

GOVERNORS ISLAND

Climate Piloting at Governors Island

Governors Island at a Glance

172 acres at the center of New York Harbor

Former military base transferred to local control in 2003

Minutes by ferry from Lower Manhattan and Brooklyn

120 acres of open space including new 43-acre park

1.3M SF of Historic Buildings, plus 33 acres designated for new development



A Decade of Progress



Over \$400M of Investment

43 acres of award-winning, resilient park space, infrastructure improvements & expanded transportation



Dozens of Tenants & Partners

Year-round tenants, including the Harbor School, the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council & dozens of cultural partners working across arts and the environment

Above: Climate Museum



Destination Appeal

A new year-round public access season as of 2021, with a rapidly growing audience of nearly 1M annual visitors

A Growing Community of Year-Round Tenants and Partners

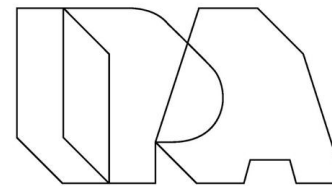


NEW YORK
CLIMATE
EXCHANGE

QC TERME
spas and resorts

THE URBAN ASSEMBLY
New York
HARBOR
SCHOOL

LOWER
MANHATTAN
CULTURAL
COUNCIL



... and more

The Trust's mission is to realize the full potential of Governors Island, demonstrating a bold vision for public space.

Our vision for continued growth focuses on three key strategies:



Open Space, Recreation & Amenities

Continue to expand access, improve open space, and introduce new visitor amenities.



Arts & Culture

Continue to build Governors Island Arts through commissioned works, programs and events, and organizations in residence.



Climate Solutions

Launch a cross-sector hub of educators, researchers, innovators, and advocates demonstrating equitable climate solutions for New York City, anchored by a leading research institution.

Governors Island Climate Piloting Program



The Governors Island Climate Piloting Program offers early-stage companies and innovators the opportunity to test and scale climate products and services in a real-world environment.

Over 3-to-18-month periods, participants receive rent-free physical space on Governors Island, a unique 172-acre destination in New York Harbor with 50+ historic buildings, 2 miles of waterfront, and 1 million annual visitors.



Governors Island Climate programs are made possible with the generous support of Amazon, Con Edison, the Donald A. Pels Charitable Trust, and the New York Community Trust.

Piloting environments on Governors Island



Harbor and waterfront, including a 2.2-mile waterfront esplanade, sea wall, revetment, and piers with access to the water.

Built environment, including 7 miles of car-free streets, 50+ historic buildings, sewer and water infrastructure, and more.

Natural areas, including urban forest, coastal shrubland, and biodiverse landscapes in a 43-acre climate resilient park.

Click here to download the [Site File](#)

Governors Island Climate Solutions Challenge

GOVERNORS ISLAND **CLIMATE SOLUTIONS CHALLENGE**

New theme announced each year

Who should apply?

- Startups, young companies, and nonprofits seeking to collect data in a real-world environment while also engaging with funders, investors, and customers.
- Project teams should identify a critical milestone that requires a temporary pilot site to support product development and deployment.
- Companies led by underrepresented founders and companies with 50 employees or fewer are encouraged to apply.

Selected piloting partners may:

- **Win a \$10,000 prize and access to supplemental non-dilutive grants generally not to exceed \$20,000**
- Receive rent-free access to a project site for 3 to 18 months, as well as technical support from the Trust as the sole owner and operator of eligible sites.
- Collect data in a real-world environment while also engaging with funders, investors, and prospective customers.
- Bring their climate solution to a high visibility public place with 1 million annual visitors.

Working in another climate sector? Companies may also submit a General Application on your own schedule. A year-round rolling application is open to all climate sectors. For General Applications, project teams are responsible for all costs. Learn more and apply online at [**govisland.org/challenge**](https://govisland.org/challenge)

Challenge Prizes and Supplemental Grants

- Challenge winners may receive a \$10,000 prize for their unrestricted use.
- Supplemental grants may be allocated across the entire cohort of Challenge winners based on (1) funding availability and (2) demonstrated need for eligible costs of the selected project.
- Eligible costs may include professional services for pilot design, transport and installation costs, non-capital equipment purchased solely for use in the pilot, and other tasks generally shown [here](#) in Exhibit B of the license template.
- All prizes, grants, or other payments by the Trust will be issued according to the terms and schedule of the final executed license agreement.
- All program funding is non-dilutive.



