



2024 Programming Plan

Our Ambition

The Exchange’s mission is to become the world’s epicenter for transformative climate solutions. The collaboration and combined resources of our academic, corporate, and community partners, coupled with our physical home on Governors Island in New York City, uniquely positions The Exchange to lead on today’s most pressing climate challenges.

We will leverage our unique partnership model to change the way climate solutions are crafted, bringing together experts from technology, finance, academia, government, and advocacy organizations to find common purpose and a commitment to sustained action.

Programming

Programming at The Exchange will focus on climate solutions assessment, incubation, and deployment linked to the built environment; energy; finance; food and water systems; human and ecosystem health; and technology.

Much of our work will focus on applied challenges, seeking to generate climate, economic, and quality of life co-benefits; catalyze new markets; and unlock financing and innovation that will transform essential infrastructural and natural systems in New York and beyond.



To do this, The Exchange will employ a broad set of tools that engage the public and policymakers in new and different ways. Our convening function will be particularly important, leveraging our position at the intersection of a broad array of stakeholders.

Criteria for Exchange Activities

Complex challenges are at the heart of our work, reflecting our partners’ tremendous capacity and New York City’s unique position as a global capital of finance, culture, and media. The Exchange seeks to capitalize on all these assets, ensuring our collective efforts deliver greater impact than what our partners can achieve on their own.

Decision criteria governing our programming include:

1. Initiative will have a **material impact** on individuals, communities, markets, and other complex systems.
2. Issue is best tackled through a **multidisciplinary lens** and a diverse set of Exchange tools.
3. Initiative provides **significant value add** to activities already undertaken by Exchange partners or other key stakeholders, attracting significant partner interest and engagement as a result.
4. Initiative is **feasible** given current and expected resources.

2024 Work Plan

Building to the full potential of The Exchange requires a strategic ramp-up, and 2024 marks the beginning of our long-term growth. Efforts to inform this year’s work plan have included The Exchange’s participation at COP28 in Dubai; an extensive partner listening tour by The Exchange programming team; conversations with New York City officials; partner working groups and convenings; and networking with key global stakeholders.

Based on these efforts, The Exchange has curated a suite of Year 1 programming activities that range in scope, scale, and audience. They also offer a glimpse into what is to come, launching a series of intensive discussions with partners and other key stakeholders about where The Exchange can have the greatest impact. These conversations are expected to lead to a rich and comprehensive set of activities in 2025-2026.

Exchange programming will take two forms this year:

- 1) Green Future Projects pursue solutions to specific climate challenges that The Exchange can lead with support from partners and third parties.
- 2) Exchange Ideas Labs convene partners for meetings on broader climate topics to understand the current landscape and brainstorm roles The Exchange might play within those areas.

Find our latest schedule for this year’s programs and events in Appendix A.

Green Future Projects

Energy, Ecosystem Health, and the Built Environment

The Exchange is in early consultation with City of New York officials regarding support and engagement on the following topics.

- Supporting implementation of Local Law 97 – Buildings account for nearly two-thirds of greenhouse gas emissions in New York City. Local Law 97, enacted in 2019, mandates reductions in carbon emissions from large buildings, aiming to lower emissions by 40% by 2030 and by 80% by 2050, compared to 2005 levels. The law incentivizes energy efficiency and

sustainable building practices. The Exchange is exploring ways to help ensure local workforce capacity and finance is there to support delivery of the green buildings law in New York City.

