety of high-impact solutions and provides a [comprehensive list of curated collaborative giving opportunities](#) across the climate space.



**The urgency of the climate crisis is clear and the solutions may be complex. But understanding how to give shouldn't be the obstacle to action for philanthropists. I have found that giving collaboratively—and partnering with others to combine resources and funding—amplifies impact and helps us move at a faster pace.**

Christopher Hohn, Founder, Children's Investment Fund Foundation

<sup>1</sup>"Funding trends 2023: Climate change mitigation philanthropy." ClimateWorks Foundation.

## What Are Collaborative Giving Platforms?

Donors working together is a long tradition, from informal giving circles to local fundraising campaigns. Collaborative giving platforms take these efforts to the next level, formalizing collective giving to amplify impact. They are philanthropic organizations or coalitions of NGOs specifically designed to bring donors together, provide deep subject matter expertise, and channel resources to the people and groups best positioned to accelerate progress on complex issues such as poverty, equity, global health—and climate change.



**Even putting all of our resources together, we couldn't possibly do as much as these collaboratives are doing with so many other institutions and philanthropists coming in to pool not just their money, but their minds, their hearts, and their experience.**

Rohini Nilekani, Chairperson, Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies

Two recent reports, [Releasing the Potential of Philanthropic Collaborations](#) and [The Philanthropic Collaborative Landscape](#), authored by the Bridgespan Group and funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, identified a surge in philanthropic collaboratives—with hundreds of giving platforms having collectively channeled more than \$12 billion to social causes. These platforms offer many advantages, including:

- Partnerships with other donors that leverage capital to scale solutions quickly.
- Specialized knowledge and important relationships with community leaders and grassroots groups that may otherwise be inaccessible.
- Coordination in developing targeted, networked strategies that take leadership from the field and address complex, cross-cutting issues.
- Opportunities to engage depending on interest, with governance structures that offer hands-off approaches or deeper engagement in learning and decision-making.
- Efficiencies that free donors from having to become experts in new fields, ensure that priorities and realities on the ground are taken into account, and allow NGOs to receive funding without needing to manage the grantmaking processes of each individual funder.



**In approaching climate, it was fascinating to me to find so many existing ready-made collaborative solutions and funder initiatives that were already set up. And this is thanks to the decades of work that people have done before we got to the table.**

Connie Ballmer, Rainier Climate Group

Collaborative giving platforms are particularly important when addressing climate change given the complexity of the challenge and the need to fund a systems-level approach to achieve meaningful and lasting impact. This overview shares illustrative examples that highlight their impact, diversity, and reach. Solutions are organized and presented according to categories that many donors find helpful as they explore how to deploy their philanthropy:

- Reducing emissions in key sectors.
- Protecting natural ecosystems like oceans and forests as critical “carbon sinks.”
- Pulling levers to accelerate systems-level change.
- Driving technological innovation to speed discovery and incubate new solutions.
- Ensuring equity and just transitions.
- Focusing on key geographies.
- Addressing the intersection of climate and other priorities like health, gender equity, and Indigenous rights.

## Reducing Emissions in Key Sectors



To meet urgent global climate goals, the main sectors that must rapidly transition off fossil fuels include transportation, energy production, food and agriculture, manufacturing, and buildings. Three strong collaboratives are featured below.

- **Drive Electric** is a global campaign to accelerate the transition to 100 percent clean electric road transportation—including cars, vans, buses, two- and three-wheelers, and trucks. Drive Electric targets advancing smart government policies like incentives and regulations to grow the EV market; engaging business leaders, including vehicle manufacturers, fleets, and investors; and mobilizing diverse people-powered coalitions representing health, environment, labor, consumers, business, and frontline communities. As a result, governments and businesses representing nearly 40 percent of the world's transportation demand have committed to 100 percent EVs by or before 2050.
- **Industry Hub** aims to catalyze an innovative and decarbonized industrial sector that provides the materials and goods modern economies need while reducing harmful emissions that endanger lives and livelihoods. Industry accounts for nearly one-quarter of all planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions, driven largely by the fossil fuels needed to produce steel, cement, and chemicals. Industry Hub is helping speed the phase-out of dirty industrial technologies and accelerate the deployment of clean technologies by supporting scaled solutions, technological innovations, and the market and policy conditions necessary for a clean industry future.
- **ReNew2030** is working to deliver a fast and fair transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy worldwide. The power sector generates the electricity that sustains our homes, schools, hospitals, and workplaces, but it relies heavily on coal and gas—with devastating impacts for people and the planet. To meet global climate goals, the power sector must shift away from coal and gas and instead use predominantly renewable energy. To catalyze this critical transition, ReNew2030 is working to mobilize governments, businesses, and communities to help scale wind and solar power capacity five-fold by 2030.

