



Emerging Leaders for Climate Action (ELCA) is a Globally program funded by an EPA grant through the GHFI's Thriving Communities initiative. The program develops emerging climate leaders across the Greater Washington area, with fellows split into working groups in three underserved DMV communities. Fellows will spend six months conducting community stakeholder consultations, researching local climate vulnerabilities, and developing community-informed solutions, which they will present and disseminate at the ELCA Summit in Spring 2027.

ELCA is grounded in the principles of environmental justice, cross-sector collaboration, and community-centered leadership. Fellows are not placed in communities as experts — they work alongside community members, practitioners, and organizations as curious, accountable partners to co-design opportunities for local solutions.



Early-mid career
emerging leaders



DMV communities



Community
consultations



ELCA Summit,
Spring 2027

HOW IT WORKS

Fellows join a focus group working with a specific community and climate issue:

- Flood resilience in Capitol Heights, MD
- Residential energy equity in Ward 8, DC
- Extreme heat preparedness in Bailey's Crossroads, VA

WHO WE'RE LOOKING FOR

Leaders from all sectors with:

- An interest in climate resilience
- A willingness to learn alongside communities
- The drive to turn insight into impact

APPLICATIONS DUE OCTOBER 23, 2026

PROGRAM ARC

1. Launch applications, develop participant archetype, and share across media platforms.

2. Cohort welcome, meet working groups, and introduce environmental justice and design frameworks.

3. Conduct community consultations, analyze local vulnerabilities, and share initial research findings.

4. Synthesize research into policy proposals, incorporate climate resilience tools, and with peer review.

5. Present policy proposals to stakeholders at ELCA Summit, and disseminate materials regionally.

HOW FELLOWS WORK

- Conduct community stakeholder consultations
- Research local vulnerabilities and policy gaps
- Develop community-informed policy proposals
- Present findings at the ELCA Summit
- Disseminate materials to regional stakeholders

WHAT PARTNERS GAIN

- Direct connection to emerging community leaders
- Co-design opportunities for local solutions
- Amplification through Globally's extensive network
- Shared credit and visibility at the ELCA summit, which brings together local leaders, policy experts, and climate advocates



ABOUT GLOBALLY

Globally is a nonprofit organization dedicated to cultivating communities of emerging leaders who are committed to addressing the most pressing global challenges of our time. Since 2004, we have developed a network spanning 80 countries and more than 30,000 emerging leaders. We work with partners to design and implement programs that provide participants with tangible, practical leadership and professional growth through experiential, immersive learning opportunities.

OUR APPROACH TO COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

A note on how ELCA is designed, because we know it matters: we are intentionally building this program in partnership with communities, not for them. We don't arrive with predetermined answers or structures. We're aiming to recruit fellows who are rooted in or deeply connected to the communities they're working in, and we design the program to be shaped by the on-the-ground expertise of organizations like those in your network. If there are ways we can strengthen that approach based on your experience, we'd genuinely welcome input.