SUBLIME
SDGs

IMPACT HUB

The **Sublime** Toolkit: empowering youth for climate justice

Credits

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This publication is the printable offline version of the interactive online toolkit, which can be explored at: https://toolkit.sublime-sdgs.eu/

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About

The purpose of the toolkit is to act
as a self-learning source for individual youth
who aim to co-design and drive community actions
for climate justice.

To navigate the toolkit in a more interactive way, please visit the online
version at: https://toolkit.sublime-sdgs.eu/

Why

In 2015, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) gave us a
comprehensive plan for a sustainable world by 2030. Although we have
accumulated much knowledge about the climate crisis, poverty, public
health, and other social ills communicated in the SDGs, we seem to lack
the inner capacity to deal with our increasingly complex environment and
challenges. What has been largely missing from current strategies is a keen
insight into which abilities, qualities or skills we need to develop among
individuals, groups and organizations that play crucial roles in working to
fulfil the SDGs. Without a foundational shift in human values and leadership
capacities, external solutions to our global challenges may be limited, too
slow or short-lived.

How

The Inner Development Goals (IDG) framework, an open-source initiative
committed to fostering inner development for more sustainable futures,
guides this toolkit's learning journey—moving from self-awareness
to actionable, community-based climate leadership. This process follows
an 'inside-out' approach, encouraging youth to first cultivate a foundation
of inner climate consciousness. Through self-development activities, users

explore personal values, develop critical thinking skills, and reflect on their individual role within the climate movement. As the journey progresses, youth expand their awareness from personal growth to interpersonal engagement, strengthening empathy and fostering collaboration. Ultimately, this pathway culminates in a 'bottom-up' approach, empowering youth to design and implement community-level initiatives for climate justice.

Rooted in interdisciplinary research, the IDG framework consists of five dimensions (Being, Thinking, Relating, Collaborating and Acting) and 23 skills of human inner growth and development, which are reflected throughout the toolkit's activities.

Being	**Thinking**	**Relating**	**Collaborating**	**Acting**
Relationship to self	Cognitive Skills	Caring for Others and the World	Social Skills	Enabling Change

Across its chapters, the toolkit offers a progression from personal awareness to collective action. It begins with foundational concepts such as inner development and critical climate consciousness, then guides users through communication, collaboration, advocacy planning, and systems thinking. The later chapters focus on youth-led campaigns, policy engagement, and building inclusive partnerships for change. Each section combines practical tools, reflective prompts, and real-world case studies to inspire meaningful, transformative climate action.

The toolkit is organized in 7 chapters complemented by a library of additional resources.

Me and I

Navigating my journey to critical climate consciousness

01

This chapter is the first step in engaging youth at an individual level through a series of self-development activities enriched with helpful links and relevant resources for further reading. Supporting self-paced learning and growth toward critical climate consciousness by connecting with the IDG dimensions of Being and Thinking, these activities and resources guide users in:

- Building self-awareness
- Reflecting on personal beliefs
- Nurturing an unlearning-relearning mindset
- Developing critical thinking skills aligned with climate-conscious values

This journey fosters a deeper sense of personal responsibility and a growing understanding of one's role in the climate movement.

While these activities are designed for individual reflection, users may adapt them for a group experience if appropriate. Group adaptations can enhance collective learning, allow for shared insights, and deepen the sense of community around climate-conscious actions. Dedicated group activities are included in the following chapters, enabling participants to engage collaboratively and strengthen their collective climate-consciousness and climate-action journey.

The activities are complemented by relevant links and further reading suggestions.

Critical Consciousness through Reflective Journaling

Objective

To cultivate integrity and authenticity in relation to climate action, encouraging participants to align their personal values with actions that positively impact the environment.

Steps to take

01. Set the scene

- Visit the Bigger Than Us: It All Starts With You – Activist Stories webpage, which features short videos of the heroes from a documentary.
- Explore the stories of Rene, Melati, Mohamad, Mary, Winnie, Xiuhtezcatl, and Memory, as they share their experiences of answering the call to activism. These videos highlight the joys, challenges, and deeply personal aspects of committing to a cause and community.
- Reflect on the core question they address: What prompts you to get involved?