## CASE STUDY

## Seizing the Methane Moment

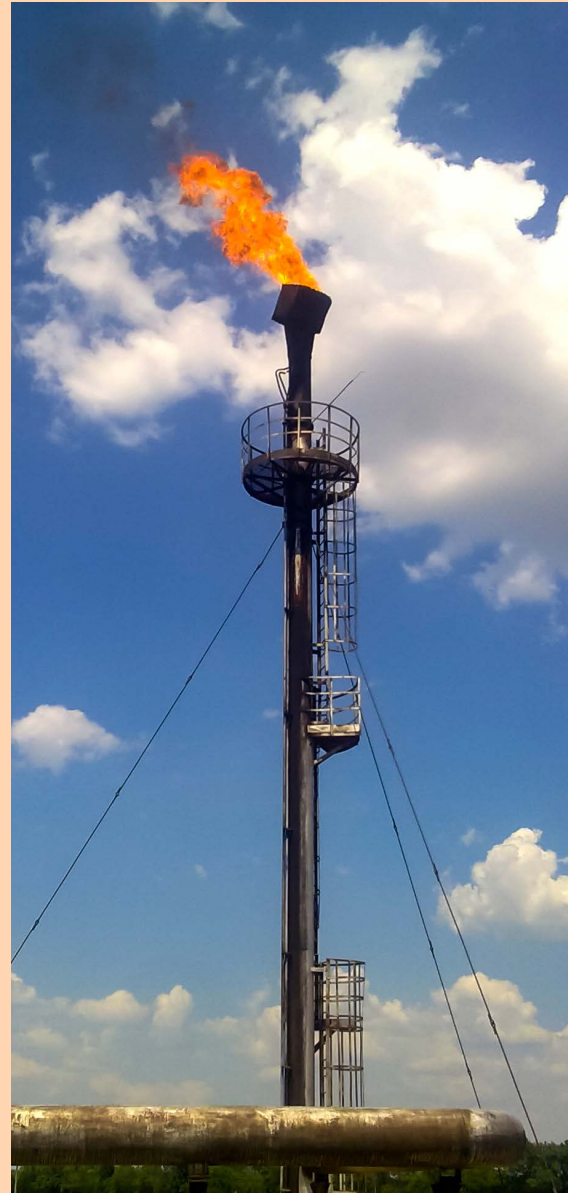
Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas, with 84 times the warming impact of carbon dioxide. Reducing methane emissions is the fastest down payment the world can make to address climate change. According to experts, lowering methane emissions from human activity could avoid nearly 0.3° Celsius of global warming by 2050. This would prevent 255,000 premature deaths, 775,000 asthma-related hospital visits, 73 billion hours of lost labor, and 26 million tons of crop losses globally.

Yet coordinated efforts to reduce methane are not yet at the scale of the challenge. To seize the moment on this urgent issue, philanthropists committed \$200 million ahead of the U.N. climate meetings in Glasgow in 2021 to create the **Global Methane Hub**. This has since helped inspire more than 150 countries to sign the Global Methane Pledge, agreeing to take voluntary actions toward reducing their methane emissions.

The Global Methane Hub coalesces philanthropists, experts, non-profits, and governments to ensure efficient, united action around a strategy that can develop and quickly scale up cost-effective, high-impact methane mitigation solutions, contributing to transformational change in the energy, agricultural, and waste management sectors.

