

nonprofits, and researchers all have a role to play in addressing the climate crisis and bringing a variety of approaches. Influential players include:

Frontline communities, activists, grassroots groups, nonprofits, and NGOs that advocate for a more just and sustainable future.

Scientists and researchers who uncover the consequences of climate change and devise solutions to address the crisis.

Artists and communicators who work to raise awareness about climate change or to help imagine more sustainable ways of living.

described as the existential crisis of our time. As global climate change intensifies, so will its impacts, such as rising sea levels, extreme heat weather events, drought and famine, wildfires, species extinction, new infectious diseases, and human displacement. While climate change affects everyone, it often disproportionately affects Indigenous groups, people of color, and low-income communities and groups sometimes known as “frontline” communities because they are frequently the first to experience the impacts of climate change-related weather events.

In recent years, more funders have recognized the urgency of climate change and have dramatically increased their contributions toward addressing the crisis. News headlines in the past year have highlighted pledges that prominent business leaders and philanthropists like Jeff Bezos, Laurene Powell Jobs, and Michael Bloomberg have made to combat climate change and protect the environment. And in [2021 survey of the philanthropy sector](#) by Alliance Magazine, four out of five respondents predicted

that climate change would be the dominant issue in philanthropy in the next 25 years.

However, while funding for climate change-related work is growing, it is still small relative to the scale and urgency of the challenge—and continues to lag behind other categories of giving. For example, according to [a report from ClimateWorks Foundation](#) total giving towards climate change accounted for only 2 percent of overall giving in 2020.

Project Focus	Example
that support grassroots groups and frontline communities most vulnerable to the effects of climate change	The Climate Justice Resilience Fund supports climate resilience solutions created by women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples focused on water access, food security and sovereignty, sustainable livelihoods, and migration and relocation.
for publication	e

Organizations like RPA can help advise donors looking to build a full portfolio of climate-related projects. Additionally, membership organizations and peer-learning networks, such as the [_____](#), [Grantmakers Association](#) (US), [Climate Action Network](#) (global), [Environmental Funders Network](#) (UK), and [Biodiversity Funders Network](#) (global) can serve as valuable resources for new donors interested in engaging with issue areas or themes within the climate space.

For donors new to the issue, the scale and scope of the climate challenge can appear daunting. It can seem difficult, if not impossible, to find an area of focus given the complexity of the problem is and the large number of organizations already working on climate and environmental issues. What's important is for donors to do *something* by finding an issue or cause that they care about and funding organizations whose work aligns with their interests.

Experts focused on climate change include RPA Vice [Heather Grady](#) and [Jon _____](#). To learn more, email info@rockpa.org.

[Building Coalitions for Climate Justice: A Funders Roundtable](#) (Climate Justice Resilience Fund, Oak Foundation, Mary Robinson Foundation, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors)

[Funding Trends: Climate Change Mitigation Philanthropy](#) (ClimateWorks)

[What Can Philanthropy Do for the Climate? Strategic Pathways for Climate Giving](#) (Alliance Magazine)

[It's Time for Philanthropy to Step up the Fight Against Climate Change](#) (McKinsey)