02. Reflecting on inspiration

After watching, take a moment to reflect on the stories. Use prompts like:

- What motivated this young changemaker to take action?
- What challenges did they face, and how did they overcome them?
- How do their actions align with their values?
- What lessons from their journey resonate with your life and values?

03. Prompt 1: Identifying your values:

Think about the values that guide your own life. Write down three core values you feel are most important to you (e.g., responsibility, resilience, equity, creativity). Reflect:

- How do these values show up in your daily decisions and actions?
- Do they align with your beliefs about climate action and sustainability?

04. Prompt 2: Drawing parallels

Compare your values and actions to those of the young activists you watched. Ask yourself:

- What similarities or differences do you notice?
- How do their stories inspire you to take more aligned and meaningful action?

Write a short paragraph describing how you can draw from their examples to strengthen your own inner compass.

05. Prompt 3: Setting intentions for climate-conscious action

Based on your reflections, write down two or three actions you can take to align your daily life more closely with your values and climate-conscious goals. Examples might include:

- Volunteering for a local environmental group.
- Advocating for a policy or initiative in your community.
- Committing to sustainable consumption habits like reducing waste or eating locally.

06. Final reflection

- Revisit your notes and write a short commitment statement that encapsulates your inner compass and how it will guide your actions for climate justice.

- Example: "I commit to living with purpose and resilience, aligning my values of equity and sustainability with my daily actions to contribute to a healthier planet and a fairer future."

Outcome

By engaging with the inspiring stories of young activists, this activity will help you identify and strengthen your inner compass. You'll gain clarity on your core values and their connection to climate action, empowering you to take meaningful steps toward a sustainable future.

Relevant links

Bigger Than Us: It All Starts With You

Further reading

"This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate" by Naomi Klein

Mirror of Integrity

Objective

To cultivate integrity and authenticity in relation to climate action, encouraging participants to align their personal values with actions that positively impact the environment.

Steps to take

01. Preparation

Choose a mirror in a quiet space and bring a notebook and pen. Start with a few moments of stillness, focusing on your breath, clearing your mind, and centering yourself.

02. Step 1: The Mirror reflection

Look into the mirror for two minutes. Reflect on your role in the global climate movement by asking yourself:

- Am I taking actions that reflect my commitment to a sustainable world?
- How authentic are my daily choices in relation to the values I hold about the environment?

03. Step 2: Identify your eco-values

Write down three values you believe are critical for climate action (e.g., responsibility, respect for nature, future generations).
For each value, describe a recent action or choice that aligns with it, no matter how small. Examples could be opting for reusable bags, discussing climate issues with peers, or minimizing energy use.

04. Step 3: Recognizing climate contradictions

Reflect on a moment when your actions didn't fully align with these eco-values. For example, buying fast fashion, using single-use plastics, or not recycling. Write down:

- The situation and why you acted that way.
- How you felt afterward and what prevented you from taking a more climate-conscious path.
- How you might approach this situation differently next time to stay true to your values.

05. Step 4: Create a climate integrity mantra

Based on your reflections, create a mantra that links your values to climate action. Write this mantra on a sticky note or card and place it somewhere you'll see daily.

06. Step 5: Personal climate pledge

Set a specific action goal for the coming month to align your daily choices with climate integrity. Examples could include committing to reducing waste, choosing plant-based meals, or participating in a community clean-up. Write down how this goal reinforces your values and contributes to a healthier planet.

07. Final Step: Weekly mirror check-in for climate action

At the end of each week, revisit your mantra and reflect on your eco- actions. Ask:

- What climate-positive actions did I take this week?
- Where did I succeed, and where can I improve?
- How did living my eco-values make me feel more authentic?

Outcome

By connecting personal integrity to climate action, this activity helps youth see environmental impact as a reflection of their values. Weekly mirror check-ins build a sense of accountability, creating a lasting link between authenticity and meaningful contributions to climate action.

