

ABOUT CLIMATE BREAKTHROUGH

We are a nonprofit that aims to make an outsized impact on resolving the climate crisis through our global philanthropy. Through the Climate Breakthrough Award program, we select and support visionary social change leaders to develop, launch, and scale their boldest new initiatives to address the climate crisis with multimillion-dollar, multiyear, flexible, non-directive funding along with other resources.

PROJECT PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

2026 marks the tenth anniversary of the Climate Breakthrough Award program. We want to produce 10 in-depth case studies that showcase the unique stories of select grantees.

The case studies will serve three main purposes:

1. Illustrate the compelling and human-centered work of our grantees. Bring to life their boldness and innovation in addressing the climate crisis
2. Demonstrate how our philanthropic model catalyzes transformative change to inspire philanthropic partners and climate practitioners
3. Contribute content to a separate anniversary publication we are developing

We will provide context, background materials, and feedback throughout the process. We're looking for a creative writing partner who brings vision and helps us find the most resonant ways to tell these stories.

We aim to publish the case studies on a rolling basis as they are finalized, with all case studies targeted for completion by April 30, 2026.

SCOPE OF WORK

Key responsibilities:

1. Research and interview assigned grantees (we'll provide the list)
2. Interview Climate Breakthrough staff members, wherever relevant, to enrich those stories
3. Identify and pursue potential additional sources to round out the narrative
4. All interviews and communications will be conducted online

Writing & storytelling:

1. Craft feature-style narratives that are engaging, well-reported, and substantive
2. Weave together personal stories, impact, and broader climate/philanthropic context
3. Balance accessibility with sophisticated understanding of climate and philanthropy issues
4. Adapt tone and approach for different grantees while maintaining cohesive quality across all case studies

Collaboration:

1. Work closely with Climate Breakthrough staff to identify story angles and key themes
2. Incorporate feedback through revision process
3. Because our grantees are based around the world (and our staff is in the US), establish efficient systems for data collection, content revisions, and ongoing communication
4. Coordinate with our creative design team, including attending meetings as needed, to integrate highlights from the case studies into our anniversary publication

DELIVERABLES

1. Produce 10 case studies, each approximately 2,500-3,000 words
2. At least two rounds of revisions per case study
3. Provide source documentation, interview transcripts, and any fact-checking notes

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

Must-haves:

1. Journalistic experience with portfolio of published feature stories, case studies, or long-form journalism with visual storytelling elements
2. Strong interviewing skills and ability to draw out compelling narratives from subjects
3. Creativity and enthusiasm for exploring different narrative approaches
4. Knowledge of climate issues, including strategies, sectors, and regional contexts
5. Understanding of philanthropy themes
6. Excellent research skills and attention to detail
7. Ability to work independently and collaboratively

Nice-to-haves:

1. Experience writing for foundations or nonprofits
2. International reporting experience or familiarity with global climate work
3. Network or familiarity with climate philanthropy sector
4. Multilingual capabilities, such as Mandarin or Spanish

TIMELINE

Proposal due: November 30, 2025. Reviews will be conducted on a rolling basis, so early submissions are encouraged

Vendor selection: December 12, 2025

Project kickoff: January 12, 2026

Delivery: April 30, 2026

BUDGET

We are open to proposals at various budget levels and we welcome your transparent assessment of what this scope of work requires. Please provide a budget proposal (see below) that reflects the value and effort needed for high-quality case study development.

WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU

In your proposal, submit the following information and materials:

1. Writer background
 - a. Your brief bio highlighting relevant experience
 - b. Links to 3-5 published work samples that demonstrate feature-style storytelling, interview-based reporting, or case studies on climate and/or philanthropy themes
 - c. References from past clients and their contact information
2. Approach
 - a. Your vision for this project and ideas of different narrative structures to explore
 - b. We aim to publish the case studies on a rolling basis as they are finalized, with all case studies targeted for completion by April 30, 2026. Your plan for managing multiple case studies simultaneously, given the tight timeline
3. Availability and timeline
 - a. Confirmation of availability for the January-April 2026 timeline
 - b. Given the tight timeline, your typical turnaround time for research, interviews, and drafts
4. Budget proposal
 - a. Your proposed flat fee for this project and narrative
 - b. Your preferred payment timeline
5. Any questions or thoughts about this project

SUBMISSION DETAILS

Submit your proposal as a single PDF file titled: **(Name) Proposal Case Studies.pdf**

Send your proposal and any questions to Tony Bricktua, Senior Communications Officer: tony(at)climatebreakthrough.org

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