



The Office of Sustainability's Community Resilience and Environmental Justice (CREJ) Fund

CREJ Fund 2026 Tracks and Eligibility | Revised: 04/08/2026

CREJ Overview & Eligibility

The primary goal of the CREJ Fund is to change the systems and built environment conditions that affect environmental justice communities and increase frontline community resilience to climate change.

The CREJ Fund will award \$30,000 grants with a two-year grant agreement to focus on 12 projects across the following tracks. These focus areas recognize priority environmental burdens and key community assets raised in OOS' environmental justice community workshops.

1. Circularity & Waste Reduction
2. Climate Emergency Preparedness
3. Energy Burden & Heat Resilience
4. Food Sovereignty & Land Security
5. Indoor Air Quality

To be eligible for a grant from the CREJ Fund, organizations must be:

- Located in Philadelphia and serving Philadelphians experiencing environmental injustices;
- Led by, in partnership with, and/or serving people most affected by the issue that is being addressed;
- A 501(c)3 nonprofit, faith-based institution, childcare center, or senior center, or a community-based organization working with a 501(c)3 fiscal sponsor;
- Working on a project that advances the CREJ Fund goal of materially and sustainably changing conditions and increasing frontline community resilience.

Each track has associated environmental burdens which should be addressed through your organization's proposal. Please review the 1-pagers below to learn more. The application will ask how your organization will measure reduction in the associated environmental burdens and/or increase in community resilience over the course of the two-year grant term.

All applications in this round will need to be for a specific project. General operating funds are not eligible for this application round.

Circularity and Waste Reduction

Circular solutions support cleaner, safer streets, reduce pollution, and create new opportunities for residents to participate in repair, reuse, composting, and small-scale manufacturing. Many Philadelphia neighborhoods have faced decades of environmental burdens, from illegal dumping to pollution from waste facilities and truck traffic. Waste reduction and circularity offer a pathway to address these inequities by reducing waste at the source and creating systems that keep materials circulating locally. These systems help ensure that the communities most impacted by waste are also the first to benefit from healthier environments and new economic pathways.

Strategies for Waste Reduction and Circularity	Existing Resources for Waste Reduction and Circularity
<p>Source reduction and reuse systems: Refill stations, bulk purchasing co-ops, tool lending libraries and other lending programs, reusable takeout systems, and durable goods sharing.</p>	<p>Philly Unwrapped Toolkit — Comprehensive toolkit for restaurants and food service providers on how to reduce single-use plastics and transition to reusable materials.</p>
<p>Upcycling, repair, and material reuse: Community hubs for collecting, sorting, repairing, and redistributing building materials, textiles, electronics, and durable goods.</p>	<p>ResourcePhilly — Regional directory connecting residents and organizations to reuse, repair, composting, and circular services.</p>
<p>Community-scale composting and organics diversion: Expanding access to composting through neighborhood-based systems that make organics diversion possible for all residents.</p>	<p>Bennett Compost, Mother Compost and Philadelphia Parks & Recreation Community Compost Network — Local composting services supporting organics diversion.</p>
<p>Reusable and refill systems: Community driven systems that make it easier to choose durable, reusable and refillable options in everyday life. This includes access to refill stations, reusable serviceware programs, shared container systems and other models that replace single use items with long-lasting alternatives.</p>	<p>Ray’s Reusables, Good Buy Supply & PHLASK — Expanding access to low-waste options through local refill shops and community tools like PHLASK that help residents find free water and reduce single-use packaging.</p>
<p>Circular workforce development: Training pathways that prepare residents for careers in repair, deconstruction, materials recovery, and remanufacturing to enable the workforce needed to operate and expand circular infrastructure across Philadelphia.</p>	<p>Philly Fixers Guild & The Preservation Trades Center — Hands-on programs that build skills in repairing household items and salvaging or restoring building materials, creating accessible entry points into repair and preservation trades.</p>

<p>Circular infrastructure and site access: Securing land or buildings for composting, reuse, repair, material storage and circular innovation.</p>	<p>Revive & Thrive & Philadelphia Land Bank — Turning vacant lots into properties available for community projects, including creating space for hands-on training and neighborhood-based circularity activity.</p>
<p>End-market development and circular incentives: Creating demand for reused, repaired, remanufactured, and compost-derived products.</p>	<p>Circle Lab (Drexel) — Research and innovation hub supporting circular materials and product development.</p>
<p>Neighborhood-scale material collection: Systems for textiles, electronics, furniture, and other materials to be collected for reuse or repair.</p>	<p>Philadelphia Furniture Bank — Redistributes used furniture to households transitioning out of homelessness.</p>

Climate Emergency Preparedness

Philadelphia’s most urgent climate hazards include extreme heat and flooding.

Extreme heat refers to periods of very hot weather, often combined with high humidity, lasting over several days. These conditions put stress on the body and can cause heat-related illness, hospital visits, or even death. To lower the risk from extreme heat emergencies, we need to help people access cooling resources and provide residents with clear information about how to stay safe.

Flooding can cause health problems right away and over time. Physical and mental health issues may result for people who go through flooding. Floods can damage homes and delay important services, which can lead to long-term illness and poor health. While complex strategies are needed to reduce the impacts of flooding, being prepared can help reduce the harm floods cause to your community.

