

Decarbonization Innovation: Local High-Impact Carbon Reduction Projects

Community Climate Fund: Williams College
FY26 Annual Summary:
July 1 – June 30, 2026



Williams
College





The Williams College Community Climate Fund (CCF) unlocks carbon reduction projects in Williams' local and regional community. In partnership with CET, CCF contributes critical funds for decarbonization projects facing roadblocks or financial constraints.

The Community Climate Fund is a program for colleges, universities, and businesses to invest in impactful local carbon reduction projects.

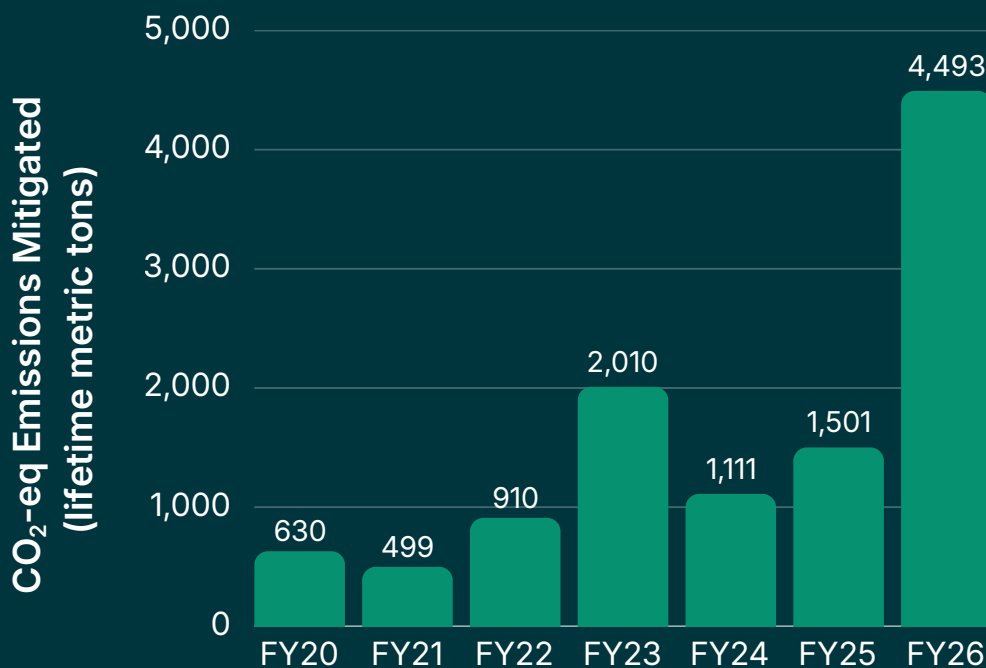
CET is a regional nonprofit with nearly 50 years of experience, operating on the front lines of climate action by helping people and businesses decarbonize through waste reduction, energy efficiency, and electrification.



FY26 IMPACT SUMMARY

In FY26, the Community Climate Fund (CCF) mitigated nearly **4,500 lifetime tons of CO₂-eq**, supporting **39 projects** across commercial and residential weatherization roadblock removal, commercial composting incentives, fleet electrification, and on-farm energy.

These CCF-supported projects achieved a threefold increase in avoided greenhouse gas emissions compared to FY25, bringing the program lifetime total to 11,093 lifetime tons of CO₂-eq.

