



**sage**<sup>®</sup>  
Senior Advocates  
for Generational Equity

## **Great Legacy Fellowship Projects to Help Nonprofits and Our Community**

The Legacy Fellowship is a nine-month leadership program to train and support individuals and teams to lead community benefit projects of their own design. These projects can be independent (in a neighborhood or workplace, for example) or for an existing nonprofit.

There is a \$1,500 tuition for the program, which covers the coaching, workshops and meals. SAGE is able to offer a limited number of partial and full tuition waivers to candidates who need financial aid and who are interested in projects that strengthen education, restore our environment and promote economic security.

Below are sixteen project ideas that advance these goals. Some project ideas have been submitted by nonprofit partners, and others have been developed by SAGE. These are examples of projects, and all of them can be adapted to fit your timeline and availability.

These project ideas are divided into two categories:

- Projects to **advance climate solutions** under the City of Portland and Multnomah County Climate Action Plan, and to increase community engagement and equity.
- Projects to support **schools and student leadership**.

There are many other projects that could be pursued.

To learn more about these projects, or our Legacy Fellowship and Tuition Waivers, email SAGE at [info@wearesage.org](mailto:info@wearesage.org) or call 971-717-6570.

### **Projects to Advance Climate Action Plan and Renewable Power**

1. **Build capacity for renewable power.** Organize neighbors to pursue strategies that generate solar and wind power in your neighborhood. Help share information about existing programs and incentives to transition to renewable power.

Supports Climate Plan Actions: 1F, 3B, 3C, 3D  
Supports City goal regarding 100 % clean energy by 2050

2. **Strengthen resiliency through asset mapping.** Identify funding and other obstacles that impede the ability of neighbors to identify and map community assets to respond to climate change (e.g., cooling centers, nurses). As a fellow, you could also perform research to identify strategies to overcome these limitations and support asset mapping in a specific neighborhood.

Supports Climate Plan Actions: 14B, 14C, 14D, 15C, 16B, 16C

3. **Develop a “Neighborhood Guide” Program.** Support programs that facilitate neighbor-to-neighbor discussions about the region’s response to climate change, plans for serving vulnerable communities, and actions to reduce carbon emissions. As a fellow, you could learn from community members about what would inspire them to serve as a guide, and organize and co-facilitate trainings. You could also integrate efforts with neighborhood associations, schools, community centers, businesses and places of worship.

Supports Climate Plan Actions: 4J, 4O, 8B, 12A, 12B, 18A, 18B, 20A, 20B, 20G

4. **Become a Neighborhood Guide for Climate Action.** Organize and help facilitate neighbor-to-neighbor discussions about the region’s response to climate change, plans for serving vulnerable communities, and actions to reduce carbon emissions. As a fellow, you could also leverage the tools available from the City and others to spread word about actions residents can take to reduce carbon emissions from homes and other locales.

Supports Climate Plan Actions: 4J, 4O, 8B, 12A, 12B, 18A, 18B, 20A, 20B, 20G

5. **Promote low-carbon foods and local food production.** Lead a campaign to promote low carbon diets. You could also facilitate workshops on reducing food waste or buying local foods to reduce transportation emissions, strengthen the economy, and preserve farms.

Supports Climate Plan Actions: 8B, 9A, 9B, 12A, 12B

6. **Organize neighbors for energy efficiency.** Reduce the environmental footprint in your community by motivating neighbors to receive energy audits and undertake at least one new conservation measure. You could leverage existing programs to support audits and home efficiency projects.

Supports Climate Plan Actions: 1C, 1F, 3B

7. **Start a Net Zero Hero program in your community.** With initial support from a coach, learn how to set up a Net Zero Hero program in your community to help individuals and small groups reduce their carbon footprint. Participants in the program come together as affinity groups (e.g., friends, classmates, colleagues) and meet for a short period of time to learn about their own carbon footprint and to share strategies to reduce their footprint over time. After each participant makes a personal action plan, they decide what support they could use from each other and the community to accomplish their goals.

Supports Climate Plan Actions: 12A, 12B, 20A, 20B, 20G  
Supporting Partner: Lake Oswego Sustainability Network

8. **Expand urban forests and greenspaces.** Advance projects that increase greenspaces and natural areas in neighborhoods. You could focus on projects anywhere, including areas where there are populations at risk of adverse outcomes from urban heat island effects. Develop relationships, build partnerships and find funds to support greenspaces.

