



Climate Pact Pact2School Challenge 2026/27

Rules and Terms and Conditions

How to participate

1. Undertake an awareness-raising activity with a school as part of the Pact2School campaign (step 1).
2. Submit an application with the approval of the school to the *Pact2School Challenge* through one of the two application windows to win an award to carry out a specific climate action activity by 31 March 2027.
3. Follow the guidelines on the [Community webpage](#) and the challenge rules.
4. Submit your entry through the [online submission form](#) within one of the following **application windows**:
 - a) **Autumn application window**: submit by 9 October 2026 at 12:00 PM CEST for activities planned to take place between November 2026 and January 2027; or
 - b) **Spring application window**: submit by 15 January 2027 at 12:00 PM CET for activities planned to take place between February and March 2027.
5. Submission of an entry will be taken to mean acceptance of the Challenge rules and the Terms and Conditions.

General rules

Participants must be a current and registered Climate Pact Ambassador or Partner to be eligible for Pact2School and to enter the challenge and must have the permission of the supported school or university to take part. Delivery of an awareness-raising session ([step 1](#)) remains a mandatory requirement for participation in the Pact2School Challenge ([step 2](#)).

Each Ambassador or Partner can only submit one application per school/university and can submit a maximum of 3 applications in total.

All activities linked to the Pact2School campaign must take place in one of the EU 27 Member States and be in partnership with a school as defined below:

For the purposes of this campaign the term 'schools' is used as a catch-all term and will cover educational institutions within EU Member States covering education levels from primary through to higher education. This includes schools for primary and secondary education, which may also offer early childhood or vocational training, and higher education institutions like universities, universities of applied sciences, and research universities. The term "institution" broadly covers any place that offers recognised education and degrees, regardless of its specific name or structure under national law.

Incomplete entries or entries that do not comply with the formal specifications and the Pact's values will be automatically disqualified.

Eligible activities

The Pact2School challenge encourages hands-on learning and creativity. Eligible activities should be co-created with students and linked to EU climate policy themes. Examples include:

- Climate action and participation: student councils, peer parliaments, debates, youth dialogues.
- Sustainable mobility: bike-to-school campaigns, mobility labs.
- Clean energy: energy-saving campaigns, renewable energy experiments.
- Sustainable food systems: school gardens, food waste reduction.
- Circular economy: recycling, upcycling, zero-waste initiatives.
- Nature and biodiversity: pollinator gardens, biodiversity corridors, nature-based solutions.
- Climate communication and awareness raising.

Non-eligible activities

To ensure that the Pact2School campaign maintains a strong focus on student engagement and climate action, some activities will not be eligible for the Pact2School challenge. These are activities that do not directly contribute to the campaign's learning objectives, lack meaningful student participation, or fall outside the scope of the Climate Pact.

Activities will be considered non-eligible if they:

1. Do not meet the formal eligibility requirements:
 - The applicant is not a current and registered Climate Pact Ambassador or Partner.
 - The mandatory Pact2School awareness-raising activity (step 1) has not been completed and registered in the dedicated form.
 - The application is not submitted in English (EN).
 - Schools and Community members whose climate action activities received funding under the first Pact2School Challenge 2025/26 are not eligible to receive Challenge funding during the 2026/27 campaign cycle. They may, however, participate in Pact2School awareness-raising activities.
 - The application duplicates a funding request previously submitted through the Pact2School Challenge.

- The application is submitted after the deadline specified in the Challenge Rules for the relevant application window.
- The application is not submitted through the official Pact2School Challenge application form.

Technical requirements

Submissions must be made via the [Pact2School Challenge application form](#) on EU Survey. Applications will be considered through two application windows linked to the planned implementation period of the proposed activity:

- **Autumn application window:** applications must be submitted by 9 October 2026 at 12:00 PM CEST for activities ('Challenges') planned to be implemented between November 2026 and January 2027.
- **Spring application window:** applications must be submitted by 15 January 2027 at 12:00 PM CET for activities planned to be implemented between February and March 2027.

Applications must be received by the deadline applicable to the proposed implementation period. Applications received after 15 January 2027 at 12:00 PM CET will not be eligible.

Applicants should select the application window that corresponds to the period in which they intend to carry out their proposed activity. Applications received within each window will be assessed together ahead of the corresponding implementation period.

Judging criteria

Applications received within each application window will be assessed against the published judging criteria through a structured assessment.

The following assessment criteria will be considered:

1. Adequate student involvement or co-creation:
 - Activities should not be designed and delivered solely by teachers, Community members, or external actors without active student participation.
 - Projects that only inform students (e.g. lectures, presentations or educational tools) without meaningful student involvement in the design, planning, decision-making or implementation of the activity will be assessed negatively.
2. Strong links to EU climate policies or climate action:
 - General school events, fairs, or awareness days that do not explicitly address sustainability or climate issues will not be supported.
 - Activities focused on unrelated topics will be assessed negatively unless they integrate a clear climate or sustainability message.
3. Whether activities are commercial or promotional in nature:

- Initiatives sponsored or branded by commercial entities for marketing or advertising purposes will not be supported.
 - Activities that involve selling products, fundraising, or promoting commercial goods/services will not be supported.
4. Positive alignment with the values and principles of the Climate Pact.

