

Powering Community-Led Climate Resilience

We studied the impact of our climate solutions investments from 2021-2025 to understand how we are contributing meaningful change across the Caribbean and U.S. South.

This executive summary captures findings, highlights key stories of impact, and demonstrates how early investment in local leadership creates lasting, scalable climate resilience.

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE FULL IMPACT REPORT](#)

The Clara Lionel Foundation champions a bold model: invest early, trust deeply, and let communities lead. We identify promising ideas and provide flexible resources that enable partners to experiment, adapt, and create lasting change. This approach fosters innovation and trust: communities define the problems, design their own solutions, and implement adaptively.

\$20.6M

invested in climate solutions across the Caribbean and U.S. South

2.8M

people reached through climate resilience initiatives

39

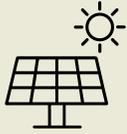
partners supported with flexible, trust-based funding

1,575+

organizations funded worldwide through intermediary partners



STORIES OF IMPACT



Solar-Powered Health Care



Barbados

CLF partnered with Rocky Mountain Institute, Direct Relief, and the Ministry of Health to pilot the island's **first renewable-powered medical cold-chain system**. 10 polyclinics now have solar-powered pharmaceutical refrigerators, 20 nurses have been trained, 10,000+ patients served, and the model is now expanding Caribbean-wide.



St. Vincent and the Grenadines

In partnership with St. Vincent Planned Parenthood Association, the **first solar-powered mobile health clinic in the Caribbean** was pioneered, bringing family planning, STI testing, and health education directly to rural communities, even during disasters.



Supporting the Next Generation of Climate Leaders



Antigua and Barbuda

Integrated Health Outreach **trained 50 young Nature Rangers as environmental defenders and launched the EmpowerHer Hub**—a domestic violence shelter sustained by a women-run enterprise, creating a self-sustaining model of safety, livelihood, and community resilience.

Launched in 2023, Center for Popular Democracy's (CPD) Climate Defenders has become the organization's flagship climate justice campaign, **mobilizing thousands and uniting affiliates to demand a climate emergency declaration** and an end to new fossil fuel approvals. Through its Climate Defenders Academy, CPD trained more than 250 community leaders and activated an additional 672 civic leaders in climate organizing, federal advocacy, and voter engagement.

THE MULTIPLIER EFFECT

Creating ripple effects far beyond initial investments.



The Black Feminist Fund (BFF)

CLF's early \$2.5M investment **helped leverage \$15M total**, supporting organizations in 44 countries and underscoring BFF's global reach and influence.

NDN Collective

CLF partnered with NDN Collective, which then successfully **distributed more than \$6M in Justice40 funding** to 10 grantees, many of which were then further redistributed to local indigenous community groups. Through this model, grantees also mentor peers navigating federal funding, expanding equitable access, and strengthening the broader ecosystem of Indigenous-led climate justice work.



Building Healthy Communities

Minneapolis, Minnesota

CLF's support helped Black Visions achieve a historic win: In November 2024, the Minneapolis City Council voted to close the HERC trash incinerator by 2027, **ending decades of environmental racism** that exposed predominantly Black communities to respiratory illness and cardiovascular disease.

St. Croix, US Virgin Islands

Through the Hive Fund, local advocates successfully **prevented the Limetree Bay Refinery from reopening** after dangerous emissions threatened low-income Black and Brown neighborhoods.

United States

The Hive Fund

By accessing alternative sources of capital, the **Hive Fund and its partners have secured nearly \$9B in loans and public grants** that are redistributed to frontline grantees. Their efforts helped drive the \$250 million EPA Solar for All award to the Texas coalition and expanded West Street Recovery and Solar United Neighbors' Hub Home pilot, where low-income households received solar panels and batteries.

WHAT WE'RE LEARNING



Trust-based Funding Works

When communities have flexible resources and real decision-making power, they design solutions that are both innovative and enduring.



Early Investment Scales

Small, early-stage grants can spark systemwide change.



Local Leaders Are The Key

From women farmers building resilient livelihoods to youth activists leading conservation and clean-energy campaigns, community-rooted leadership consistently delivers the most effective and equitable climate action.



MOVING FORWARD

The Caribbean and U.S. South face escalating climate threats, but they also hold powerful solutions. CLF partners have proven that community-led initiatives—solar clinics, youth campaigns, pollution-fighting coalitions—are not only innovative and effective, but also scalable.

As climate risks intensify, CLF remains committed to strengthening the infrastructure, leadership, and partnerships needed to help communities build long-term resilience and shape a more just, sustainable future.