Relevant links

"The Power of Vulnerability" by Brené Brown (TEDxHouston)

Further reading

"The Four Agreements" by Don Miguel Ruiz

Becoming Nature: A Sound Immersion Experience

Objective

To foster a deep sense of connection with the natural world, moving from seeing oneself as separate from nature ("Me and Nature") to recognizing oneself as an integral part of it ("Me as Nature") through a mindful, immersive experience with the sounds of nature.

Steps to take

01. Preparation

If you live close to nature, choose an area where you can safely walk such as a forest path, park, or open field.

For those in urban areas or unable to go outdoors, use headphones and find a quiet space indoors where you can listen undisturbed. You can use a nature sounds playlist on Spotify or YouTube with sounds of birds, rivers, wind, and other natural elements.

(Suggested playlist: Search for "Nature Sounds Meditation" or "Birdsong and Forest Sounds")

02. Step 1: Setting an intention

Before starting your walk or listening session, take a moment to set an intention: To experience nature not as an outsider, but as a participant. Take a few deep breaths, and close your eyes, bringing awareness to your body and breath.

03. Step 2: Sound immersion (10-15 minutes)

If walking in nature:

- Begin walking slowly and silently, focusing entirely on the sounds around you: the wind in the trees, bird songs, rustling leaves, or flowing water.
- With each sound, imagine it as part of a shared ecosystem, one in which you too belong. Let go of any boundaries between you and the sounds; visualize yourself as part of the landscape.

If listening indoors:

- Close your eyes and imagine each sound as if it surrounds you. Feel the birds, rivers, and leaves not just as distant sounds but as vibrations that resonate within you.
- Visualize each sound as if it comes from within, embodying you in a natural rhythm and inviting you to feel as part of the living world.

04. Step 3: Dissolving the boundary (5-10 minutes)

As you listen, focus on softening any mental boundaries between "me" and "nature."

Ask yourself: Can I feel the bird's song as an expression of my own voice? Can I experience the rustling of leaves as a movement in my own being?

Imagine that these sounds are not separate; they are as much a part of you as your heartbeat and breath.

05. Step 4: Journaling or drawing

After the experience, take a few minutes to reflect. Consider the following prompts

- How did it feel to let go of the separation between "me" and "nature"?

- What sounds stood out, and why? Did they evoke any emotions, memories, or sensations?
- Describe how your perception of "self" shifted during the activity.

If inspired, draw or write about your experience. Use images or words that capture the sense of being part of nature rather than apart from it.

06. Step 5: Daily practice reminder

Consider incorporating a small daily reminder of this experience into your routine. This could be a brief nature sound meditation, a moment of outdoor mindfulness, or simply observing a natural element (like a tree or a cloud) as part of your own being.

Outcome

This activity guides participants toward
an embodied experience of "Me as Nature."
By dissolving boundaries and immersing in nature's
sounds, youth can deepen their appreciation
of the natural world and foster a genuine sense
of belonging within it.

This shift in perspective nurtures a more profound
commitment to environmental care as participants
recognize that protecting nature is also protecting
themselves.

Relevant links

"Sounds of the Forest – Global Forest Soundmap"

"An Introduction to Mindful Nature Connection", a free introductory course
offering videos, practice audios, and a manual to help you cultivate
a deeper, mindful connection to nature.

"The Wheel of Awareness", by Dr Dan Siegel

Further reading

"The Overstory" by Richard Powers
This novel is about nine Americans whose unique life experiences
with trees bring them together to address the destruction of forests.
It's a reflection on the importance of ecological interdependence, helping
us to connect to nature, the larger environment and ultimate ourselves.

Cultivating Presence Through Movement and Observation

Objective

To foster a sense of presence and attentiveness by engaging in mindful movement and active observation, encouraging participants to connect with their surroundings and climate consciousness.

Steps to take

01. Preparation

Find an outdoor space or a room with natural elements (e.g., a window view or plants). Wear comfortable clothing that allows for easy movement.

02. Mindful movement exercise

Begin by standing still and taking a few deep breaths to centre yourself.

Slowly start moving—walk, stretch, or sway gently. Focus on each movement and how your body interacts with the space around you.

Spend 5 minutes moving mindfully, paying attention to the sensations in your body and the textures, sounds, and sights in your environment.