Requirements

- Selected teams will be required to sign a license agreement with the Trust setting out the definitive terms and conditions of the program.
- Applicants must be incorporated as a legal entity.
- Applicants must be working on urban climate solutions (e.g., hardware, software, materials research, policy, or innovative business and financing models).
- Projects must be temporary, with a plan for removal at the end of the term.
- Projects must meet all local code, permitting, and regulatory requirements.
- Governors Island is a publicly accessible destination. Project teams must ensure safe and responsible deployment, operation, and maintenance of their project.



Click here to download the [License Template](#)

Evaluation Process and Selection Criteria

Selected applicants may be invited to an interview and site tour at Governors Island. The Trust for Governors Island evaluates proposals based on the degree to which the proposals meet the selection criteria. Technical experts may be consulted in an advisory role.

Selection Criteria

- **Quality of Proposal (40%)**
 - Clear and compelling
 - Sound methodology
 - Readiness for place-based deployment
- **Economic and Social Impact (30%)**
 - Climate equity and innovation
 - Business or organizational impact
 - Economic impact potential
 - Social impact potential
- **Project Feasibility and Program Alignment (30%)**
 - Makes good use of the physical environment
 - Makes good use of promotional/public education opportunities



Climate Piloting Program: 3 Years of Impact

2023-2025 Impact Report

PROGRAM STATUS

24 piloting projects engaged since 2023

- ✦ 16 active projects
- ✦ 6 pilots completed
- ✦ 2 in development

\$277,000 in TGI project grants awarded to 15 pilots

3 Years of Impact

Since launching their Governors Island pilots, participating companies have:

Raised
\$14.9M
of investment

Earned
\$3.1M
in revenue

Made
28
full-time hires

Secured
131
new customers

35%
of companies expanded their office, manufacturing, or lab space



Public events attract 300+ attendees annually

Click here to download the [2025 Impact Report](#)

Testimonials: LAERO, decentralized greywater recycling



Noemi Florea *Founder and CEO, LAERO Design Studio*

2024 Challenge Winner | PILOT YEAR: 2024

ABOUT:

A small business founded in collaboration with experts across fields of water advocacy, manufacturing, and electromechanical engineering, working to reduce the levels of greywater contaminants that enter waterways and homes. On Governors Island, they piloted Cycleau, a compact decentralized greywater treatment system, at water refill stations and restrooms.

PILOT IMPACT:

“Following our pilot at Governors Island, we received multiple inquiries from customers interested in commercially testing our system at their facilities. These pilot opportunities likely brought down our go-to-market timeline from 24 months to just six months.”

SUCCESS:

Laero’s pilot led to their first sales to UNICEF Tajikistan, a water-scarce environment where greywater recycling can be a gamechanger.

Testimonials: Birdsview, x-ray vision for concrete



Olav Skogen, CEO and Co-Founder

2025 Challenge Winner | PILOT YEAR: 2025

ABOUT:

Birdsview, a Norwegian company that piloted their ground-penetrating radar (GPR) structural assessment technology, which uses proprietary analysis software to assess the internal condition of buildings and reduces waste by optimizing the preservation of existing structures.

PILOT IMPACT:

“The Governors Island pilot was a pivotal step in Birdsview’s international expansion, validating its versatility and market need far beyond Scandinavia. The project accelerated our commercial roadmap in North America, strengthened our product features for heritage and retrofit applications, and opened doors to new partnerships across the New York region. It confirmed that the global need for non-destructive, data-driven concrete intelligence is both urgent and universal.”

SUCCESS:

Birdsview generated \$1M revenue in 2025 (2x their 2024 earnings) during their 6-month pilot.

Testimonials: Rego, digital utility meter for waste management



Josh Mastromatto *Co-Founder and CEO, Rego*

2025 Challenge Winner | PILOT YEAR: 2025

ABOUT:

Rego, the digital utility meter for waste management, provides photo and AI-based waste audits to track and analyze waste streams in cities and increases diversion from landfills. Their pilot gave the Trust a clear picture of the Island waste stream using cell phone photos and a user-friendly dashboard, enabling our team to confidently make changes to waste management processes.

PILOT IMPACT:

“This pilot helped build a repeatable waste-tracking program that Rego could scale to other cities, municipalities, and businesses. The Trust helped validate Rego's ability to solve complex waste challenges and provided a public case study that gave new clients the confidence they needed to work with the Rego platform.”

SUCCESS:

Rego added over 70 new commercial sites during their 6-month pilot.