Priorities include:

- Technical support to governments who have signed the Global Methane Pledge, and advocacy to persuade additional governments to sign on (the Hub already is supporting 30 countries with their methane reduction plans).
- Diplomatic engagement and leveraging of international organizations like the World Bank to implement and finance global reductions.
- Aggregating data to ensure accurate monitoring, verification, and reporting of methane emissions and to inform enforcement mechanisms.
- Creation of a center of expertise for agricultural methane work, using innovation, policy, and corporate engagement to drive real reductions.





## Protecting and Enhancing Nature



Approximately half of all carbon dioxide emissions caused by human activity have been absorbed by nature—in vegetation, soils, and oceans. Destroying these natural resources releases stored greenhouse gasses and prevents them from absorbing future emissions. Protecting lands, oceans, and forests is therefore vital to addressing climate change. Below are three strong collaborative examples.

- **Forests, People, Climate (FPC)** aims to end and reverse tropical deforestation while delivering just, sustainable development and securing the land and resource rights of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and Afro-descendant Peoples. This global initiative, led by experienced foundations, civil society, and community-based organizations, aligns diverse strategies with an emphasis on regions where more than half of all tropical deforestation has occurred: the Brazilian Amazon, Indonesia, and the Congo Basin.
- **Ocean Resilience and Climate Alliance (ORCA)** works to advance high-impact solutions to protect the world's largest carbon sink—the ocean. ORCA strategies include safeguarding the Arctic; increasing offshore wind energy; decarbonizing global shipping; scaling community-led coastal initiatives in the Global South; activating blue carbon-positive business models; advancing marine carbon sequestration; and elevating a unified ocean-climate agenda through strategic diplomacy.
- **Agroecology Fund** helps lift smallholder farmers out of poverty and reduce emissions from the agricultural sector by building regenerative, locally adaptive, and ecologically sustainable food systems. The Fund shifts financial resources towards climate-resilient food systems, bolsters movements, and increases the capacity of civil society to influence policy, thereby supporting communities in the Global South to develop thriving economies, food sovereignty, and the ability to adapt to climate change.

## Levers to Accelerate Change



“Levers” are accelerators: tactical, strategic interventions that influence key actors—governments, businesses, markets, and an engaged public—to compel action and unlock systemic change. They include policy, strategic communications, legal strategies, research and innovation, finance, movements and coalitions, and capacity building. Levers may be deployed as cross-cutting approaches across sectors or geographies—driving progress from all angles and catalyzing the political, economic, and social transitions we need. Below are examples of collaboratives across three levers.

### *Movements and Coalitions:*

- **Urban Movement Innovation Fund (UMI Fund)** connects, aligns, and strengthens the climate movement to accelerate collective progress on the climate agenda by increasing capacity, aligning and incubating projects, and championing the voices of key actors on the frontlines of the climate crisis. From implementing sustainability measures in Colombia to bolstering youth leadership in advancing policy and decision-making in Ghana, UMI Fund works to promote equitable transition strategies and build people power.
- **Global Greengrants Fund** provides grassroots movements with support, tools, and resources to continue building collective power and advancing environmental justice. From Indigenous Peoples demanding an end to oil development in the Amazon to African youth climate organizers influencing international conferences—the Fund supports high-impact work to accelerate climate solutions. Priorities include Indigenous rights; gender and disability justice; youth; just energy transition; holistic security of climate leaders who are under threat; and redress for severe impacts of climate change where adaptation is infeasible (known as loss and damage), especially in the Global South.
- **Thousand Currents** provides flexible, long-term core grants and support to climate solution movements in the Global South. By developing deep relationships with visionary grassroots movements led by women, youth, Black, and Indigenous and Afro-descendant Peoples, Thousand Currents has resourced hundreds of coalitions across 53 countries. These groups are addressing the climate crisis and overlapping inequities through community-led solutions that include Indigenous stewardship of land and territory, agroecology, and community-owned renewable energy.