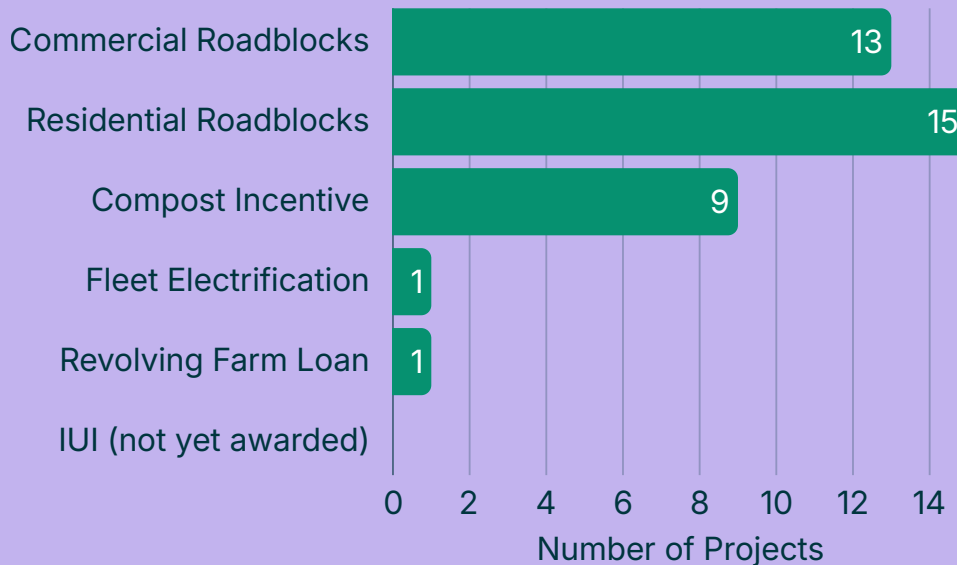


11,093

Total CO₂-eq emissions mitigated through CCF investments, 2019-present

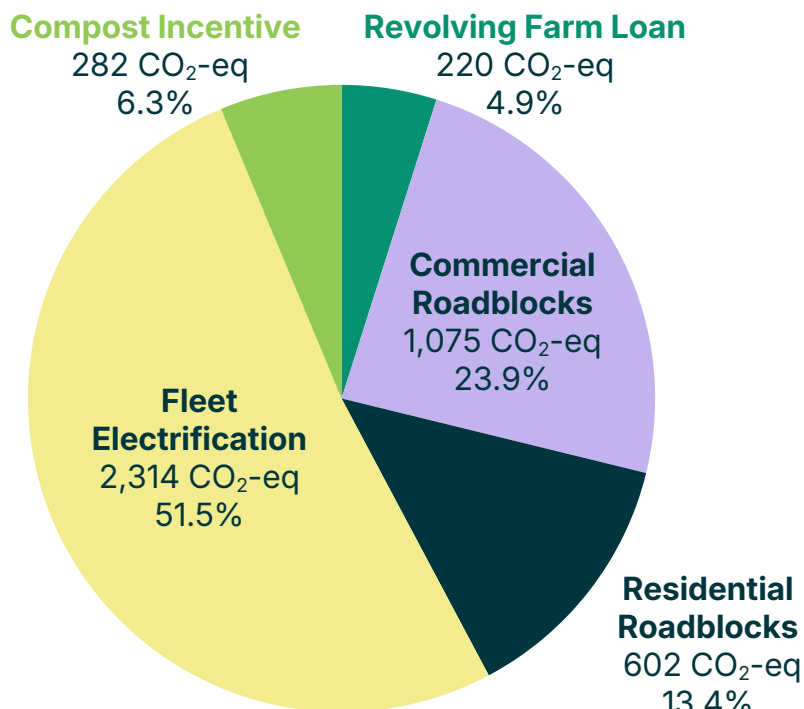
BY THE NUMBERS

FY26



39

FY26 total projects
by funding area



4,493

FY26 CO₂-eq
emissions mitigated
with investments⁽¹⁾

508

FY26 CO₂-eq
anticipated additional
emissions mitigation
in pipeline

FY26 COMMUNITY CLIMATE FUND MEETING A RISING NEED

Sustained Impact

Since 2019, the college has committed a total of \$700,000 to unlock 110 projects that have eliminated more than 11,000 tons of lifetime CO₂-eq emissions in the project area. This funding empowers residents, organizations, and businesses who would not otherwise be able to implement decarbonization measures, ensuring high-impact opportunities aren't left behind due to financial barriers. CCF has achieved impressive cost effectiveness for the types of projects and criteria it adheres to, averaging approximately \$51 per ton CO₂-eq mitigated across the portfolio to date.*



Increased Demand, Rising Need

Demand for program funds has increased steadily over the past three years, and FY26 saw a significant uptick in demand for assistance on residential & multifamily projects, as well as small business funding support. In the first half of FY26, CCF funded more projects than in the two previous full years—despite maintaining the same funding criteria.