Strategies for Climate and Energy Emergencies	Existing Plans and Resources for Climate and Energy Emergencies
Install Solar and Battery Back-Up Generators	City of Philadelphia All-Hazard Mitigation Plan: 2026 Update
Plan Ahead <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribute safe keeping containers for flood emergencies 	Household Guide to Flooding This resource provides information on what to do before, during, and after a flood including steps related to insurance and cleanup.
Elevate Utilities and Preparing Your Property	Eastwick Flood Ready Homes Guide This guide, meant for residents of the Eastwick neighborhood, features strategies that many can apply to make their homes more flood resistant.
Manage Stormwater on Your Property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinating rain-barrel distributions for residents 	Homeowner’s Stormwater Handbook <i>Smart Stormwater Management: A How-to for Homeowners</i> PWD’s Green Stormwater Infrastructure Maintenance Manual

Energy Burden & Heat Resilience

Energy burden means six percent or more of a household’s income is spent on energy bills. High energy costs can lead to debt, poverty, poor health, and trouble keeping a stable home. Energy costs are also the second-highest operational expense for many non-profits, behind only salaries. This burden limits resources to provide core missions. To address energy insecurity, we need to improve the condition of Philadelphia’s older buildings and make sure everyone can access clean, affordable energy.

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Strategies for Reducing Energy Burden and/or Extreme Heat	Existing Plans and Resources for Energy Burden and/or Extreme Heat
Expand access to energy-saving and bill assistance services through resident education and outreach	<p>16 Neighborhood Energy Centers located throughout the city that assist in connecting residents to utility bill assistance programs, home repair and weatherization, budget counseling, and connection to related services.</p> <p>2026 Mobile Energy Center</p>
Improve energy efficiency in community and commercial buildings (i.e. weatherization, cool roofs, LED lighting, window films and replacements, heat pump and mini split systems)	<p>Philadelphia’s Building Energy Performance Policy</p> <p>PECO & PGW rebates, grants, and incentives</p> <p>Philadelphia’s new Better Buildings Hub is a one-stop resource to help building owners, residents, and community partners navigate incentive programs, find service providers, and access funding opportunities.</p>

<p>Support the transition to clean and efficient appliances</p>	<p>PECO rebates for efficient electric appliances to support the transition from natural gas or fuel oil.</p>
<p>Improve access to residential and community solar energy</p>	<p>Philadelphia Energy Authority (PEA)'s Solarize Greater Philadelphia</p>
<p>Repair Philadelphia's housing stock and improve home efficiency by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing weatherization kits or services, and • Offering or hosting educational workshops. 	<p>Philadelphia Housing and Development Corporation (PHDC) offers free repair and weatherization programs to income-qualified homeowners, renters, and landlords in Philadelphia.</p> <p>Philadelphia Energy Authority's (PEA) Built to Last Program</p>
<p>Expand Shade & Greenery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand Philadelphia tree canopy, • Install shade structures, and • Install and operate large misting fans during heat emergencies. 	<p>Philadelphia Parks and Recreation Philly Tree Plan</p> <p>The 10-year strategy to grow, protect, and care for Philadelphia's urban tree canopy.</p> <p>Tree Tenders Program Pennsylvania Horticultural Society</p>

Food Sovereignty and Land Security

Food insecurity can cause people to not get the food they need to stay healthy. This can lead to poor nutrition and long-term health problems like diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease. To help solve food insecurity, we must make sure everyone can get healthy food. We should also support local and community efforts to grow and share food.

Land Security

The availability of greened land parcels across the city can be vulnerable due to increased development. To build sustainable community food assets, residents need long-term access to land so that their work can be protected. This may happen through purchasing land directly, long-term leases, or through community land trusts.

Strategies for Food Sovereignty	Existing Plans and Resources for Food Sovereignty
Community-based farmer's markets	Philadelphia Parks and Recreation: Farm Philly
Education and resources for home gardening	Philadelphia Parks and Recreation: Community Compost Network
Land security and infrastructure	Growing from the Root: Philadelphia's Urban Agriculture Plan
Urban farms and community gardens	Neighborhood Gardens Trust
Garden-based cooking demonstrations for nutrient-dense food preparation	Public Interest Law Center: Garden Justice Legal Initiative

Indoor Air Quality

Indoor air quality is affected by many sources of pollution. These include gas stoves, mold, dust, lead paint, cleaning products, and chemicals from new furniture or dry cleaning. Poor indoor air quality can cause headaches, stuffy noses, dry eyes and throat, coughing, tiredness, and trouble focusing. In more serious cases, bad indoor air quality can cause long-term illness, cancer, or even death.

Strategies to Improve Indoor Air Quality	Existing Plans and Resources for Indoor Air Quality
Get carbon monoxide (CO) alarms which are cheap and can save your life.	U.S. EPA: Inside Story
Ventilate your home: open windows on nice days and use vents when cooking.	American Lung Association (ALA)
Eliminate mold and damp areas, and clean dust. Wet clean floors and windows sills often to reduce exposure to lead.	Philadelphia Department of Public Health, Air Management Services Ask general air quality questions by emailing dphams_ps@phila.gov .
Replace filters in forced-air HVAC systems and use air purifiers.	
Remediate (remove) lead, radon, and mold from flooding and stormwater	EPA Resources on Lead Exposure
Use lead-safe certified contractors for large renovations in buildings built before 1978.	