03. Active observation

Pause your movement and choose a single natural element to observe closely (e.g., a leaf, a rock, or a patch of sky).

Spend 3-5 minutes studying it in detail—its texture, colours, patterns, and how it changes under light or touch.

04. Integration

Reflect on how the practice of presence counterbalances the tendency to project into the future or agonise over outcomes that feel too vast to influence.

Consider how staying grounded in the present moment empowers you to take meaningful, small steps without being paralysed by the enormity of the climate challenge.

Share with a group or write individually about the role presence plays in sustaining motivation and clarity in long-term efforts.

Outcome

Participants will develop greater presence and attentiveness, enabling them to connect more deeply with their environment and approach challenges with clarity and focus.

Relevant links

"Lao Tzu – The Art of Not Trying" by After Skool

A short introductory video on Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu who is considered the founder of Taoism and the art of not trying.

Further reading

"The Nature Fix" by Florence Williams

Unlearning the World Map

Objective

To encourage participants to reflect on how their worldview has been shaped by cultural tools such as maps, fostering an unlearning and relearning mindset to challenge assumptions and embrace new perspectives.

Steps to take

01. Preparation

Find a printed or digital version of the Mercator projection world map and an alternative map projection, such as the Peters projection.
Have a notebook or device for reflections.

02. Compare the maps

Spend 5 minutes studying the Mercator projection. Note how the sizes and placements of countries influence your perception of their importance or dominance.

Look at the Peters projection (or another equal-area map). Reflect on how the sizes and proportions differ. Ask:

- How does this new perspective challenge your assumptions about the world?
- What does this reveal about the way tools like maps shape our understanding of reality?

03. Unlearning and relearning exercise

- Write down three assumptions or beliefs about the world that might have been influenced by the Mercator map (e.g., "Northern countries are larger and more powerful," or "Africa is small compared to other continents").
- For each assumption, write a new perspective or insight gained from observing the alternative map.

04. Integration

Reflect on how this exercise relates to climate action. Consider how unlearning outdated or biased worldviews can help you embrace more equitable, inclusive, and effective approaches to global challenges.

Write one action or commitment you will take to integrate this new perspective into your climate advocacy or learning journey.

Outcome

Participants will develop a mindset that challenges ingrained assumptions and fosters openness to new perspectives, enhancing their ability to approach complex global challenges with curiosity and adaptability.

Relevant links

"From Babylon to Google Earth: How Maps Shape our Worldview", Gopal Shah, TEDxBoulder

Further reading

"Think Again: The Power of Knowing What You Don't Know", Adam Grant

Unmasking Climate Fake News

Objective

To enhance critical thinking by identifying and challenging misinformation about climate-related issues, with a specific focus on local media and community discussions.

Steps to take

01. Understanding fake news

Begin by reflecting on the concept of fake news and its impact on public understanding of climate change. Consider examples from local or regional media that participants are familiar with.

02. Collect examples

Research recent climate-related news articles or social media posts in your city or community. Bring examples that seem suspicious or controversial. Examples might include exaggerated claims about climate policies or misinformation about local environmental projects.

03. Evaluate sources

Use the following questions to assess the reliability of the news:

- Who published this information? Are they credible?
- What evidence is provided to support the claims?
- Is there a clear bias or agenda?

04. Group discussion

Share findings with others and discuss:

- What patterns do we notice in fake news about climate issues?
- How does misinformation shape public attitudes and actions?

05. Action plan

Develop a strategy to counter fake news in your local context. This might include creating a social media post to raise awareness or sharing verified information with peers.

Outcome

Participants will strengthen their ability to critically assess climate-related information and take proactive steps to address misinformation in their communities.

Relevant links

"The best stats you've ever seen" by Hans Rosling (TED Talk)

Fact-checking misinformation

Further reading

"Merchants of Doubt" by Naomi Oreskes and Erik M. Conway

"Cranky Uncle vs. Climate Change book" by Skeptical Science

Mapping Complexity –
A Personal Exploration

Objective

To deepen your understanding of complexity by exploring how interconnected elements of a climate-related system influence one another, while reflecting on the roles of different stakeholders and their interests.