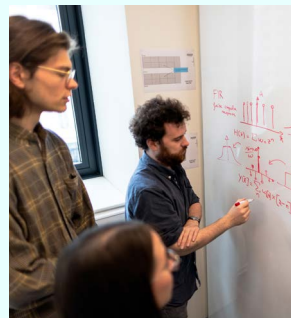
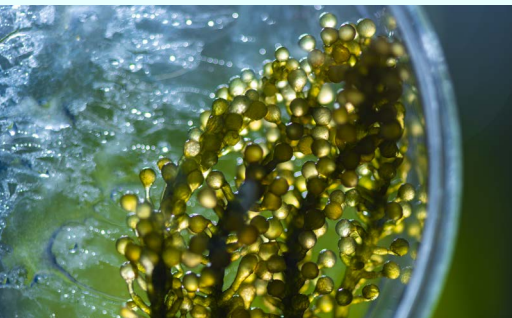
### *Strategic Communications:*

- **CommsHub** combines pooled funding, aligns strategy development, and provides technical support to supercharge the climate movement's ability to pursue innovative, scaled, measurable, and impactful strategic communications. Launched in 2024, CommsHub's key strategies include leveraging the film and television industries' unique cultural influence to increase support for climate policy and depolarize climate action; challenging the fossil fuel industry's political and cultural power through investigative work that exposes political interference, corruption, and greenwashing; and building capacity in critical yet under-resourced geographies to shift national-level politics and power.

### *Legal Strategies:*

- **The Foundation for International Law for the Environment (FILE)** helps people and communities use bold, innovative legal actions to fight the climate and nature crises, uphold the rights of those most affected, and compel governments and corporations to take climate action. Its focus includes defending Indigenous rights, preventing deforestation, and stopping oil and gas expansion in key regions such as Africa, Asia and the broader Asia-Pacific area, Europe, Latin America, and North America.

## Driving Technological Innovation



Continued technology innovation and development is necessary to eliminate emissions not addressed by existing, mature technologies. Coordinated philanthropic support can provide the patient, risk-tolerant capital required to iterate and demonstrate new breakthrough technologies, catalyze additional investment in the most promising technologies, establish new markets, and address barriers that could slow transitions.

- **Breakthrough Energy**, established in 2015 by Bill Gates, accelerates climate solutions through its Catalyst Program, which brings together public and private sector partners to rapidly scale emerging clean technologies. It does so through a blended financing approach, initially focused on clean hydrogen, direct air capture, long duration energy storage, and sustainable aviation fuel. The Fellows Program identifies and supports innovators and entrepreneurs worldwide to develop, scale, and commercialize early-stage clean technologies with high potential to reduce emissions.

## Ensuring Equity and Just Transitions



People of color, Indigenous Peoples, low-income communities, and other marginalized groups bear the brunt of polluting industries and worsening climate impacts. They are among the most important stakeholders of climate action—often with the most to gain and lose. Many local leaders and communities have clear, strategic visions to deliver tangible and immediate benefits while building popular support and momentum—and all climate solutions should include a focus on these values. Three strong collaboratives advancing this under-resourced area include:

- **The Climate and Clean Energy Equity Fund (Equity Fund)** provides organizations in Black, Indigenous, Latinx, AAPI, and multi-racial communities with funding, capacity building, and technical assistance to lead organizing, civic engagement, and communications strategies that advance economic, racial, and gender equity through climate action. Working across 13 U.S. states in the Southwest, Midwest, Southeast, and Mid-Atlantic regions, its programs and grantmaking advance community priorities for climate solutions that include workforce development; clean energy access; and improved health, job quality, transportation, and affordable housing.
- **The Solutions Project** works across 41 U.S. states at the intersection of climate, frontline movements, and narrative strategy. It invests in solutions identified by local leaders that address multiple issues simultaneously—like building net-zero affordable housing that tackles the housing crisis and installing rooftop solar in low-income communities that lowers energy costs and creates jobs. It engages directly with communities, brings national media attention and celebrity partnerships to grantees' work, and supports capacity building in strategic communications, storytelling, networking, and collaboration.
- **The Climate Justice Resilience Fund (CJRF)** makes grants that enable women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples to create and share their solutions for climate resilience. Grants focus on local impact and shifting policies and funding in three focal geographies where local communities are experiencing dramatic climate impacts: the Arctic, East Africa, and the Bay of Bengal. CJRF puts people, their rights, and their lived experience directly at the center of climate action to deliver tangible, on-the-ground results for communities, while addressing wider systems transformation. For example, CJRF supports environmental justice and Indigenous-led groups' work to ensure equity and transparency around public funding for projects.