Supports Climate Plan Actions: 13A, 13B

9. **Innovation sessions to accelerate climate solutions.** Organize and help facilitate community dialogues on how the City can more rapidly reach our 2030 interim goal and 2050 goal to reduce carbon emissions. These dialogues could identify promising solutions to research, pilot and fund. Solutions featured as coming attractions on [www.drawdown.org](http://www.drawdown.org) (e.g., smart highways, hyperloops, building with wood) might warrant local research, testing.

Supports Climate Plan Actions: 4GG, 8B, 19O

10. **Innovation sessions to expand renewable power.** Organize and help facilitate community dialogues on how neighbors and neighborhoods can pool resources to reach the City of Portland's 100 percent clean energy goal. This project could overlap with other community efforts to accelerate climate solutions in our region.

Supports Climate Plan Actions: 3A, 3B, 8B, 19O

Supports City goal regarding 100 % clean energy by 2050

11. **Climate Advocacy in Skits, Stories and Songs.** Design and organize one or more events with speakers to share skits, stories and songs about actions that people can take to meet our region's climate action goals. The events can engage audiences to advance solutions in homes, neighborhoods, schools, businesses, community centers, and places of worship.

Supports Climate Plan Actions: 8B, 12A

### **Projects to Support Schools and Student Leadership**

1. **Support habitat and outdoor learning in schoolyards.** Most schoolyards look the same – grass fields, basketball courts, playgrounds – but what if we could turn them into something more? By incorporating nature into our schoolyards, they not only stay areas of play, but they also become natural areas for plants and wildlife, provide physical and mental health benefits for students, and create hands-on learning and place-based service opportunities for schools and surrounding communities. As a Legacy Fellow, you would help facilitate discussions with schools and community members, identify funding sources, keep the project(s) on track, and get everyone's hands a little dirty!

Supporting Partner: Portland Public Schools

2. **Nurture school gardens during the summer.** School gardens are a wonderful asset to help children learn about nature and to grow nutritious foods. Unfortunately, because many of these gardens are run by students and parent-volunteers, it can be difficult to maintain them throughout the school year and especially over the summer when school is out and the gardens are in full bloom. As a Legacy Fellow, you would evaluate options and partnership opportunities to create a garden volunteer support team to help maintain school gardens during the summer on a rotating basis. With this support, school gardens can be ready for students and volunteers to continue to nurture and support these gardens at the start of the school year.

Supporting Partner: The Intertwine

3. **Engage Volunteers at an Innovative School.** KairosPDX is a non-profit organization focused on delivering excellent, equitable education to underserved children, their families and their communities. As a Legacy Fellow, you would assist the organization in recruiting volunteers to support all capacities of our work. Our vision is to build partnerships with local universities, businesses, and leaders to recruit consistent volunteers. We have some systems and communication in place already but need someone who can devote time to being out in the community and online actively recruiting volunteers.

Supporting Partner: KairosPDX

4. **Support Volunteer Fairs in High Schools.** Passion Impact works with high school students who want to make a difference in their communities. As part of their work, the organization empowers student leaders to organize and host volunteer fairs at their schools to encourage their friends and peers to give to their community in meaningful ways. Working with students, Passion Impact has helped organize eight of these fairs, which have attracted over 1050 Portland students. They know that students become volunteers as a result of the fairs, but they need help building a more comprehensive evaluation platform that can lead to more success stories that highlight the impact of students' volunteer experience. As a Legacy Fellow, you would help manage a survey on volunteer engagement, and develop success stories for the organization.

Supporting Partner: Passion Impact

5. **Develop a Skilled Mentoring Program for Student Volunteers.** Passion Impact helps students organize volunteer fairs. See previous description for details. As a Legacy Fellow, you would help identify experienced professionals who agree to serve as mentors to students who are organizing and hosting these volunteer fairs. Students regularly seek advice on event planning, communications, marketing and outreach, and project management. With advice and support from experienced mentors, these students can host high-impact volunteer fairs and expand the number of students who volunteer.

Supporting Partner: Passion Impact