Steps to take

Part 1: Building your System Puzzle

1. **Choose a Central Theme:**

- Select a climate-related issue that resonates with you. For example:
  - Deforestation, water scarcity, or urban pollution.

2. **Create your puzzle cards:**

- On small pieces of paper or index cards, write down 8–10 elements related to your chosen issue. Use these examples for inspiration:
  - Forests, Water Supply, Energy Use, Agriculture, Biodiversity, Waste Management, Urban Development, Community Health, Climate Change.
- Add a short description for each card, focusing on how it connects to the central issue.

3. **Map interconnections:**

- Lay out the cards on a flat surface or a digital board.

- Start by drawing lines between cards that have a clear relationship. Use arrows to indicate the direction of influence. For example:
    - "Forests → Water Supply" (Forests help maintain water cycles).
    - "Energy Use → Climate Change" (Burning fossil fuels increases CO2 levels).
- Add notes along the connections to explain the relationships.

4. **Explore a Disruption:**

- Imagine a specific event or action related to your system, such as:
    - "A government policy bans deforestation."
    - "A drought severely reduces water availability."
- Reflect on how this event might ripple through your system.
  For example:
    - "A drought affects agriculture, which increases food insecurity and impacts community health."

Part 2: Adding Stakeholders and Interests

1. **Identify Stakeholders:**

- List 5–6 stakeholders connected to your issue. Examples:
    - Local communities, businesses, environmental organizations, farmers, scientists, policymakers.

2. **Map Their Interests:**

- Write down each stakeholder's priorities or concerns regarding the system. For instance:
    - Farmers: Depend on water supply but may contribute to soil degradation.
    - Environmental Organizations: Advocate for forest preservation to protect biodiversity and water cycles.

3. **Overlay Stakeholders onto Your Map:**

- Place each stakeholder's card near the relevant system element(s).

- Draw lines to represent their influence or dependence.

4. **Identify Conflicts and Synergies:**

- Reflect on where interests overlap or conflict. For example:
  - "Farmers and environmentalists both value water but may have different priorities for its use."

Reflection and Application:

1. **Analyze Your Map:**

- Look for patterns, leverage points, and key areas of influence.
  Reflect on questions like:
  - "Which element has the most connections, and why is it significant?"
  - "Where could small changes create large impacts?"

2. **Write a Short Reflection:**

- Summarize your insights about the complexity of the system.
  Use prompts like:
  - "What did I learn about the interconnections in this system?"
  - "How can understanding these dynamics help me make informed decisions or advocate for solutions?"

3. **Personal Action Plan:**

- Choose one leverage point where you believe individual or collective action could make a difference. Outline one step you could take to contribute to positive change.

Outcome

This activity will help you visualize and understand the complexity of climate systems, enhancing your ability to think holistically and identify actionable pathways for change.

Note: This activity is highly adaptable and can be effectively used in a group setting to enhance collaboration and collective understanding. When done as a group, participants can contribute diverse perspectives to the system map, leading to richer discussions and a deeper exploration of interconnections. Group dynamics can also foster dialogue about shared values, leverage points, and actionable solutions, making it a powerful tool for collective learning and decision-making.

Relevant links

"Climate Leadership & Systems Thinking: Climate Action & TransformativeChange (Episode Two)" by the Institution of Environmental Sciences

Further reading

"The Systems View of Life" by Fritjof Capra and Pier Luigi Luisi

Navigating Polarities in Climate Action

Objective

To enhance your ability to recognize and manage polarities—situations with interdependent yet opposing forces—within the context of climate action, fostering a balanced and nuanced perspective.

Steps to take

01. Understanding polarities

Reflect on the concept of polarities, where two interdependent opposites coexist and create tension. Consider local examples of climate-related polarities, such as:

- Green spaces vs. urban development in your neighborhood.
- Balancing tourism and environmental preservation in your town.

02. Identifying personal biases

Reflect on your own inclinations toward either side of these polarities. Ask yourself:

- Do I prioritize green spaces over development, or vice versa?

03. Case study analysis

Select a real-world local scenario that exemplifies a climate-related polarity. For instance:

- A community debate about building a new infrastructure vs. preserving green areas.

