According to C40’s Deadline 2020 Report, the efforts of cities to tackle climate change over the next four years will be key to achieving the ambitions of the Paris Agreement. The most successful and prosperous cities of the future will be those that can transition to become green, sustainable and inclusive.

Women leaders played a critical role in negotiating the Paris Agreement and continue to drive ambitious climate action in cities, businesses and NGOs around the world. Women make up more than half the world’s population, and are often disproportionately impacted by climate change. Their leadership and participation is therefore critical in solving this global crisis.

C40 will contribute to the emergence of the next generation of climate leaders by sharing knowledge and experiences through an ambitious mentorship program dedicated to women in C40 cities.

The C40 Women4Climate Mentorship Program will match committed leaders from C40 cities, from across the business sector, public sector, international organisations and civil society with emerging women leaders.

Each woman selected for the program will:

- Receive mentoring over a period of about 1 year.
- Engage in collective sessions with other mentees and mentors
- Receive training that enhances communication and advocacy skills in order to build the mentee’s ability to be more influential.

Currently there are mentoring programs running in: Paris, Mexico City, Quito, Tel Aviv, Montreal, London, Barcelona, Sydney, Auckland, New Orleans and Vancouver, with several running their second and third edition.

FREETOWN is proud to be the next city to launch a Women4Climate Mentorship Program as part of the C40 network. The aim of the Freetown mentorship program is to support emerging women leaders across multiple sectors to become expert influencers and take positive actions to tackle the root causes of climate change in our city. The program aims to provide participants with the support they need to become even more effective leaders in their chosen field, including politics, business, public service, NGOs and media.

Freetown’s C40 Women4Climate Mentoring program will create links with mayors, committed leaders from the business sector, public sector, international organisations and communities with emerging women leaders. The mentors will share their knowledge and experiences, supporting women to become influencers in the area of climate change.

**APPLICATION PROCESS**

All applications need to be submitted in English to the online form on the C40 website: [https://w4c.org/mentorship/women4climate-freetown](https://w4c.org/mentorship/women4climate-freetown)

Applicants will need to send:

- Describe your motivation for and commitment to creating a better and more sustainable planet. (500 words max.)
What skills or abilities would you like to develop through the mentorship program? (300 words max.)

Do you have a climate change project that you are currently working on or an idea for a future project that you hope to progress with the support of the mentoring program? Please provide details. (400 words max.)

Which woman inspired you to get involved in climate work? (300 words max.)

We are looking for outstanding and creative personalities. Are you a civil society activist, SDG champion, social innovator, climate entrepreneur, problem solver or an engineer? Please tell us what your CV doesn’t tell about you! (300 words max. Please provide relevant URLs)

Please upload your CV.

Please provide any projects, essays or articles you’ve authored or worked on to support your application.

Initiatives and Projects:

The judging panel is looking for evidence from candidates of ongoing commitment to climate action in cities and innovative projects or approaches. If you have a climate change project that you are currently working on, or an idea for a future project that you hope to launch or progress with the support of the Women4Climate Mentorship Program, please include details in your application.

Please include:

- A description of the initiative/project explaining its goals, progress, targets and the climate threat or opportunity that it addresses. (max. 400 words)
- For existing projects, please include any supporting communication materials, e.g. brochures/press releases/photos or website URLs.

Projects should involve the citizens, communities and businesses of Freetown wherever possible. The goals of the project can be global, but they need to be related to climate action at the urban (city) level.
Applications for the C40 Women4Climate Mentorship Program will open from 16 August 2019.

The closing date for applications will be Monday 6 October 2019 at 11.59pm.

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 selection board. All candidates who submitted a valid application will be notified of the decision on their application by email, no later than 6th November 2019.

The successful applicants will be expected to attend an orientation meeting, in Freetown in early to mid November 2019.

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

Selection criteria

The applications selection is based on two categories.

1. Applicants with remarkable potential to be an influential future leader in climate change
2. Applicants with a proven track record of impact in tackling climate change in cities and/or bold visions for future work that will have a major impact on climate change in cities.

Eligibility criteria

- The Women4Climate FREETOWN Mentoring program is intended for women living in FREETOWN.
- All participants in the Women4Climate FREETOWN Mentoring Program will be expected to attend regular meetings and events in Freetown.
- The Women4Climate initiative seeks to encourage diversity, and C40 will welcome applications from women from different backgrounds. Amongst the type of profiles C40 expects to apply are below, but the judging panel will consider applications from any walk of life:
  - Researchers and scholars whose projects will revolutionize future lifestyles and help drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions
  - Startup entrepreneurs developing civic / green / urban tech projects in the climate area
  - Volunteers and NGO activists working to tackle climate change by engaging
citizens in their cities or districts
  o City officials and public sector professionals involved in local climate policies and local projects
  o Business professionals involved in developing climate change solutions
  o Citizens who wish to mobilize communities for climate in their cities or districts

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

Requested commitment

Applicants to the Women4Climate FREETOWN Mentoring Program must be willing to commit to the following:

  o Participation in a full year of activities
  o To meet for a minimum 2 hours per month (in person or by Skype)
  o To attend in-person the first orientation meeting scheduled for early November 2019
  o To attend regular in-person sessions
  o To attend online meetings.

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 program, in the case of repeated absence, missed meetings and poor communication with C40 and the Mentors in the scheme.

Information

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@c40.org

KEY DEADLINES

- **16 August 2019** Applications submission open
- **6 October 2019** Applications submission close
- **6 November 2019** The results of the selection are notified by email
- **TBD** The mentees are convened at the orientation meeting
- **November 2019** The activities of the Freetown Mentorship Program start