

Women4Climate Mentorship Programme Application Guidelines

Background

Avoiding the worst impacts of the climate crisis means cutting global emissions in half by 2030.

In order to achieve this goal through local climate action, a number of mayors across the world have committed to accelerated action in the areas of: adaptation and water, air quality, energy and buildings, food systems, transportation, urban planning and waste management. In October 2019, city leaders also announced their support for the Global Green New Deal vision, reaffirming their commitment to protecting the environment, strengthening the economy, and building a more equitable future. C40 mayors are also leading the efforts to create green jobs, invest in

crucial public services, protect mass transit, support essential workers, and give public spaces back to people and nature as outlined in the newly-released [C40 Mayors Agenda for a Green and Just Recovery](#) from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Building resilient cities requires that leaders intervene to ensure their communities are inclusive, and the most vulnerable are protected. Women are powerful agents of change in their communities: it is crucial that cities pursue gender-inclusive climate action and encourage community-led projects that benefit all citizens equitably. The full potential of women to take action against climate change can only be realised through policies and actions that empower them.

At a local level, men, women and gender minorities experience cities in very different ways due to gendered social rules, norms and cultures. Acknowledging and addressing these gender differentials is fundamental to solving the climate emergency in cities and improving the lives of all the urban dwellers equitably.

The Women4Climate mentorship programme advances the full participation of women and those who identify as women in the climate change sphere, by providing them with inspiring role models from within their city and access to global climate leaders. This is achieved through climate action knowledge building opportunities and in fostering leadership skills, political engagement and peer-to-peer learning experiences within key sectors for building urban resilience. These activities ensure that there is a global platform through which leading female

citizen leaders can connect and make change together.

The mentorship programme matches committed leaders from the public and private sector, international organisations and members of civil society with emerging female leaders at differing stages in developing their climate projects and solutions. The selected projects are aimed at adapting to or mitigating the effects of climate change, which are aligned to their city's climate objectives, foster inclusion and equity and are linked to C40 work in priority areas. Successful projects put under-represented communities at the heart of climate action, support Māori-led responses to the climate challenge and ensure just and inclusive outcomes for all citizens, this is a key criteria applied in the selection process. By emphasising the inextricable link between climate change and the achievement of justice and equality, the Women4Climate initiative aims to help cities deliver ambitious and inclusive climate action.

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The Auckland Mentorship Programme

The Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland Mentorship programme will engage 10 women (C40 uses an inclusive definition of “woman” and “female”, and trans women and genderqueer women who identify as female or woman are welcome to apply to the mentorship programme), who live in Auckland, providing them with a programme that combines mentorship, networking, remote training and collaborative learning opportunities.

Over 8-9 months, mentees will collaborate with one another, their mentors and other female business, public service and innovation leaders. They will work to refine their project through the duration of the programme, while aligning with Auckland’s commitment to address climate change.

The mentees’ newly developed cross-sector relationships will lay a supportive framework to progress their project. Opportunities to network with mentees from around the globe will provide insights as to shared climate challenges, as well as the transferability and scalability of project ideas.

Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland is the 21st city to launch a Women4Climate Mentorship Programme in the C40 network.

The other cities are: Addis Ababa, Barcelona, Bengaluru, Chennai, Freetown, Glasgow, Lisbon, Lima, London, Mexico City, Montréal, Mumbai, New Orleans, Nur-Sultan, Paris, Quito, Tel Aviv-Yafo, Sydney, Toronto and Vancouver.



Application Process

All applications need to be submitted in English to the online form on the C40 website: www.c40.org/what-we-do/raising-climate-ambition/inclusive-thriving-cities/w4c-mentorship-programme/auckland

The jury panel is looking for evidence from candidates of ongoing commitment to climate action in cities and innovative projects or approaches. The goals of the project can be global, but they need to be related to climate action at the urban level and support Auckland's climate targets as expressed in Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan.

Applications for the C40 Women4Climate Mentorship Programme will open from Wednesday 15 February.

The closing date for applications will be Sunday 5 March at 11.59PM NZST.

Any application received after the closing deadline will not be

considered. Any incomplete application forms will not be considered.

All valid applications will be examined by the jury panel. The top 20 shortlisted applicants may be asked to participate in an interview and must make themselves available on 16 March 2023. All candidates who submitted a valid application will be notified if they have been shortlisted by 13 March and of the final status of their application by email no later than 24 March.

The official activities of the Auckland Mentorship Programme will start in early April 2023.

Before commencing the online application, please carefully review the selection criteria.



Projects and Applicant Selection Criteria

The Women4Climate Auckland Mentorship Programme is intended for women and those that identify as women, over 18 years old, living in Auckland.

Women4Climate mentorship programmes select and support women-led initiatives that have a measurable impact on mitigation of or adaptation to climate change, as well as projects that prioritise putting under-represented communities at the heart of climate action and ensure just and inclusive outcomes for citizens.

Projects or ideas presented must be aligned with Auckland's climate priorities. The jury panel will consider applications from projects related to one or more of the following eight climate priorities in [Te Taruke-a-Tawhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan](#):

- Food
- Natural environment
- Built environment
- Communities and Coast
- Economy - including zero waste and a green and just recovery from COVID-19
- Energy and industry
- Transport
- Te Puawaitanga o te Tātai

All candidates need to have an intermediate/advanced level of English: part of the activities will be delivered in English and communication will be encouraged between mentees from other

C40 cities hosting a mentorship programme.

The Women4Climate initiative seeks to promote diversity and encourages applications from women from diverse backgrounds and under-represented communities.

Profiles considered could include individuals whose climate solutions aim to support Māori-led responses to climate change, engage and/or build skills of citizens from hard-to-reach and frontline communities; applicants who are developing green initiative or tech projects; and volunteers and activists.

For this application there is no "standard" or "perfect" profile. Applicants will be selected based upon their motivation, potential and ideas.

Requested Commitment

Applicants to the Women4Climate Auckland Mentorship Programme must be willing to commit to the following:

- Participation in activities from April to November 2023.
- To meet an assigned mentor for minimum 1 hour per month (in person or virtually)
- Attend city-hosted events and networking sessions
- Attend at least 70% of the C40-hosted regular remote training sessions (2 hours per session). Mentees will then be awarded a certificate of completion of the Women4Climate training programme.
- Attend the closing event in November 2023 and present on the outcomes of their participation.

Applicants will also be encouraged to attend regular peer-to-peer webinars where mentees from different cities present their projects or participate in thematic panels.

It is a platform for mentees to build strong networks across C40 cities, learn about each other's projects, share their achievements and ideas for improvements.



Rights of Disqualification

As active participation will be vital to the selected applicants' success, please ensure you're able to meet these commitment requirements before applying. C40 reserves

the right to exclude participants from the programme in the case of repeated absence, missed meetings and poor communication with C40 and the mentors in the scheme.

Access Needs and Information

C40 aims to support full participation of successful applicants in the mentorship programme and meet their access needs where possible.

We do not have the capacity to handle general inquiries by email. If you require any clarification, please take the time to carefully formulate your questions and address them to: women4climate@aucklandcouncil.

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Key Dates

[15/02/2023]

Applications submissions open



[05/03/2023]

Applications submissions close



[13/03/2023]

The results of the selection are notified by email



[16/03/2023]

Virtual panel for the 20 shortlisted candidates



[24/04/2023]

The results of the final selections are notified by email



[29/03/2023]

The mentees are convened at the kick-off meeting

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