Analyze the situation by considering:

- The benefits and drawbacks of each side.
- The interdependence between factors.

04. Developing both/and solutions

Brainstorm approaches that integrate both poles. For example:

- Propose solutions like green roofs or sustainable infrastructure.

Reflect on how adopting a both/and mindset can lead to more sustainable and inclusive solutions.

05. Reflection

Document your insights on:

- How recognizing and managing polarities can enhance your effectiveness in climate action.
- The importance of balancing competing demands in complex environmental issues.

Outcome

By completing this activity, you will develop the ability to identify and navigate polarities in climate action, leading to more balanced and effective decision-making.

Relevant links

"The Danger of a Single Story" by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (TED Talk)

Further reading

"Both/And Thinking: Embracing Creative Tensions to Solve Your ToughestProblems" by Wendy Smith and Marianne Lewis

Sense-Making Through Patterns and Storytelling

Objective

To develop your ability to identify patterns in complex data or situations and use them to construct meaningful and actionable stories, especially in the context of climate change.

Steps to take

01. Observe and Gather Data

Choose a topic or situation related to climate change (e.g., changes in local weather patterns, ocean acidification, or renewable energy adoption).

Gather qualitative and quantitative data through observation, articles, reports, or personal experiences. Use a notebook to document key observations.

02. Identify Patterns

Review your notes and identify recurring themes or patterns. For example:

- Are there connections between increasing rainfall and flooding in urban areas?
- How do waste disposal habits influence local biodiversity?

03. Structure the Unknown

Create a mind map or visual representation of the patterns you discovered. Link cause-and-effect relationships or group similar themes together. This step helps you structure what initially seemed overwhelming or unclear.

04. Craft Your Story

Develop a short narrative based on the patterns you identified. Consider:

- What is the main message or insight from your findings?
- Who is the audience, and how can this story inspire action
  or awareness?
- Use specific examples or analogies to make the story engaging
  and relatable.

05. Share and Reflect

Share your story with a friend, colleague, or online community.
Observe their reactions and feedback.

Reflect on how the process of identifying patterns and creating a story
helped clarify the complexity of the issue.

Outcome

You will enhance your ability to make sense of complex situations, structure the unknown, and effectively communicate insights through storytelling, empowering yourself and others to take informed action.

Relevant links

"How Trees Talk to Each Other" by Suzanne Simard (TED Talk)

Further reading

"Emergent Strategy: Shaping Change, Changing Worlds"
by Adrienne Maree Brown

Visioning the Future Through Time Capsules

Objective

To cultivate a long-term perspective and envision a sustainable future by reflecting on personal and collective aspirations, creating a "time capsule" to document and commit to these visions.

Steps to take

01. Set the context

Imagine it is 2050, and humanity has successfully addressed major climate challenges. Visualize the world you hope to see. Reflect on questions like:

- What does a day in 2050 look like for you or your community?
- What systems or practices have changed to create a sustainable future?
- What role did you play in achieving this vision?

02. Create Your time capsule

Gather materials to create a symbolic time capsule. This can be a physical box, a digital folder, or even a notebook. Include the following components:

- **Letter to future self:** Write a letter to yourself in 2050 describing your vision for a sustainable future and the steps you intend to take to contribute to it.
- **Future headlines:** Imagine headlines from 2050 that reflect major milestones (e.g., "Global Carbon Emissions Reach Net Zero" or "Community-Led Renewable Energy Powers Entire Cities").

- **Personal commitments:** List actions you will take in the next 5-10 years to align with your vision (e.g., "Advocate for renewable energy policies," "Reduce personal waste by 50%").
- **Symbols or mementos:** Add symbolic items or images that represent your aspirations (e.g., a seed for growth, a photo of a green landscape)

03. Seal the capsule

Close and label your time capsule with the date it will be opened (e.g., "Open on 1 January 2050"). Store it in a safe place or create a digital reminder to revisit it.

04. Reflections

Reflect on the process of envisioning the future:

- How did imagining a positive outcome influence your mindset?
- What challenges might arise in achieving your vision, and how can you stay committed?

