

Namrita Kapur

Climate Philanthropy Framework

Prepared for circulation
August 2025

Climate Philanthropy Framework — Cover Narrative

This framework is a practical tool for disciplined climate grantmaking. It organizes opportunities across three dimensions — speed of intervention, purpose of intervention, and role in the ecosystem — so funders can see at a glance where a portfolio is strong and where it may be underweighted.

The goal is straightforward: avoid scattering resources across too many diffuse opportunities and instead focus on interventions that are both fast and scalable, backed by actors positioned to deliver real impact.

Today, less than 2% of global philanthropy goes to climate, and much of that is concentrated in electricity and carbon removal. Other critical areas — super-pollutants, forests, food systems, and overlooked industrial processes — remain chronically underfunded. If philanthropy wants to punch above its weight, these are the levers that bend the curve fastest, yet they still receive only a fraction of available dollars.

This framework is a straightforward, visual guide for aligning grants with the highest-leverage opportunities. It also reflects a conviction: philanthropy must act where markets and governments lag, taking the bets that shift entire systems.

Who it's for: This framework is designed for philanthropists, family offices, and aligned partners who want to maximize the impact of every dollar and accelerate systemic transformation while time is short.

The Three Dimensions

Pull the Emergency Brakes. Some interventions deliver an immediate impact. Cutting super-pollutants (methane, black carbon, nitrous oxide) and halting deforestation buy us critical time to decarbonize the rest of the economy.

Clarify the Purpose. Every grant should be clear on its primary contribution:

- *Enhance Efficiency* — reduce waste in energy, food, and material systems.
- *Shift to Alternatives* — deploy clean substitutes in energy, transport, food, and industry.
- *Research & Innovation* — support breakthrough science and early-stage technologies.
- *Policy Advocacy & Implementation* — change incentives, standards, and enforcement at scale.

Back the Right Roles. Organizations play different parts in the system:

- *Innovators* — develop new solutions, technologies, or models.
- *Orchestrators* — convene stakeholders, build coalitions, and align strategies.
- *Intermediaries* — channel resources, manage risk, and connect funders to opportunities.
- *Field Builders* — lay the groundwork that makes impact at scale possible: creating shared data, standards, talent pipelines, and trust infrastructure that multiplies the effectiveness of everyone else in the ecosystem.

Climate Philanthropy Framework - *Updated*