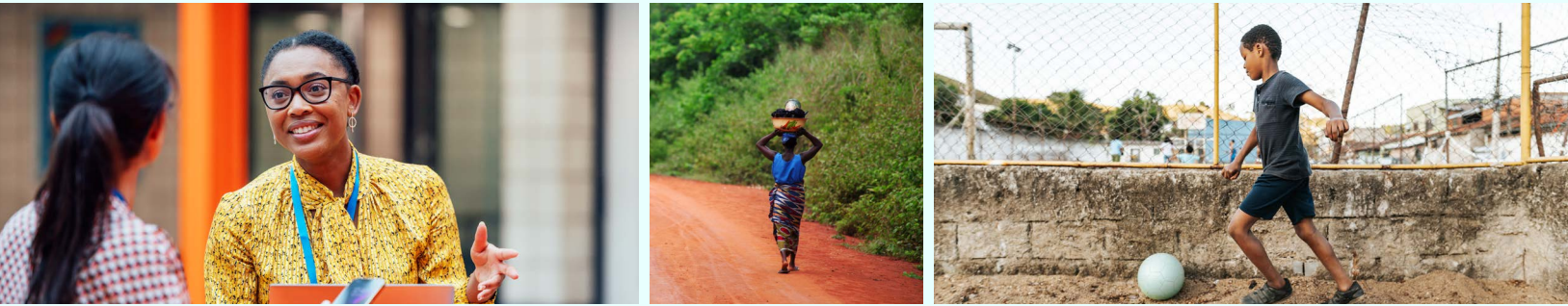
## Geographical Approaches



Half of the world's emissions come from four economies—China, the U.S., the European Union, and India. Adding in Africa, Southeast Asia, and Brazil, these seven geographies represent nearly 80 percent of possible emissions reductions. Philanthropic investment in these countries and regions, some of which will soon face key political moments, can result in outsized climate impact. Further, investing in region-specific approaches is key to creating durable strategies. For example, emerging economies and developing countries, especially in Africa and Southeast Asia, need a path to prosperity that is not based on fossil fuels. At the same time, developed countries and regions like the U.S. and Europe must decarbonize as quickly as possible.

To ensure that approaches address the specific challenges and opportunities in key regions, experienced climate donors have created **regional climate foundations** (RCFs), a specialized and highly successful collaborative model with deep place-based expertise. RCFs highlighted on the map above are exceptional partners for those seeking collective giving opportunities that are geographically focused and employ strategies with local leadership and program experts.

## Intersectional Areas



Climate change is not just an environmental issue—it is a human issue that deepens existing challenges across our society and economy. Therefore, addressing climate can help supercharge progress in many other areas, including health, gender equality, and Indigenous rights. A few examples are listed below.

### *Climate and Health:*

- **Clean Air Fund** addresses poor air quality, which exacerbates the impacts of climate change and contributes to more than 8 million premature deaths each year—particularly among women and people of color—while costing the global economy more than \$8 trillion annually. Policies to reduce air pollution offer a win-win strategy, but city leaders need evidence, funding, and capacity to take action. The Breathe Cities initiative leverages innovative research and technology to help leaders in 15 cities across 11 countries identify, develop, and implement solutions to measurably decrease pollution and improve the health of millions of people.

### *Climate and Gender:*

- **Hive Fund for Climate and Gender Justice (Hive Fund)** makes grants to groups focussed on accelerating an equitable transition to clean energy and reining in dirty energy in the U.S. South. Its grantmaking aims to elevate the positional power of women of color leaders and others on the frontlines in achieving these shared goals. Community-based projects are matched with new financing to maximize community benefits and emission reductions; provide compelling narratives that intensify public support; offer proof points for new economic frameworks; and help local groups expand their civic power.

### *Climate and Indigenous Rights:*

- **Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI)** is the world's leading rightsholder-led coalition working across 33 countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. RRI ensures communities' land, forest, and resource rights and livelihoods through bold, collective action that delivers on climate, conservation, and development goals. Indigenous Peoples and local communities are the de facto managers of more than half of the planet's land, yet hold legal rights to just over 11 percent of it. RRI is advancing a global strategy to rapidly increase the land area designated for or owned by these communities and move funding directly to frontline partners through innovative financial mechanisms.