CCF's ability to quickly unlock additional funding support for projects is more critical than ever. Since 2025, federal climate funding has faced delays, uncertainty, and cutbacks, limiting the ability of states and others to expand or sustain key programs. In Massachusetts, Mass Save, the state's flagship ratepayer-funded program for delivering energy efficiency and electrification at scale, came under increasing pressure as costs rose and scrutiny on ratepayer impacts intensified. CCF funding was able to help bridge this structural gap for residents and businesses working with CET.

**Based on \$567,415 distributed and 11,154 tCO₂e avoided emissions to date.*

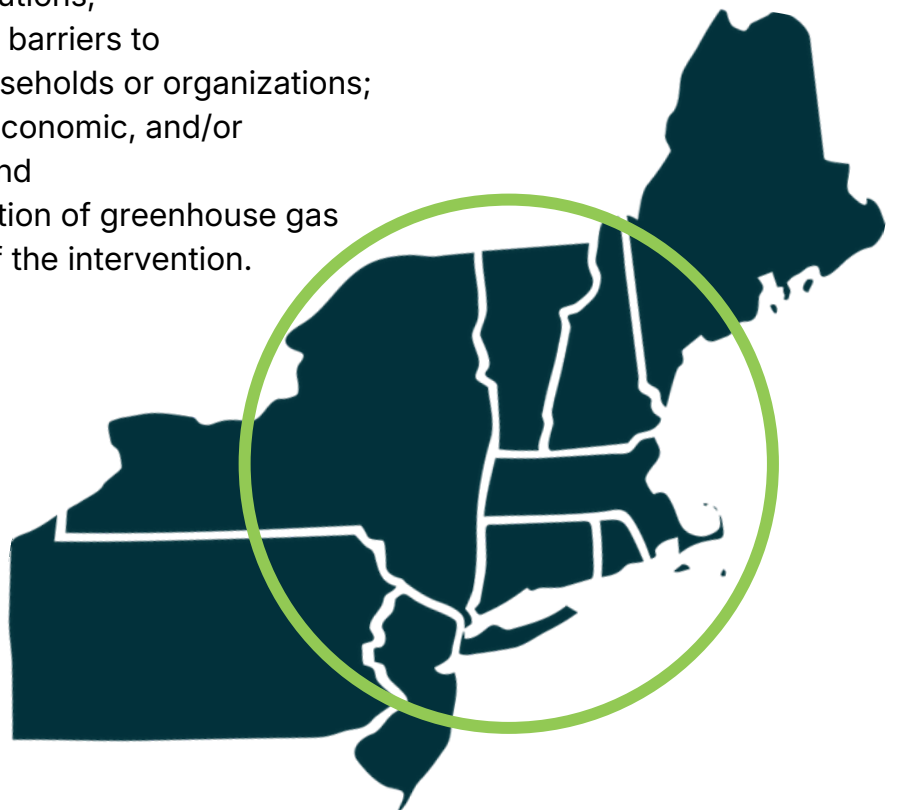
CCF FUNDING TARGETS

In FY26, CCF funded:

Roadblock removal for small businesses
Roadblock removal for residents
Composting incentive for small businesses
Commercial fleet electrification
Revolving Farm Loan

All CCF projects meet the following criteria:

1. Are implemented at a location in proximity to the college (generally within 200 miles);
2. Target in-need or underserved households, non-profits, and commercial institutions;
3. Require funding to overcome barriers to implementation faced by households or organizations;
4. Provide educational, social, economic, and/or environmental co-benefits; and
5. Result in a measurable reduction of greenhouse gas emissions over the lifetime of the intervention.



ROADBLOCK REMOVAL FOR SMALL BUSINESSES



In FY26, CCF completed **13 Commercial Roadblock** projects across **6 Massachusetts counties**. On average, CCF contributed **\$2,380 per project** to support implementation at entities including local restaurants, houses of worship, a historic theater establishment, an auto repair company, a non-profit community action agency, and other small businesses.

These contributions towards commercial weatherization roadblock removal support the abatement of barriers to weatherization, such as removal of knob and tube wiring and asbestos, and supplement incentives for efficiency measures when the co-pay is more than the business can afford.