The assessment process will involve representatives of DG CLIMA and the European Climate Pact Secretariat. Relevant Climate Pact Country Coordinators will be invited to provide feedback on applications from their respective countries before final moderation. Other representatives of the European Institutions, delegates of the European Climate Pact Secretariat, or stakeholders may also be involved where considered appropriate by the organiser.

The final decision regarding the selection of successful applications is final and irrevocable.

The judges will look for a creative, engaging and inspiring submission. Your entry will be judged on:

- Relevance of the proposed activity to EU climate policy and Climate Pact objectives: How will the activity engage young people in climate action? How will the activity support the Climate Pact and its goals?
- Impact and measurable results: What will the tangible outcome of the activity be and how will it be measured? This might include behavioural change, reduced waste etc.
- Student involvement: How will you engage students in the activity and encourage them to take ownership? How does the activity promote active engagement such as learning-by-doing and collaboration?
- Creativity and originality: Is the activity something new for the school? How will it broaden the school's climate action and promote the Climate Pact to pupils and the wider school community?

The organisers and judges reserve the right to remove any entries from the challenge that they feel may breach any of the Challenge rules, the Terms and Conditions or may bring the challenge into disrepute. Such entries will be disqualified.

Applications will be considered across the following educational categories:

- Primary school
- Middle/high school
- University

Awards and notification of awards

Awarded schools will each receive up to €1,000 in the form of relevant goods or services to implement the climate action activity or project outlined in their application. Up to maximum five activities may be selected for funding during the 2026/2027 campaign cycle. No cash equivalent is available and the goods and services will be discussed and agreed on an individual basis with each winning party.

Schools and Community members whose climate action activities received funding under the first Pact2School Challenge are not eligible to receive Challenge funding during the 2026/2027 campaign cycle. They may, however, participate in Pact2School awareness-raising activities.

The awarded institutions and the Community members who support them will be featured across the Climate Pact's digital platforms and feature in an online gallery, social media posts and dedicated news articles and web pages to showcase their climate actions. Winners will also be announced in the monthly Climate Pact newsletter and internal channels with Pact Country Coordinators, Ambassadors and partners.

All schools and universities participating in the challenge will receive a digital certificate to mark their participation in the Pact2School campaign. The awarded schools and universities will receive a plaque for display in their school formally recognising their achievement.

Successful applicants will be notified by email following the assessment of the relevant application window. Please ensure that the contact information provided in the submission form is complete and correct. The results of each application window will be announced following completion of the relevant assessment and selection process.

Responsibility

Under no circumstances can the organisers be held liable for any accident, costs, direct or indirect damage which might occur as a result of participation in this challenge. The organisers can under no circumstances be held liable for the cancellation, postponement or modification of the challenge due to unforeseen circumstances. In addition, the dates mentioned in the challenge rules may vary due to organisational reasons and/or unforeseen circumstances.

Copyrights

The copyright of the materials submitted for this challenge remains with the respective participants. However, each entrant grants the European Commission and its contractors the right to use the submitted materials in its communication crediting the copyright owners.

Confidentiality and protection of personal data

The personal data you provide in the submission form of DG CLIMA's outreach challenge is processed in accordance with regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament (OJ L 295/39 of 21.11.2018) and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data. No personal data is shared with third parties for direct marketing purposes. For further detailed information please refer to the [Climate Pact Privacy Statement](#).

For more information, please read the Terms and Conditions.

Terms and Conditions

Climate Pact Pact2School Challenge:

The rules listed below form the Terms and Conditions of the European Commission, Directorate General for Climate Action (hereinafter "DG CLIMA") Pact2School challenge. Please note that by submitting an entry electronically, you are deemed to have agreed to and accepted these rules.

This challenge is administered by DG for Climate Action (DG CLIMA) and the European Climate Pact Secretariat.

1. Entrants may only enter the challenge online and by submitting their entries ("entry") in accordance with the instructions set out on the European Climate Pact Pact2School webpage. Participation is limited to current European Climate Pact Ambassadors and Partners working with a school or university in an EU Member State, as further described in these Terms and Conditions. There are no monetary costs to enter the challenge.
2. Entries may be submitted through either of the two application windows. The deadlines are 9 October 2026 at 12:00 PM CEST for the autumn application window and 15 January 2027 at 12:00 PM CET for the spring application window. Applicants must indicate their proposed implementation period in the application form. Submission through the autumn application window does not prevent implementation at a later stage of the campaign cycle, provided the activity is completed no later than 31 March 2027.
3. The challenge is open to current Climate Pact Ambassadors and Partners working with a school or university in one of the EU 27 Member States: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden.
4. All entrants must have the permission of the school to submit an application for a Pact2School award.
5. The entry must be submitted in English. Entries submitted in other languages will be disregarded.
6. Each entry must include the name, country of residence, email address, name of the participating school, age category and information describing the proposed climate action activity.
7. All entrants must confirm they have carried out an awareness-raising session with the school as part of the Pact2School campaign.
8. Entrants can only make one application per school or university, and can make a maximum of three applications in total across all Pact2School Challenge application windows during the 2026/2027 campaign cycle. If multiple applications are made per school or university or more than three applications are submitted by an Ambassador or Partner the additional applications will not be eligible.
9. Entries must be submitted through the completion of the designated online form.
10. By entering the challenge, entrants agree that if an entry does not comply with the technical or legal specifications set out herein or if DG CLIMA in its sole discretion requires, DG CLIMA shall be within their rights to disqualify any such entries.