Below is a more comprehensive list of collaborative giving opportunities across the climate space. Climate Lead has vetted many of these initiatives and can help make connections to peer donors and experts who hold deep knowledge of these groups.

### **Reducing Emissions in Key Sectors**

- Clean Air Fund
- Clean Cooking Alliance
- Clean Cooling Collaborative
- Clean Grid Initiative
- Climate Imperative
- Climateworks Aviation Program
- Climateworks Carbon Dioxide Removal
- Climateworks Maritime Shipping Program
- Drive Electric Campaign
- Energy Transition Fund
- Funder Collaborative on Oil and Gas
- Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet
- Global Methane Hub
- Industry Hub
- Invest in Our Future
- Plastic Solutions Fund
- Pooled Fund for International Energy
- Renew2030

### **Protecting and Enhancing Nature**

- African Food Sovereignty Alliance
- AgroEcology Fund
- Climate and Land Use Alliance (CLUA)
- Enduring Earth
- Forests, People, Climate (FPC)
- Global Alliance for the Future of Food
- Global Mangrove Alliance
- Ocean Resilience and Climate Alliance (ORCA)
- Oceans 5
- Platform for Agricultural Transformation (PACT)
- Restore Local
- Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI)
- Samdhana Institute
- Tenure Facility

### **Levers to Accelerate Change**

- Allied Climate Partners
- Climate Breakthrough Project
- Climate Emergency Collaboration Group
- CommsHub
- Crux Alliance
- Environmental Defenders Collaborative
- Equation Campaign
- Foundation for International Law for the Environment (FILE)
- Global Climate Legal Defense
- Global Commons Alliance
- Global Strategic Communications Council (GSCC)
- Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance
- Sunrise Project
- Urban Movement Innovation Fund (UMI Fund)

### **Driving Technological Innovation**

- Breakthrough Energy Catalyst
- Breakthrough Energy Fellows
- Carbon to Sea Initiative
- Prime Coalition

### **Ensuring Equity and Just Transitions**

- Building Equity and Alignment for Environmental Justice
- Climate and Clean Energy Equity Fund (Equity Fund)
- Climate Justice Resilience Fund (CJRF)
- Climate Leaders in Movement Action Fund (CLIMA Fund)
- Collectrify: A Frontline Energy Fund
- Communities First Fund
- FEMNET
- Fund to Build Grassroots Power
- Global Greengrants Fund
- Heartland Fund
- Hive Fund for Climate and Gender Justice (Hive Fund)
- Just Transition Fund
- Mosaic
- NDN Collective
- Pan Africa Climate Justice Alliance
- Pawanka Fund
- Taproot Earth
- The Solutions Project
- Thousand Currents
- Youth Climate Justice Fund

### **Geographical Approaches**

- African Climate Foundation
- Energy Foundation China
- U.S. Energy Foundation
- European Climate Foundation
- Iniciativa Climática de México
- Instituto Clima e Sociedade (Brazil)
- Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (India)\*
- Tara Fund (Southeast Asia, Japan, Korea)
- ViriyaENB (Indonesia)

\*Able to receive funding from donors in India.





## To Learn More

---

Guided by the belief that every life has equal value, the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** works to help all people lead healthy, productive lives. The foundation's Philanthropic Partnerships team seeds and supports collaborative giving platforms that make it easier for donors to channel large philanthropic investments to advance equity.

Jennifer Stout: [jennifer.stout@gatesfoundation.org](mailto:jennifer.stout@gatesfoundation.org)

---

**Climate Lead** acts as an impartial guide, empowering philanthropic leaders to take immediate and far-reaching climate action. This overview offers a starting place for philanthropists to explore the wide spectrum of collaborative initiatives ready for funding. Climate Lead is happy to provide more information about any of the collaboratives listed and connect philanthropists to them to learn more.

Jennifer Kitt: [jennifer.kitt@climatelead.org](mailto:jennifer.kitt@climatelead.org)  
Robynn Steffen: [robynn.steffen@climatelead.org](mailto:robynn.steffen@climatelead.org)

BILL & MELINDA  
GATES *foundation*

climate  lead