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 programme dedicated to women in C40 cities.

The C40 Women4Climate Mentorship Programme will match C40 mayors and committed leaders from the business sector, international organizations and civil society with emerging women leaders.

Each woman selected for the programme will engage in collective sessions with mentors and receive training that enhances communication and advocacy skills, addresses barriers, and inspires deeper engagement with climate change. Participants will receive all the support they need to become even more powerful leaders in their chosen field, including politics, NGOs, business, media, and community groups.

Vancouver was the eighth city to launch a Women4Climate Mentorship Programme in C40 network.


APPLICATION PROCESS

All applications need to be submitted in English to the online form on the C40 website: http://www.c40.org/other/women4climate_mentorship

Applicants will need to send:

- Their resume/CV
  - A description of their motivation for and commitment to tackling climate change (max. 100 words).
  - A description of the professional skills they would like to develop through the mentoring scheme (max. 75 words) and what they hope to gain/learn from their mentor (max 75 words)
- A bit more about you:
  - Contact information, including email and phone number.
  - The motivation for and the commitment to creating a better and more sustainable planet (max 100 words)
Projects:

The judging panel will look 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 that you would like to advance with the support of the Women4Climate Mentorship Programme, please include details in your application.

Projects should involve the citizens and communities of Vancouver wherever possible. The goals of the project can be global, but they need to be related to climate action at the urban level within the City of Vancouver.

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- A description of the initiative explaining its goals, objectives, key participants, and anticipated climate impact. (max. 250 words)
- For existing projects, please include any supporting communication materials, e.g. brochures/press releases/photos or website URLs.

Applications for the C40 Women4Climate Mentorship Programme will open from December 10, 2019. The closing date for applications is January 14th, 2020 at 11:59pm (GMT).

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. On January 24, all applicants will be notified if they have made it onto next stage of the application process as a shortlisted candidate. A total of 20 shortlisted applicants will be required to pitch their initiative to the jury panel of February 6. The from shortlist, 10 applicants will be selected by the jury to participate as mentees in the 2020 Women4Climate Program. All shortlisted applicants will be notified of the jury’s final decision by February 16.

The successful applicants will be expected to attend the mandatory Program Orientation Meeting, in downtown Vancouver, on February 25. The activities of the Vancouver Mentorship Program will take place between March and December 2020.

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

Selection criteria

- The applications selection is based on two categories:

A/ Applicants with remarkable skills and potential to be a future leader in climate change
B/ Applicants with a proven track record of impact in tackling climate change in cities and/or bold visions for future projects that will have a major impact on climate change in cities. The potential impact of their project

Eligibility criteria

○ The Women4Climate Vancouver Mentoring Programme is intended for women living or working in Vancouver.

○ All participants in the Women4Climate Vancouver Mentoring Programme will be expected to attend regular meetings and events in Vancouver.

○ All candidates need to be fluent in English: part of the activities will be delivered in English and communication will be encouraged between mentees from others C40 cities hosting a mentorship programme.

○ 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

  ○ Entrepreneurs developing civic / green / urban tech projects in the climate area
  ○ Volunteers and NGO activists working to tackle climate change who are willing to engage

http://www.c40.org/other/women4climate_mentorship

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○ Citizens in their cities or districts
○ Policy makers looking for help to promote local projects

○ 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 motivation, abilities and ideas.

Requested commitment

Applicants to the Women4Climate Vancouver Mentoring Programme must be willing to commit to the following:

○ Participation in a full year of activities (including approximately 5 training and/or networking type events)
○ To meet for minimum 1 hour per month with her mentor (in person or by Skype)
○ To attend in-person the first orientation meeting scheduled for February 25, 2020 (subject to change)
- To attend regular in-person training sessions
- To attend 2 in-person collective activities
- To be available to travel abroad for selected activities

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.

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

Are you an experienced professional interested in participating as a Mentor? Email jessica@zebx.org to express interest. Mentors will be selected based on the program mentees’ specific initiatives and support needs.