



## PRESS RELEASE

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DORIS DUKE  
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Environment Program

# Foundation Creates \$100 Million Climate Change Initiative

***Five-Year Initiative Seeks to Address Global Warming by  
Accelerating the Deployment and Development of Climate-Friendly Technologies***

**New York, NY** – The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation today announced a \$100 million grant-making initiative to help build a clean-energy economy that can reduce the threat of global climate change to people and the environment.

Focused on practical approaches to reducing carbon emissions, the foundation's five-year Climate Change Initiative will support the development of policies that speed the deployment of existing climate-friendly technologies and the creation of new technologies that can increase energy efficiency and produce clean energy at a large scale.

From carbon pricing to building codes to incentives for efficiency and technological innovation, the foundation has identified technology policy as an area where a major commitment of philanthropic resources can make a big impact on climate change.

"If we continue to build inefficient buildings and polluting power plants – large infrastructure projects that will last for decades – we will lock ourselves into years of high carbon emissions," said Dr. Joan Spero, president of DDCF. "The good news is there are a number of pragmatic policy and technology solutions we can implement now to keep our options open for dealing with climate change in the future."

Added Andrew Bowman, director of the foundation's Climate Change Initiative, "Addressing climate change is a long-term proposition. The foundation's goal is to keep us from losing the game in the first quarter so that we will still be in a position to win in the fourth quarter."

To accomplish this, the foundation has adopted a three-part strategy to award up to \$100 million in grants over the next five years to nonprofit organizations, research institutions and universities working to develop policies and technologies that will build a clean-energy economy. Over the course of the initiative, the foundation will solicit specific grant proposals from organizations to pursue different aspects of its climate strategy.

About two-thirds of the initiative's funds will be spent on efforts to encourage the rapid deployment of existing clean-energy technologies and spur the development of new technology breakthroughs. To complement this policy work, the foundation will also support analytical efforts to design optimal pricing policies for greenhouse gases.

"A precondition for the success of a clean-energy economy will be putting an appropriate price on carbon dioxide," said Spero. "At the same time, a price on carbon won't be sufficient by itself to reduce emissions to manageable levels. That's why we felt compelled to look ahead to the next critical step and have chosen to focus the bulk of our resources on complementary policies related to technology deployment and development."

As the third component of its strategy, the foundation will support efforts to help society adapt to the changing climate. Regardless of whether aggressive actions are taken now to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, gases already in the atmosphere will continue to push temperatures higher, with uncertain impacts on agriculture, forest and freshwater resources, wildlife, public health, coastal management and emergency preparedness. Grants in this area will assess the scale of some of these threats and identify adjustments that can abate the detrimental effects of a warmer planet.

To develop the Climate Change Initiative, the foundation's staff and consultants spent more than 18 months conducting extensive literature reviews and interviews with more than 75 of the country's most prominent scientists, policy analysts and other experts in the climate and energy fields. The foundation will devote funds to the Climate Change Initiative above and beyond the resources it dedicates to grant-making in the performing arts, wildlife conservation, medical research and child abuse prevention.

"It's wonderful that the board of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation has decided to show real leadership in the climate arena," said Hal Harvey, director of the Environment Program at the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, which is the largest private climate and energy funder in the United States. "It's a signal that the philanthropic sector is taking climate change seriously and is willing to invest at a scale that recognizes the magnitude of the problem."

"The more we've learned about climate change, the more we've come to understand that the future health of all the fields we support is in jeopardy if we don't rise to the challenge before us," said Spero. "The Climate Change Initiative reflects our board's commitment to leveraging the role that private philanthropy can play in helping to build a clean-energy economy that works for people and the planet."

*The mission of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation ([www.ddcf.org](http://www.ddcf.org)) is to improve the quality of people's lives through grants supporting the performing arts, wildlife conservation, medical research and the prevention of child maltreatment, and through preservation of the cultural and environmental legacy of Doris Duke's properties.*