- Strategies for enhancing coastal resilience around New York City and the metro region – New York City has 520 miles of coastline, making coastal resilience a critical strategy due to the city's vulnerability to sea-level rise, storm surges, and extreme weather events exacerbated by climate change. Since Hurricane Sandy, there has been an extensive amount of work undertaken locally to assess and build coastal resilience, although much remains to be done. Leveraging models, data, and best practice strategies partners are supporting elsewhere. The Exchange will seek to enhance critical coastal resilience efforts. The Exchange has already partnered with several institutions on a NOAA Sea Grant Climate Ready Workforce Program grant application, with results expected in June 2024.
- Stormwater management solutions appropriate for New York City – More than 70% of New York City's land mass is covered by impervious surfaces. As extreme rainfall events increase in frequency and intensity, New York City's stormwater infrastructure is increasingly inadequate for handling the volume of water flowing off these surfaces. Doubling the capacity of the current system would cost more than \$100 billion, far more than local ratepayers can afford. The Exchange will work with the city to explore innovative approaches to address this challenge.

International partners have approached The Exchange to lead a comprehensive market development initiative to address the current lack of secondary market applications for electric vehicle batteries. The absence of these markets is widely considered a key impediment to the broad uptake of electric buses globally. Several startups are beginning to explore secondary market opportunities, but the enabling environment in terms of regulation, testing capacity, and other supply chain concerns is virtually non-existent in most countries. The project will be carried out in partnership with the C40 Cities Network, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development's Green Cities Initiative, researchers, battery manufacturers, and tech entrepreneurs.

Climate Finance

Climate finance levels are growing globally, but not at the speed or scale required to address both near and long-term needs. To address this gap, The Exchange will focus both on capacity building and the development of tailored instruments to meet financing applications. The goal would be to devise approaches that can then be replicated in other contexts, while allowing for tailoring to local circumstances.

- Wall Street Climate Forum for Young Professionals – The Exchange has been invited to take over and expand a professional development initiative established by HSBC in 2023 that trains young banking professionals on climate finance. The Exchange will increase the frequency, scope, and reach of the programming to eventually include other global financial centers. The activity will also lay the foundation for future executive education opportunities that target senior executives across Wall Street.

- Innovating to finance local climate action – The Exchange will work with the City of New York, local financial institutions, and other key stakeholders to explore how to scale and accelerate the flow of finance for investments focused on stormwater management, coastal resiliency, and implementation of Local Law 97.

Climate and Health

Climate and health are crucially interlinked as climate change impacts various aspects of public health, including air and water quality, food security, vector-borne diseases, and extreme weather events. Developing climate solutions is essential for safeguarding human health, reducing health risks, and ensuring the well-being of current and future generations.

- Integrating climate change into educational curricula of health professions – The Exchange will work with medical/nursing/public health/allied health profession schools and related professional licensing exams/processes to ensure these professions have necessary, up to date, and working knowledge of the connections between climate change and human health.
- Urban Climate & Health Assemblies – Inspired by an oft-utilized European engagement model, The Exchange will engage with local community groups and key health care institutions in NYC to host “urban assemblies” aimed at surfacing community perspectives on the most pressing climate-related health challenges facing New Yorkers. The outcomes of this process will inform future health-related Exchange programming, emphasizing specific areas where local communities can take action. We anticipate scaling this activity to other cities or jurisdictions in the coming years.

Education Activities

Education is essential for addressing climate change because it empowers individuals and communities with the knowledge, skills, and awareness needed to understand the causes and effects of climate change, adopt sustainable behaviors, and advocate for effective solutions. Through our educational programming, The Exchange also seeks to help develop the workforce needed to deliver New York City’s Green Economy Action Plan.

- Summer 2024 undergraduate community internship program – Exchange academic partners are sponsoring twelve total students for internships with community partner organizations, providing professional development and experiential learning on climate issues throughout the summer. The program will challenge the cohort of students to expand and assess their perspective on addressing climate issues at the community level.
- AI Innovation Challenge – The Exchange is leveraging IBM’s Call for Code platform and Watson AI technology to host an “Innovation Challenge” for students from participating academic partner institutions. Students will identify promising stormwater management solutions for

NYC that could have other urban applications around the world. The event will have two parts: an on-campus case competition this spring and an in-person presentation in NYC in the fall.