This investment enables the installation of measures such as insulation, air sealing, heat recovery, and more efficient appliances that significantly reduce carbon and save businesses hundreds or thousands of dollars a year in heating and cooling costs. The FY26 projects combined will save approximately **1,075 lifetime tons CO₂-eq** across the measures' lifetime.

Spotlight

Springfield Partners for Community Action



Springfield Partners for Community Action, Inc. is a non-profit agency located in an environmental justice community. They serve approximately 7,000 low-income community members every year through employment support, financial services, education, and weatherization and energy conservation programs.

Springfield Partners certainly understands the need for energy efficiency, but struggled to implement measures in their own building. CCF helped unlock action with roadblock removal funding to assist SPCA in covering the utility program co-pay required for the installation of pipe wrap weatherization measures in their downtown building.

\$481.25

CCF Contribution (Remainder of cost covered by Mass Save utility incentives)

94.77 tons CO₂-eq

Saved across the measures' lifetime



[Utility] program funding may be available, but even the gap in filling that last little bit can be challenging. If we're paying that out of pocket, that's money that we don't have to put back into the community through our own services. Having a program to help us cover that last mile was very helpful to us. We wouldn't have been able to do services to our building without that kind of support.

- JC Schnabl, Ed.D., Deputy Director

ROADBLOCK REMOVAL FOR RESIDENTS



In FY26, CCF contributed an average of **\$3,084 per project** to implement **16 Residential Roadblock** projects across **3 Massachusetts counties**.

These residential roadblock removal investments support the abatement of barriers to weatherization, such as removal of knob and tube wiring, asbestos, and vermiculite, and also supplement incentives for efficiency measures when the co-pay was more than the homeowner can afford.

This investment enabled installation of measures such as insulation, air sealing, heat recovery, and more efficient appliances that significantly reduce carbon and save residents hundreds or thousands of dollars a year in heating and cooling costs. The FY26 projects combined will save approximately **602 lifetime tons CO₂-eq** across the measures' lifetime.

Spotlight

North Adams Resident



In late 2025, the new owner of a 3-family residence in North Adams (an EJ community) reached out to CET through the Mass Save program, hoping to improve the building's weatherization. Built in 1900, the triplex lacked sufficient air sealing and insulation, making the home uncomfortable and expensive to heat; at least one tenant required fuel assistance to pay their utility bills.

CET identified opportunities for additional air sealing and insulation, but also discovered knob and tube wiring in the home (which presents a fire-safety barrier to installing additional insulation), as well as work needed to properly vent the dryer. These complexities made the work more than the owner could afford.

With the support of a **\$6,000 contribution** to offset the cost of removing the knob and tube wiring, the owner was able to utilize a **0% interest HEAT loan** to cover the remaining costs. **Mass Save incentives covered 100%** of the cost for insulation and air sealing work, which will save approximately **138 tons of CO₂-eq** over the lifetime of the measures and improve the comfort of the residence for all tenants.

COMMERCIAL WASTE REDUCTION START-UP INCENTIVE FOR SMALL BUSINESSES



Comprehensive waste reduction programming can significantly reduce carbon and help businesses realize the opportunity to reinvest savings from reduced trash hauler costs into material recovery services like composting. The commercial compost incentive enables businesses to divert wasted food from disposal by covering the cost of compost pick-up for up to 6 months for qualifying businesses.

In FY26, CCF supported **9 waste reduction incentive** projects. These projects combined will save approximately **420 tons of wasted food** and **282 tons CO₂-eq** across the measures' lifetime.

Spotlight Cold Spring Pilot



In 2026, CET partnered with the Cold Spring (NY) Chamber of Commerce to [pilot a new program](#) encouraging local businesses to begin recycling food scraps into compost. The chamber collaborated with CET to deliver food waste technical assistance to area businesses and offer a CCF-funded compost incentive to the first 6-7 businesses that contracted with a local hauler. The Chamber also negotiated preferred pricing for participating businesses to help make costs more predictable.

In FY26, CCF dispersed incentive funding to **5 Cold Spring businesses**, jump-starting their transition to composting. The incentives, ranging from **\$650-750**, covered the initial start-up costs and up to **three months of compost service** for participating businesses.