2026 Challenge Winners: Adaptation

Hyperlocal flood forecasts



Photochromic solar film



Low-energy radiant cooling



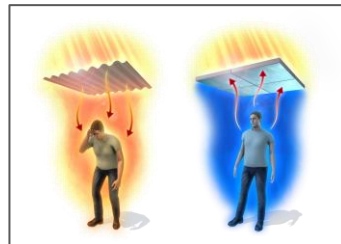
Subsidence detection



Rapidly deployable mobile flood barrier system



Passive cooling technology



Property-level flood risk assessment



- Plus 3 new Circular Economy pilots:
- **Orbit Exchange**, marketplace for reclaimed building materials
 - **Poo Poof Inc.**, a solution that turns dog poop into minerals and water
 - **Rego**, building assessments for circular construction

2025 Challenge Winners: Circular Economy

2025

CLIMATE SOLUTIONS CHALLENGE:
CIRCULAR ECONOMY



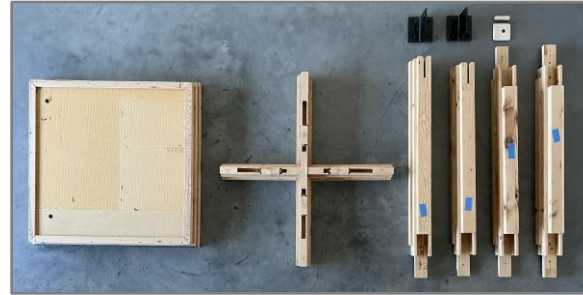
Arbon Corp: Direct Air Capture (DAC) humidity-swing technology



Birdsview: Ground-penetrating radar (GPR) structural assessments



Mira Intel: Drone-based structural assessments



CO Adaptive: Airtight, low-carbon modular wall systems for existing buildings



CarbonCLAIR: Off-grid mobile air quality units



Plantaer: Living concrete building façade panels



Rego: Digital utility meter for waste management



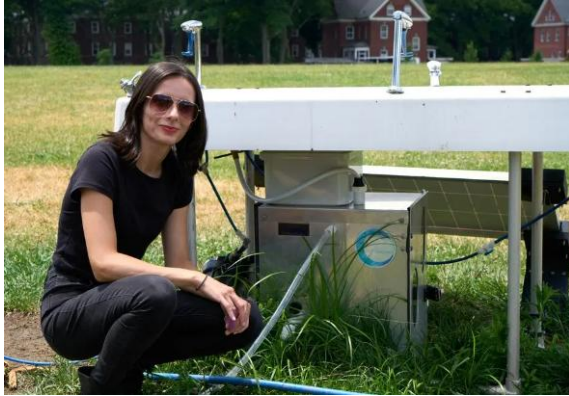
Phytostone (Cast Carbon): Biodegradable, low-carbon architectural wall tiles



CO Adaptive

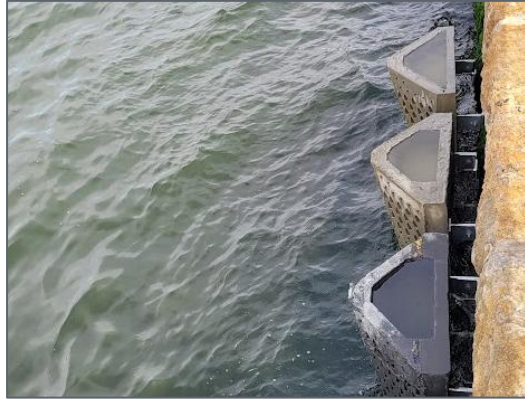


2024 Challenge Winners: Water Abundance



LAERO: Cycleau, decentralized compact water reuse system

Photo credit: Pedro Yoshi Torres



Object Territories: Living seawall and riprap retrofits creating microhabitat



Just Ecocities and Biohabitats: Modular tidal planter



Seaweed City: Urban aquaculture



RETI Center: Floating marsh islands and local workforce development



Duro UAS: Durable in-water sensors and local workforce development



An aerial photograph of New York City, showing the dense Manhattan skyline with numerous skyscrapers, including the Freedom Tower. The city is situated on the eastern shore of the Hudson River. In the foreground, the lush green island of Governors Island is visible, featuring several large buildings, a swimming pool, and winding paths. The water of the harbor is visible, with a few boats and a bridge in the distance.

GOVERNORS
ISLAND CLIMATE

Questions? Contact us at climate@govisland.org.

Learn more and apply online at govisland.org/challenge