Research Activities

Climate research often fails to engage many audiences because it tends to focus on broad, abstract concepts rather than tangible, localized issues. However, localized research has the potential to significantly impact awareness and activism by addressing specific community needs and providing actionable insights. Our research activities will bridge this gap between abstract theories and practical applications, actively engaging the local community in data collection and analysis wherever possible.

- On-island research –Governors Island offers a unique location for basic environmental, energy, and sustainability research. The Exchange is working with its partners to deploy additional sensing equipment to allow researchers around the world to expand their research programs to cover conditions on Governors Island.
- Community-engaged research workshop – Developing and operationalizing the Exchange’s commitment to community-engaged research is critical to the success of our operating model. The Exchange will convene our academic, corporate, and community partners to explore how to elevate community-based voices most effectively in our programming.

Climate Week NYC 2024

The Exchange is working with the Trust for Governors Island to identify space on Governors Island to host panel discussions, guest lectures, and high-level events for Climate Week NYC in September and beyond. This programming is still evolving, but will include:

- Events that showcase The Exchange’s activities and highlight areas of partner and public interest, such as the convergence of climate and AI.
- A climate tech showcase to profile climate tech entrepreneurs and startups from incubators at our partner institutions, providing a platform for promising new ideas and creating networking opportunities for entrepreneurs, researchers, and investors.

Other Special Events

- The Exchange will host a meeting of the Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action (an initiative co-hosted by the World Bank and the IMF) in the margins of UNGA.
- At the request of *The Lancet Commission on 21st-Century Global Threats to Health*, the Exchange will convene a closed-door convening with top global climate leaders to discuss the climate-related outcomes of the Commission’s report due to be published in 2025.

Climate Ideas Labs



Partnerships are essential for leveraging diverse expertise, resources, and networks to achieve collective goals more effectively and sustainably. Through Exchange Ideas Labs, The Exchange will host closed-door convenings aimed at steering the `partners and select renowned climate experts will gather to brainstorm current issues, research, trends, resources, and potential areas for future Exchange activities.

Background notes are issued by The Exchange team before the meetings to lay the grounds for the discussion.

- Example: convening around climate-related applications of artificial intelligence – The Exchange held its first discussion on this topic in March 2024. The Exchange will host additional Ideas Labs on AI this year to refine the areas for Exchange activities. Current thinking includes aggregating datasets to train models focused on climate-relevant urban research.
- Other Ideas Labs in progress for 2024 and early 2025 include:
 - Climate tech incubation
 - K-12 climate literacy
 - NYC green economy workforce development
 - Coastal resilience and stormwater management
 - Climate finance
 - Blue economy
 - Climate and health
 - Climate-induced migration
 - Climate arts & culture programming
 - Applications for community science in Exchange programming

APPENDIX A
2024 Activity Calendar (current as of March 2024)

Month	Event or Program
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exchange Ideas Lab: AI for Climate
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exchange Ideas Lab: AI for Climate (Part 2) “Meet The New York Climate Exchange” booth on Governors Island Climate communications programming with SBU’s Alda Center at AMNH EarthFest
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exchange Ideas Lab: Secondary Markets for EV Batteries Wall St Climate Forum for Young Professionals: Kickoff networking event “Meet The New York Climate Exchange” on Governors Island
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exchange Ideas Lab: Workforce Development for Local Law 97 (<i>this may change based on conversation with NYC gov</i>)
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exchange Ideas Lab: Coastal Resilience and Stormwater Management
August	<i>Preparations for Climate Week, COP29, and Q3/Q4 programming</i>
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exchange Ideas Lab: Climate Finance Climate Week NYC – full week of programming to be scheduled, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wall St Forum for Young Professionals: Annual Forum event AI and Climate Event (tbc)
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exchange Ideas Lab: Climate and Health
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wall St Climate Forum for Young Professionals: Networking talk on COP29 COP29 – Exchange team will host programming at COP29, possibly in a dedicated pavilion and meeting space to be constructed for Exchange partner use.