Since the pilot launch, the program has been awarded a New York State grant to expand, allowing the pilot to grow to **10 participating businesses and organizations** and cover a full year of food scrap collection service. This additional funding would not have been unlocked without the success of the initial pilot and access to CCF's innovation-friendly incentive funding.

COMMERCIAL FLEET ELECTRIFICATION



Transitioning commercial fleets from internal combustion engines to electric vehicles (EVs) offers compelling environmental and economic advantages that significantly reduce carbon and save businesses hundreds in reduced fuel consumption and maintenance needs as well as publicly demonstrate a business' commitment to reduced emissions and sustainability.

The commercial fleet electrification incentive supports commercial businesses with small vehicle or equipment fleets within a sustainability-related sector (i.e. composting hauling, agriculture, etc.) serving environmental justice communities. The funding supplements the cost of purchasing a new electric vehicle when the electric option is more than the business can afford.

Spotlight Tommy's Compost Service

Cheshire, MA

Tommy's Compost Service is a woman-owned food waste pick-up business launched in 2021 serving residents and businesses throughout Berkshire County. To date the company has collected more than **1,600,000 tons of food waste** material for composting. As the company rapidly expanded, it required the expansion of its fleet to include several additional vehicles. With the help of [MassDEP grant funding](#), Tommy's purchased a new conventional truck. CCF funding contributed **\$20,000 towards the total cost** of a new electric Sprinter van to replace an older combustion engine vehicle for compost hauling services. This electric vehicle replacement is anticipated to result in savings of **2,314 tons CO₂-eq** across the measure's lifetime (estimated at 13 years).



The whole point is to have as least of an impact on our environment as possible. So, the next vehicle will be an electric cargo van so that when I am sitting and idling it's not using any energy it's incredibly efficient and it's charged with renewable energy so it's a triple win.

- Mary Summers, CEO and Founder of Tommy's Compost Service
([Berkshires.com](https://www.berkshires.com))

REVOLVING FARM LOAN



The revolving farm loan mitigates financial barriers faced by farms implementing energy efficiency measures. High impact projects can become stymied due to upfront capital constraints often when project funding by state and federal incentives is granted on a reimbursement basis. CCF's **zero-interest bridge loan** offers upfront capital to farmers, enabling the installation of measures that significantly reduce carbon emissions and save farms hundreds or thousands of dollars a year in related costs.

To date, the CCF Revolving Farm Loan has been placed four times, collectively resulting in savings of **over 680 tons CO₂-eq** across the measures' lifetime. CCF continues to collaborate with the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program to seek out eligible projects.

Spotlight Small Farm

Stow, MA



Small Farm, an organic vegetable, berry, and flower farm in Stow, MA was awarded the Farm Loan in March 2026 to support the installation of a **24.84 kW** roof-mounted solar PV array.

The installation is projected to generate **26,013 kilowatt hours (kWh)** of electricity per year, resulting in an estimated savings of **220.07 tons CO₂-eq** across the measures' lifetime.

The project is expected to reduce the farm's electricity costs by approximately **\$3,600 per year**, with a payback period of 11.5 years based on the initial out-of-pocket investment of approximately \$42,000. The system will generate net financial savings for the remainder of its useful life.

