

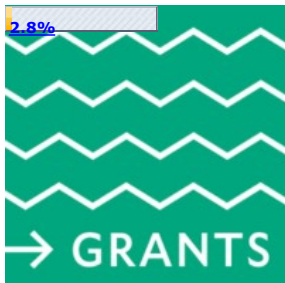
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YALE

## → PLANETARY SOLUTIONS



### YPS News

## Applications for the YPS Grant Program + Impact Accelerator Close Jan. 30!

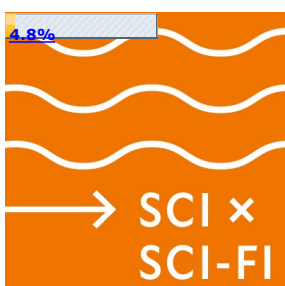


The YPS Grant Program is inviting proposals for faculty- and staff-led projects aimed at solving planetary challenges. Since 2022, the program has awarded over \$7 million to interdisciplinary projects at Yale. New this year, Grant Program applicants focused on commercialization can apply to the Planetary Solutions Impact Accelerator, which provides commercialization support, expert mentorship, and access to a global network of investors and partners. Applications are due January 30, 2026. [Learn more.](#)

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## Announcing Sci X Sci-Fi 2026

## Sci X Sci-Fi Will Welcome Creatives-in-Residence to Campus on March 26 & 27

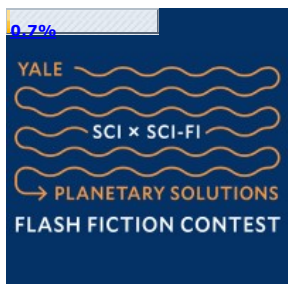


Sci X Sci-Fi explores new ways to tell the story of climate change, empowering participants to imagine hopeful, sustainable, and thriving futures. This year's Creatives-in-Residence represent storytelling through indie video games, board games, and short stories. We're excited to welcome Stephanie Barish, Founder and CEO of IndieCade, Matteo Menapace, Cooperative Board Game Designer and Educator, and Tory Stephens, Climate Creative Fiction and Brand

Partnerships Manager at Grist. YPS is excited to partner with the Center for Collaborative Arts and Media (CCAM) and the Environmental Film Festival at Yale (EFFY) on this year's program. [Learn more.](#)

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## Students: Submit Your Story for the Sci X Sci-Fi Flash Fiction Contest



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Prizes of \$350 and \$250 will be awarded to winning flash fiction stories of 300-1,000 words. Open to current college and university students at Yale and other institutions in the New Haven area, this contest aims to inspire hope and optimism through creative storytelling about climate and sustainability. Submit your story by February 27, 2026, and share your vision for a sustainable, thriving future! [Learn more.](#)

5.5%

## Now Available: Session Recordings from Yale @ Climate Week NYC 2025



1.4%

Yale @ Climate Week NYC 2025 highlighted the university community's extensive work to address climate change, biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation, and the impacts of these crises on communities everywhere. Scholars and thought leaders from a wide range of fields convened to transform knowledge into positive impact and advance practical solutions. This playlist features session recordings demonstrating ambitious, cross-disciplinary efforts. [Watch now.](#)

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## Community News

### Yale Biodiversity Day: Save the Date



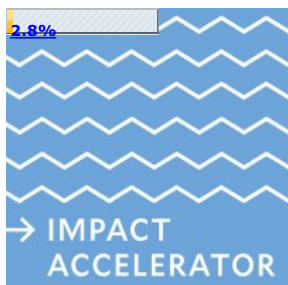
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This spring the Yale Institute for Biospheric Studies will collaborate with YPS to host Yale Biodiversity Day on Tuesday, April 28th from 9:00AM to 5:00PM at the Greenberg Conference Center. Please stay tuned for more information, or reach out to [yibs@yale.edu](mailto:yibs@yale.edu).

Learn more about the [Yale Institute for Biospheric Studies](#) here.