11. By entering the challenge, entrants agree that DG CLIMA shall be under no obligation to exploit, distribute and/or exhibit any submission and the entrants shall have no claim against DG CLIMA in this regard.
12. The winners will have provided an entry in accordance with the Terms and Conditions. Winners will be the entrants who submit the best entry, as determined by DG CLIMA in accordance with the criteria outlined in the challenge rules.
13. Successful applications will be selected following the assessment of each application window and will be announced as indicated in the Challenge Rules. Applications will be assessed and moderated by DG CLIMA and the European Climate Pact Secretariat, with relevant Country Coordinators invited to provide contextual feedback on applications from their respective countries before final moderation.
14. A list of winning entries will be available on the website for a period of at least 3 (three) months from the announcement of the selected entries following the final application window. Entrants shall note that by submitting an entry, they agree that if selected as a winner their name may be disclosed to any third party, by DG CLIMA, when providing a list of the names of the entrants where requested.
15. The awards are as set out on the challenge webpage.
16. Successful applicants will be notified by email within 7 (seven) working days of the relevant selection decision.
17. DG CLIMA will actively endeavour to contact the winner with arrangements for the prizes for a period of 1 (one) month following the announcement of the challenge winners. In the event that DG CLIMA is unable either to receive acknowledgement from the winners in this notification period or to conclude a contract successfully, DG CLIMA reserves the right to reallocate the prizes. Funded activities must be carried out in accordance with the implementation timeline approved for the selected application and no later than 31 March 2027.
18. DG CLIMA's decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into.
19. DG CLIMA reserves the right to select an alternative winner in the event that DG CLIMA has reasonable grounds for believing that a selected winner has contravened any of these Terms and Conditions of entry. The defaulting entrant will be given the opportunity to express his/her observation on such a decision.
20. DG CLIMA can accept no responsibility for entries lost, delayed, misdirected, damaged or undelivered.
21. Incomplete and/or illegible entries will be disqualified. DG CLIMA shall not be responsible for technical errors in telecommunications networks, Internet access or otherwise, preventing entry to the challenge.
22. The awards are as stated and are non-transferable. If due to circumstances beyond DG CLIMA's control, DG CLIMA is unable to provide a stated prize, DG CLIMA reserves the right to award a substitute prize of equal value.
23. DG CLIMA shall not be liable to the winners and/or their guests for any loss or damage howsoever caused (whether in contract, tort or statutory duty or otherwise) arising out of or in connection with the challenge and/or prize and the entry submitted by such winners and/or their guests. This exclusion does not apply to damages caused by gross negligence or intent of DG CLIMA and/or its legal agents and/or its servants. By entering the challenge, entrants waive to the full extent permissible by law, any and all claims that they may have against DG CLIMA.

24. DG CLIMA shall not be liable for any delay in performing or partial or total failure to perform any of its obligations to the winners and/or their guests under these challenge Terms and Conditions if such delay or failure is caused by circumstances beyond its reasonable control including without limitation delays, changes, disruptions, cancellations, diversions or substitutions howsoever caused, including without limitation, as a result of war, terrorist action or threatened terrorist action, strikes, hostilities, civil commotions, accidents, fire, flood or natural catastrophes or arising, without limitation, out of or in connection with the activities of third party event organisers. For the avoidance of doubt, the affected winners and/or any guests shall be solely liable for any additional costs incurred as a result.
25. Any personal information, including without limitation, the entrant's email address will be used solely in connection with this challenge and as set out in these Terms and Conditions and will not be disclosed to any third party, except for the purpose of fulfilling the prizes where applicable and providing a list of the names of the winners. Any personal information held by DG CLIMA in respect of any challenge will be held on record for a short period for the purpose of ensuring the fulfilment of the challenge and then destroyed. For further information, please refer to the Climate Pact [Privacy Statement](#)
26. All entrants agree to be bound by these Terms and Conditions, which may be amended or varied at any time by DG CLIMA without notice.
27. These Challenge Terms and Conditions shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the European Union, completed where necessary by the national substantive law of Belgium and the courts of Brussels (Belgium) shall have exclusive jurisdiction in relation to any disputes arising therefrom.