

Coffee Sustainability Fellowship Application

Name	
Email	
Address	
Phone Number	
Date of Birth	
Social Media Handles (optional)	

About The Chain Collaborative

The Chain Collaborative (TCC)'s mission is to co-create opportunities and strengthen capacities for community-led change in the coffee sector. Through our Community-Led Development (CLD) Incubator program, we build relationships with emerging and established organizations in coffee-growing regions of Latin America and East & Central Africa, providing access to often first-time funding for their community-driven initiatives. In addition to our CLD Incubator, we consult for impact-driven organizations and companies, train coffee professionals in sustainability through virtual coursework, and innovate across the value stream via special collaborations.

Sustainability Education at TCC

We believe that a deeper understanding of sustainability in the coffee sector can inspire a greater focus on social, environmental, and economic justice. Through our course offerings, our goal is to promote a shared understanding of the complexities of sustainability in the value stream, through both practical and theoretical education. As part of this mission, we offer the four course modules of the [Specialty Coffee Association \(SCA\)'s Coffee Sustainability Program](#) to coffee and development professionals worldwide. In addition, we provide coursework independently and in collaboration with other institutions, such as [Coffee Knowledge Hub](#).

The TCC Coffee Sustainability Fellowship

The TCC Coffee Sustainability Fellowship provides the opportunity for Fellows to work alongside TCC on our community-led development and consulting projects. Fellows will also learn how to engage in locally-led development in the coffee sector from an anti-top-down and anti-colonial

perspective. In addition, Fellows have the opportunity to complete coursework with TCC, including all four modules — Coffee Sustainability Foundation; Climate & Coffee; Compliance, Governance & Reporting; and Coffee Economics — of the SCA Coffee Sustainability Program at no cost. Over the course of the Fellowship, Fellows are expected to work alongside TCC for 8-10 hours a week.

Benefits to Fellow:

- Work experience alongside TCC, our Community-Led Development Incubator participants, and other supply stream partners;
- TCC mentorship throughout the program via meetings with TCC staff;
- Recognition as a TCC Fellow via social media and other platforms;
- Taking coursework with TCC, including the Coffee Sustainability Foundation; Climate & Coffee; Compliance, Governance & Reporting; and Coffee Economics modules of the SCA Coffee Sustainability Program at no cost (course fees and SCA exam fees are covered by the Fellowship).

Program Requirements and Eligibility:

- Ability to work 8-10 hours a week in support of TCC programs in collaboration with our partners during typical working hours (i.e., not only nights and weekends);
- Ability to offer a 10-month commitment from mid-February 2027 through mid-December 2027;
- Demonstrated interest in and support of community-led development in the coffee sector;
- Interest in completing coursework with TCC;
- At least 21 years of age;
- BA or equivalent preferred.

Application Process:

- Send application by November 15, 2026 (complete all questions below and submit requested documents);
- Up to two rounds of remote video interviews with TCC staff in December 2026 and January 2027;
- Final selection by January 21, 2027.

Application Questions

Please answer all questions below, in this same document. Answers should be no more than 300 words in length. Please be incredibly mindful of the use of AI; we are much more likely to accept applicants who have not used AI to complete their application. We want to hear your thoughts and opinions, even if they contain grammatical errors; we are already aware of how AI answers these questions.

1. How did you hear about the TCC Coffee Sustainability Fellowship? What inspired you to apply for this Fellowship?
2. What do you think are the merits and shortcomings of the current conversation and practices surrounding sustainability in the coffee industry today?
3. How do you envision this Fellowship supporting your future career in or outside of coffee, if at all?
4. What parts of the coffee sector have you worked in, if at all? Name one sustainability challenge you see in each of the parts of the sector that you have worked in.
5. Do you have any international or remote working experiences? If so, what were they, and what were some of the most challenging aspects of the experiences? How did you overcome them?
6. What are the skills you think you could bring to this Fellowship and to TCC's partners?
7. What type of volunteer work have you been involved in, or what networks have you been involved in, if any? Have you taken on leadership positions in those networks? (These volunteer opportunities or networks can be inside or outside of the coffee industry.)
8. Name one person you admire for their work in sustainability, inside or outside of the coffee industry, and explain why.

Application References

Type	Professional
Name & Title	
Contact information	
Relationship to Fellow	

Type	Academic
Name & Title	
Contact information	
Relationship to Fellow	

Type	Volunteer
Name & Title	
Contact information	
Relationship to Fellow	

Additional Required Documents

- Resume or CV
- One letter of recommendation from an above reference

Send the completed application along with the additional documents requested above to hello@thechaincollaborative.org by November 15, 2026. Use the subject line "Your Name – TCC Coffee Sustainability Fellowship Application." Should you have any questions about the Fellowship, you may address them to the same email.