1.4%

### Yale Ventures Seeking Inaugural Venture Fellows



2.8%

This spring, in close partnership with Yale Planetary Solutions, Yale Ventures is launching the [Planetary Solutions Impact Accelerator \(PSIA\)](#), a new accelerator that awards \$100-250K grants to faculty with promising environmental innovations. To catalyze this program, Yale Ventures is hiring ~3-5 student operators from across Yale to pair with faculty and help commercialize their ideas. This is a great opportunity

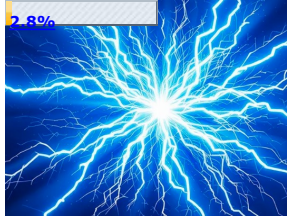
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for anyone interested in lab-to-market / deep tech to engage in early stage entrepreneurship and grow their operator skillset. Interested students should apply by Jan. 25th at 11:59 PM. [Find application instructions here.](#)

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## With Plasma, Zapping Harmful Chemicals Away



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Refrigerants known as hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) are among the most common and most harmful greenhouse gases, and getting rid of them is complicated. A team of researchers has found an effective and efficient way to break down these chemicals by zapping them with plasma. Portable and accessible, it has the potential to prevent gigatons of harmful emissions from entering the atmosphere.

The results are published in

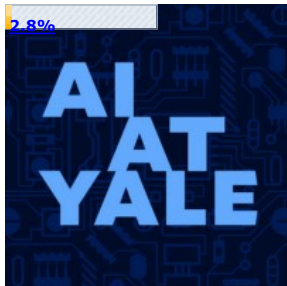
[. Read more.](#)

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## AI at Yale Launches 2026 Seed Grants Call for Proposals

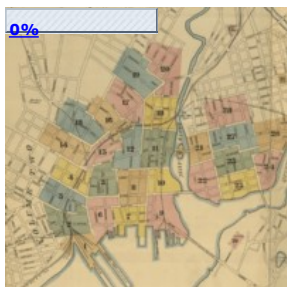


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For the second year, AI at Yale is sponsoring interdisciplinary seed grants for research in the amount of \$100,000 and workshops in the amount of \$20,000 each. These seed grants are intended to foster discipline-spanning work on, with, and about AI technologies. AI Seed Grant eligibility is for Yale researchers qualified for PI status on external grants. Applications are due February 6, 2026.

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## New Haven Environmental History Project Holds “Teaching with Maps: New Haven Past and Present”

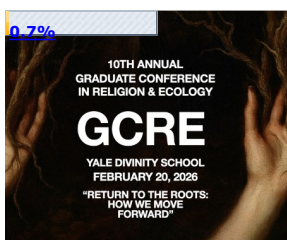


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In December, the New Haven Environmental History Project and Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute hosted “Teaching with Maps: New Haven Past and Present.” The event featured talks from New Haven teachers Ian Dudley and Steve Staysniak, and Yale Professor William Rankin. Yale History Professor Paul Sabin provided an overview of the project which was launched in 2024, with support from Yale Planetary Solutions, to develop teaching resources about our local history of environmental change. [Read more.](#)

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## Return to the Roots: How We Move Forward



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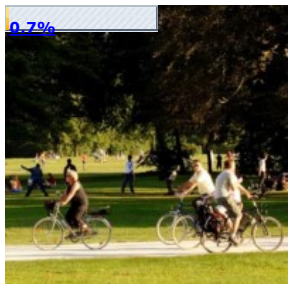
The 10th annual Graduate Conference in Religion and Ecology, hosted at Yale Divinity School, will take place on Thursday and Friday, February 19-20 featuring keynote speaker Carol Wayne White, Chair of Religious Studies at Bucknell University, who will deliver the keynote address, “The Sacrality of Roots:

Religious Naturalism's Prelude to Living in Wonder."

The conference will feature over 12 artistic works, spotlight 36 student presenters from universities around the world, and hold four participatory workshops. Register and learn more [here](#).

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## Sobotka Seed Prize for Sustainable Ventures: The 2025 Winners



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Since 2011, the Sobotka Seed Prize for Sustainable Ventures has empowered Yale entrepreneurs to pursue solutions that serve both the market and the planet. The prize awards \$10,000 grants each year to innovative student-led ventures with the potential for meaningful environmental and social impact. Three winners were selected for this year's prizes. [Read more](#).

## Opportunities

[Gull Island Institute Summer Undergraduate Liberal Arts Program: Apply by January 31](#)

4.1%

[Public Humanities Grant Program: Apply by February 13](#)

3.4%

[Applications Now Open for Yale's Financing and Deploying Clean Energy Certificate Program](#)

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## Upcoming Events

[Office Hours: YPS Grant Program + Impact Accelerator](#)

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Online

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[From Timber to Tomorrow: Old Challenges, New Pressures, Changing Paradigms \(Spring Speaker Series\)](#)

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January 26, 2026, Online

[YSPH Climate Change and Health Seminar with Dr. Ana Isabel Baptista](#)

January 26, 2026, Online

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[Scaling Climate Finance in Emerging Markets](#)

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[2026 Yale Business and the Environment Conference](#)

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