FY 2026 CCF INVESTMENTS & MITIGATED CO₂-EQ EMISSIONS

Recipient	Description	CCF Contribution	CO ₂ -eq (lifetime metric tons)
Commercial Roadblocks			
Marios Lebanese Bakery	Insulation Weatherization	\$1,798.32	29.21
Yankee Spirits - Attleboro	Insulation Weatherization	\$499.88	24.28
Always EZ Auto Rental and Repair	Insulation Weatherization	\$1,399.06	102.11
River Valley Co-Op	Insulation Weatherization	\$1,480.00	59.67
Digital Development Management	Insulation Weatherization	\$2,600.00	22.29
Second Congregational Church of Pittsfield	Insulation Weatherization	\$3,003.68	74.26
Colonial Theatre (Berkshire Theatre Group)	Insulation Weatherization & Duct Sealing	\$7,885.41	360.06
Chase Property Services	Pipe Wrap Weatherization	\$1,976.00	39.31
Springfield Partners for Community Action, Inc.	Pipe Wrap Weatherization	\$481.25	94.77
McGovern's Family Restaurant	Insulation Weatherization	\$2,269.75	31.19
St. Nicholas Romanian Orthodox Church	Insulation Weatherization	\$6,158.39	206.85
First Student	Pipewrap Weatherization	\$942.75	13.34
Ludlow Print Copy Center	Pipewrap Weatherization	\$462.50	17.55
Commercial Roadblocks Total:		\$30,956.99	1,074.89
Residential Roadblocks			
Pittsfield Resident	Insulation Weatherization & Asbestos Abatement	\$1,296.00	46
Pittsfield Resident	Insulation Weatherization	\$2,037.94	22
Pittsfield Resident	Insulation Weatherization	\$3,500.00	32
Pittsfield Resident	Insulation Weatherization	\$700.65	30
Hatfield Resident	Insulation Weatherization	\$1,141.79	50
Greenfield Resident	Knob & Tube Remediation	\$4,320.00	36
Turners Falls Resident	Knob & Tube Remediation	\$1,200.00	10
Lenox Resident	Moisture & SFG Abatement	\$1,500.00	30
Greenfield Resident	Vermiculite Abatement	\$2,880.00	24
North Adams Resident	Vermiculite Abatement	\$3,925.00	36
Pittsfield Resident	Vermiculite Abatement	\$5,040.00	42

Pittsfield Resident	Vermiculite & Asbestos Abatement	\$2,400.00	20
Great Barrington Resident	Knob & Tube Remediation	\$7,200.00	60
Greenfield Resident	Knob & Tube Remediation	\$3,120.00	26
North Adams Resident	Knob & Tube Remediation	\$6,000.00	138
Residential Roadblocks Total:		\$46,261.38	602

Commercial Compost Incentive

Camp Greylock	Compost Grant	\$585.00	23.51
Thompson, CT Public Schools	Compost Grant	\$1,500.00	26.88
Franklin County Solid Waste Management District	Waste Reduction Programming	\$1,100.00	6.55
Gill Elementary School	Waste Reduction Programming	\$242.89	23.15
Haldane Schools	Compost Grant	\$615.00	47.6
Marbled Meat	Compost Grant	\$666.51	14
Signal Fire Bread	Compost Grant	\$666.51	16.8
Cold Spring Farmer's Market	Compost Grant	\$666.51	36.4
Red Lion Inn	Compost Grant	\$520.00	87.36
Commercial Compost Incentive Total:		\$6,562.42	282.25

Commercial Fleet Electrification

Tommy's Compost Service, LLC	Commercial Fleet Electrification	\$20,000	2,314
Commercial Fleet Electrification Total:		\$20,000	2,314

Revolving Farm Loan

Small Farm	Farm Loan	\$20,000.00	220.07
Revolving Farm Loan Total:		\$20,000	220.07

Commercial Compost Incentive

Fund Management (Q1)	Project Administration	\$4,963.75	-
Fund Management (Q2)	Project Administration	\$7,722.50	-
Fund Management (Q3)	Project Administration	\$5,057.50	-
Fund Management (Q4)	Project Administration	\$2,256.25	-
Project Administration Total:		\$20,000.00	-
Total FY 2026 Investments* & Emissions Offsets		\$143,780.79	4,493.21

**Includes funds carried over from prior program years*

NOTES & REFERENCES

- 01 All emissions impacts shown in this report are lifetime emissions reduction assumptions. For energy efficiency projects (including the Farm Loan), the measure lifetime of is assumed to be 20 years. For compost/waste projects, the assumed lifetime is 10 years (compost system implementation is more reliant on human behavior, so we use this more conservative estimate for these projects). Lifetime assumptions for the electric vehicle project are noted in the case study.
- 02 Massachusetts Office of Environmental Justice & Equity Environmental Justice Populations in Massachusetts Tool
- 02 Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce Commercial Food Scrap Recycling Pilot
- 04 Mass.gov Tommy's Compost Case Study
- 05 Berkshires.com "Tommy's Composting Reaches Million-Pound Milestone"

PHOTO CREDIT

- 01 Haldane Central School District, p.1
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sustainability.williams.edu/sustainability-strategic-planning/community-climate-fund/