



ABOUT THE CATALYZE COHORT AND FAQs

If you are interested in participating, please contact climateprojects@cdp.net.

Please note that participants must work for a local government (defined as a city, county, municipality, township, parish or equivalent) or a public authority, or equivalent in the United States or Canada.

View a [recording of an information session here](#) to learn more about the opportunity.

About the cohort

CDP's Catalyze Cohort is an opportunity to undertake professional development with one or more of your colleagues on skills to develop and finance urgently-needed transportation and green infrastructure projects for equitable and sustainable communities. Ideally, you will join the cohort with a project in development at any stage of maturity. Projects should be seeking financing or developing funding strategies. Participation in the cohort will build your knowledge on project conceptualization, project development and financing mechanisms while providing an opportunity to connect with other local governments, public authorities and the private sector. The cohort is a virtual, 6-month program (May-Nov. 2021).

The participation in the cohort is free. We ask that cohort members dedicate 2-3 hours per month to cohort activities, including workshops, webinars, networking events and consultation calls with CDP staff.

Who should join the cohort?

We are looking for public sector professional in local governments, public authorities and other public agencies who play a role in developing or financing infrastructure projects. Ideal applicants seek to:

- ▶ Advance social equity and inclusion through their work;
- ▶ Develop or finance transportation, mobility, and/or green infrastructure projects that reduce city-wide and municipal greenhouse gas emissions, develop local economies, and/or improve quality of life;
- ▶ Work collaboratively with community members and other departments within your local government/public authority; and
- ▶ Learn about developing and financing projects through practical application and peer learning alongside sustainability officers, finance officers, urban planners and other public sector professionals.

You should plan to participate with a colleague from another department. For example, if you are in the sustainability department, we recommend participating with a colleague from the Department of Finance, Department of Transportation, Department of Public Works or equivalents. The cohort is designed to partner multiple departments/functions to accelerate your ability to develop and finance climate and sustainability projects.



If you are unsure if this opportunity is the right fit, please reach out to us at climateprojects@cdp.net.

What kinds of projects can I work on as part of the cohort?

Projects should be related to transportation, mobility and/or green infrastructure. These may include EV charging infrastructure, electric buses, metros, fleet electrification, bike lanes, transit-oriented development, green stormwater infrastructure and other types of projects that support your city’s emission reduction, climate adaptation and resilience goals.

Projects should be seeking financing or developing funding strategies. You may be exploring public-private partnership models, green bonds, project finance or other financial mechanisms. The cohort program is not designed to support projects seeking 100% grant funding.

Projects in all stages of project development are suitable for the cohort. The objective of the cohort is to advance your projects towards financing and implementation while building your skills and capacity in project development and financing.

CDP staff will support you in disclosing your project(s) to [CDP’s Matchmaker program](#) to showcase them to capital markets.

If you would like to discuss your projects with the CDP team, please contact climateprojects@cdp.net.

What support will be provided through participation in the cohort?

The initiative will support city staff with the following free resources:

- Invitations to two virtual workshops, which will convene local governments, companies, investors and other partners for networking and education;
- Opportunities to learn directly from corporations and investors across asset classes about their investment criteria;
- Opportunities to learn from local governments and public agencies across the U.S. and share your own expertise; and
- Consultative assistance from CDP staff with disclosing projects to CDP’s [Matchmaker program](#) including custom feedback on your project disclosure.

What is the timeline for the cohort?

The cohort will run through Nov. 30, 2021. Workshops will be held in July and September.

Milestone	Date
Cohort information session	April 26. Register here.
Cohort kick off/ networking	Late May/Early June
Virtual workshop 1	July



Virtual workshop 2	September
Webinar/networking	October
Cohort closing event/networking	November

What are the expectations and requirements for participating in the cohort?

Participants can expect to spend approximately 2-3 hours per month for 6 months on virtual events, consultative calls and learning about project development and finance. We expect participants to attend virtual workshops, which will provide learning and networking opportunities with both the public and private sector.

We require the following from participants:

- Commitment to advancing social equity through your work and through projects supported in this initiative;
- Commitment to cross-departmental collaboration and participation from at least two staff members;
- ~2 hours per month dedicated to cohort activities;
- Commitment to submit one or more projects to [CDP's Matchmaker program](#) to showcase the project(s) to capital market participants; and
- Commitment to attend two virtual workshops.

Will my projects be financed?

The objective of the cohort is to accelerate the implementation and financing of sustainable infrastructure projects through education, knowledge sharing, capacity building and project development. However, CDP cannot guarantee that your city's projects will be financed or ready for implementation by the end of the cohort program. CDP is not a project developer, broker-dealer, or municipal adviser.

How do I participate?

Please contact climateprojects@cdp.net for more information.

Plan to participate with a colleague from another department. For example, if you are in the sustainability department, we recommend participating with a colleague from the Department of Finance, Department of Transportation, Department of Public Works or equivalents.

Can I participate in this Catalyze Cohort if I participated in the CDP Matchmaker Sustainable Finance Training Cohort last year.?

Yes! The Catalyze Cohort will have new learning opportunities.

Who will attend the workshops?

Local government sustainability officials, finance officials, representatives from corporations, investors, underwriters, social equity experts and other stakeholders needed to advance urban sustainability and climate projects.



How is the Catalyze Cohort related to CDP's Matchmaker program?

[CDP's Matchmaker program](#) aims to drive capital into urban climate projects by highlighting project information to investors through an online Matchmaker data platform. The cohort is focused on developing the skills and capacity of public sector professionals to develop, report and secure finance for infrastructure projects. The projects that participants work on throughout the program will go into the Matchmaker data platform, making the cohort a practical way to learn about financing, advance real projects and carry this knowledge forward in your career. CDP staff will help you disclose the relevant project information to be showcased on the Matchmaker data platform.

About CDP and CDP's Matchmaker program

[CDP](#) is a not-for-profit organization that runs the voluntary global disclosure system for investors, companies, cities, states and regions to manage their environmental impacts. Through our annual disclosure process, cities, states and companies provide detailed information to CDP on risks and opportunities associated with a changing environment, water security and forest protection, including infrastructure needs to increase resiliency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. While the demand from local governments for urban climate financing has continued to grow, investors identified a lack of a viable project pipeline. In response, CDP launched the [Matchmaker](#) initiative to streamline the interface between a city's sustainability ambitions and real-world financial considerations through showcasing project information to financial market participants.

Our supporters

The Matchmaker program and this cohort are supported by the [Mitsubishi Corporation Foundation for the Americas](#).

Other questions? Please contact climateprojects@cdp.net.