

# Bloomberg American Sustainable Cities Application

Thank you for your interest in Bloomberg American Sustainable Cities! We are excited to hear your bold, transformative vision for driving progress on climate and racial wealth equity.

Climate change and racial wealth inequity are two of the most urgent challenges of our time. As temperatures soar, wildfires spread, and sea levels rise, communities across the country will face increasing threats to their housing, infrastructure, and health. But the impacts of climate change are not shared equally. BIPOC communities [are disproportionately impacted](#) by the effects of climate change through displacement, climate disasters, and contaminated water, air, and soil. The most successful climate action must reduce emissions and solve for these deep disparities. In doing so, we will create better, durable, and scalable outcomes that benefit all.

New federal funding, including the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act, creates a once in-a-generation opportunity and a new path to growth for cities. These laws include billions of dollars for energy efficiency, clean energy, electric mobility, and more. The federal government's Justice40 Initiative directs that 40 percent of overall benefits from certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities.

We believe that cities are uniquely positioned to lead this important work. Cities and local communities are closest to the problem and have been developing solutions for many years.

## Instructions

This application must be completed and submitted by 11:59 PM ET on Friday, September 1st, 2023. We will also offer customized assistance in completing your application. An application assistance team has been assigned to your city and will reach out to you the first week of August. As you begin completing the application and have additional questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to [citysupport@deliveryassociates.com](mailto:citysupport@deliveryassociates.com).

Note that the term Mayor refers to the Mayor, City Manager, or relevant equivalent based on each city's structure of governments.

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**Final applications must be completed and submitted online at [publicinnovation.jhu.edu/sustainablecitiesinfo/](https://publicinnovation.jhu.edu/sustainablecitiesinfo/)**

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## Application Sample – For Information Only

### Application questions

Question #	Question	Answer format
1	<i>Leadership Vision: Please share your city and Mayor's vision to address climate change and racial wealth inequity.</i>	
1a	Please describe how your city and its communities, particularly BIPOC communities are or have been impacted by climate change and/or racial wealth inequity. (Approximately 150 words.)	150 words
1b	<i>What is the Mayor's vision to reduce climate pollution and/or advance racial wealth equity? How does this vision reduce the risks associated with climate change while advancing economic opportunity for BIPOC communities, specifically Black businesses.</i> (Approximately 200 words.)	200 words
1c	Please provide 3-5 examples of the kinds of climate and racial wealth equity strategies or programs you would like to develop and/or accelerate with support from the Initiative. (Approximately 200 words.)	200 words
1d	Please describe where/how you are in bringing these 3-5 strategies forward. We are interested in knowing if they represent early stage thinking or strategies in the pipeline. (Approximately 150 words.)	200 words
1e	Please give us a sense of the potential climate and racial wealth equity impact you hope to achieve. What would success look like in your community at the end of this three-year initiative? What would be different? (Approximately 200 words.)	200 words
1f	If available, please provide links to examples where the Mayor's commitments to climate action and/or racial equity have been described publicly (e.g., climate or equity action plans, budget book, media, campaign platform).	Space to provide links
1g	Imagine the Mayor meets a resident at a local event who asks about this initiative; how might the Mayor explain the city's participation in this initiative and what they seek to achieve? (Approximately 100 words.)	100 Words

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	<p><i>Opportunities and Challenges: Each community faces unique opportunities and challenges. Please reflect on the operational and stakeholder challenges your city may encounter during implementation, as well as the assets that may help your city overcome such challenges.</i></p> <p>2</p>	
2a	<p>What do you see as the major assets in your community that you hope to more effectively leverage as part of this initiative? (Approximately 200 words.)</p>	200 words
2b	<p>What do you expect to be the biggest challenges you will face in developing and implementing strategies that address this initiative's goals? (Approximately 100 words.)</p>	100 words
2c	<p>What specific or types of organizations and stakeholders do you see as essential to engage as part of this initiative? (Approximately 100 words.)</p>	100 words
2d	<p>What specific or types of organizations and stakeholders do you expect to oppose this initiative? (Approximately 100 words.)</p>	100 words
2e	<p>Please share any action(s) you have taken, or are planning to take, to secure federal funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act. What specific opportunities were they (or will there be)? What were they intended to fund? Were these efforts successful? (Approximately 200 words.)</p>	200 words
3	<p><i>Community Partnerships: This program is invested in supporting meaningful partnerships between cities and communities to deliver a shared vision. We want to hear about your experience working with community-based organizations in the past, and how you envision working with community on this initiative.</i></p>	
3a	<p>What mechanism(s) does the City use to build and sustain relationships with community partners? How do you engage community in the design and implementation of new initiatives or programs? (Approximately 150 words.)</p>	150 words

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3b	Please share about the Mayor and/or other current City leadership's experience co-leading or co-creating initiatives specifically related to racial equity and/or climate with the local community, and what leadership learned from that experience (e.g., successes, challenges)? (Approximately 150 words.)	150 words
3d	Please share the names of some community-based individuals, organizations, and/or institutions you would be likely to partner with as part of this initiative (e.g., cultural institutions, educational organizations, community organizing groups). (Approximately 200 words.)	200 words
4	<i>Track Record: We want to learn more about your experience and record addressing climate change and racial wealth equity.</i>	
4a	What has the Mayor and/or City proposed in the past to address racial wealth equity? Provide at least one example of a success, and one example that was not a success. (For cities where the Mayor has taken office in 2023, this may include currently proposed or developing initiatives.) (Approximately 150 words.)	150 words
4b	What has the Mayor and/or City proposed in the past to address climate change? Provide at least one example of a success, and one example that was not a success. (For cities where the Mayor has taken office in 2023, this may include currently proposed or developing initiatives.) (Approximately 150 words.)	150 words
4c	Include links to websites, media, reports, etc. supporting your previous answers, if possible.	Space to provide links
4d	What have you learned from these initiatives' successes or failures? What would you do or have done differently? (Approximately 150 words.)	150 words
4e	If doing work on climate and racial wealth equity is new to the City, what makes now the right time to embark on this work? How do you imagine this initiative can augment these efforts? (Approximately 100 words.)	100 words

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4f	Please list all climate- and/or racial equity-related networks, memberships, and communities of practice that the City and/or City leadership participates in. (Approximately 100 words.)	100 words
5	<i>City Capacity: Each city has a different level of capacity to lead an ambitious effort at the intersection of racial wealth inequity and climate change. We want to better understand your existing infrastructure, current capacities, and processes to support your engagement with this initiative.</i>	
5a	Who leads the climate and/or racial wealth equity work in your city? Is anyone responsible for advancing climate or racial wealth equity across departments? (Approximately 100 words.)	100 words
5b	Does someone lead citywide data and/or innovation internally? If so, who? (Approximately 100 words.)	100 Words
5c	If available, please attach an organizational chart noting where the leaders highlighted in question 5a sit, and their reporting lines.	Attachments
5d	Explain how the City gathers and analyzes data that is disaggregated by race for City-provided programs and services. How is this data used?	150 Words
5e	Explain how the City gathers and analyzes data on climate pollution and emissions, How is this data used?	150 words
5f	What is the routing and approval process for partnership agreements and MOUs? (Approximately 100 words.)	100 Words
5g	This program will provide an Innovation Team (i-team) of at least 3 embedded staff in City Hall dedicated to this program. How / where does the City imagine that these individuals will be positioned in the Mayor's executive office to advance this vision (e.g., reporting directly to the Mayor, participating in cabinet/executive meetings, monthly meetings with the Chief of Staff)? (Approximately 100 words.)	100 Words

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