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THE TRUST FOR GOVERNORS ISLAND RELEASES ANNUAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS CHALLENGE

2026 theme of Adaptation seeks projects that will help cities adapt to climate change

Since its launch in 2023, the Governors Island Climate Piloting Program has supported 26 unique companies and awarded more than \$275K in funds

NEW YORK, NY (December 3, 2025) – The Trust for Governors Island today announced the launch of its third annual Climate Solutions Challenge, this year centered on the theme of “Adaptation.” This initiative, presented through 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, where they gain access to valuable technical support, visibility through events and marketing, and networking opportunities designed to connect participants with funders, investors, customers, and the public.

“Governors Island is a true testbed for innovative solutions that will help address real world climate challenges,” **said Clare Newman, President and CEO of the Trust for Governors Island.** “Over the past three years, more than two dozen companies have been a part of this transformative program, gathering data and growing their ideas in a setting unlike any other. We are proud to shine a light on their innovations and look forward to even more joining us next year.”

“Through this program, companies are given the vital resources—time, space, and funds—to grow their ideas, test and demonstrate their products, and ultimately scale their businesses while helping contribute to New York City’s green economy,” **said Lauren Wang, Director of Climate Programs at the Trust for Governors Island.** “We look forward to selecting a new cohort of pilots to continue this exciting work and welcoming visitors to engage with these projects next spring.”

2026 Climate Solutions Challenge: Adaptation

The 2026 Climate Solutions Challenge seeks urban adaptation solutions that will help communities adapt to challenges facing New York City and other dense urban areas, such as chronic flooding, extreme heat, and water shortages.

The Trust seeks piloting projects that offer innovative approaches to improve urban buildings, infrastructure, and natural areas for thermal comfort, flood adaptation, and healthy environments; resiliency solutions for small businesses and nonprofits to minimize disruptions to critical operations; or climate risk management solutions, including tools for affordable, accessible community-scale measurement and sensing.

Proposals are due by January 21, 2026, with winners announced in April 2026. More information, including webinars and the climate piloting application, can be found online at www.govisland.org/challenge.

Since the program launched in 2023, the Trust has supported 26 unique piloting projects with diverse representation across business and nonprofit sectors and granted \$277,000 to participating companies. Of these participants, 81% are local businesses, 38% are women-led, and 34% are minority-led businesses.

The program has successfully opened doors to new customers, suppliers, talent, investors, and public agency partnerships for participants, helping companies, entrepreneurs, and nonprofit organizations grow their businesses and scale their solutions. The program is a core initiative of the Trust's Center for Climate Solutions, which is building a community of partners dedicated to accelerating equitable climate solutions for cities.

Most recently, the Trust has welcomed four new companies into the program through the rolling general application: **Clip** is piloting its portable propulsion device, which instantly upgrades any bike to an e-bike; **Henning Larsen** installed their radiant cooling shelter in Liggett Terrace earlier this year; **Prometheus Materials** is testing its algae-based carbon negative cement replacement near Yankee Pier in partnership with The New York Climate Exchange; and **Zenbul Labs** is piloting its modular, automated aeroponic farming unit on the Island. For a full list of piloting projects, visit www.govisland.org/pilots.

The Trust for Governors Island's climate programs are supported by Amazon, Con Edison, the Donald A. Pels Charitable Trust, and the New York Community Trust.

The Trust is a member of the Harbor Climate Collaborative (HCC), a joint initiative with New York City Economic Development Corporation and Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation to grow the city's climate ecosystem through piloting programs, leases, workforce development investments, and regulatory wayfinding.

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About the Trust for Governors Island

The Trust for Governors Island is the nonprofit corporation created by the City of New York that is responsible for the redevelopment and operation of 150 acres of Governors Island. The Trust's mission is to realize the full potential of Governors Island for the inspiration and enjoyment of all New Yorkers, demonstrating a bold vision for public space. For more information, visit www.govisland.org.