Consider how this long-term perspective can shape your decisions and actions today.
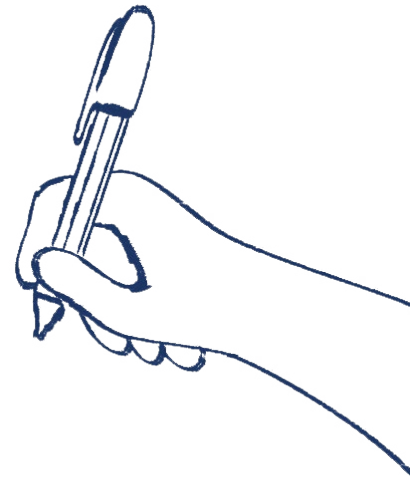
Outcome

By creating a time capsule, you will clarify your vision for the future, strengthen your commitment to long-term goals, and cultivate the mindset needed to navigate challenges with optimism and purpose.

Relevant links

Envisioning Climate Futures

Further reading

"Designing Your Life: How to Build a Well-Lived, Joyful Future"
 by Bill Burnett and Dave Evans

Me and You

Engaging with the Other

02

Building on the personal insights gained in Chapter 1, this chapter encourages youth to engage meaningfully with others through the IDG dimension of **Relating**. Here, "Other" extends beyond people to include all living beings—other species, plants, trees, and ecosystems. This chapter's focus is on developing qualities foundational to forming authentic connections, including humility, appreciation, connectedness, empathy, and compassion. These qualities are essential for a climate-conscious perspective that respects diverse perspectives and values the interconnectedness of all life.

In this chapter, youth will explore practices that deepen their ability to:

- **Foster humility** by recognizing their place within a larger ecological and social system, understanding that humans are part of a vast, interconnected web of life.
- **Cultivate appreciation** for the contributions, ideas, and existence of others, including the non-human world.
- **Enhance connectedness** with people and the natural world, reinforcing a sense of belonging with all life forms.
- **Practice empathy and compassion**, building sensitivity to the experiences, perspectives, and needs of other beings, encouraging an eco-centric mindset.

These relational qualities empower youth to build strong bonds with all aspects of their environment, forming the foundation for an inclusive approach to climate engagement that honors the contributions of all species and ecosystems.

Each activity can be adapted for group participation, encouraging users to create community connections and engage in shared learning experiences. Later chapters will introduce group-focused activities that further strengthen this collective journey toward climate action. The activities are complemented by relevant links and further reading suggestions.

By emphasizing relational skills, this chapter guides youth to expand their self-awareness outward, fostering connections with other people, species, and nature itself. Through empathy, humility, and appreciation, youth gain essential qualities for building a collaborative and compassionate approach to climate justice.

Celebrating Connections

Objective

To foster a deeper sense of gratitude and connection by creating a reflective journey that acknowledges the people, ancestors, and natural elements shaping your life.

Steps to take

01. Choose your path

Identify a location for your journey. This could be a walk in a park, a visit to a historical site, or exploring a meaningful spot in your city or neighborhood. Focus on areas that are connected to local history, culture, or nature.

02. Start with grounding

Begin your journey by pausing for a moment of stillness. Take three deep breaths to ground yourself and tune in to your surroundings. Reflect on your intention: to recognize and appreciate the connections that enrich your life.

03. Appreciation in three layers

Layer 1: People around you
Reflect on someone in your life who has positively influenced you. Plan an encounter to thank them, or if they're unavailable, write them a heartfelt note.

Layer 2: Honoring your roots
Reflect on your cultural heritage or traditions linked to your city or region. Consider a symbolic act to honor these roots, like visiting a historical site

or sharing a story.

Layer 3: Gratitude for nature
Observe your environment carefully. Choose one natural element, like a tree or river, that plays a significant role in your local ecosystem. Take a photo or sketch it to remember this moment.

04. Integrate your reflections

Sit quietly and reflect on how these connections make you feel. Consider how you can carry this sense of appreciation into your daily interactions and choices.

05. Closing your journey

Conclude your journey by simply holding the memories of the experience. If you feel inspired, share your reflections verbally with someone close to you, extending the circle of appreciation further.

Outcome

You will deepen your awareness of the interconnections in your life—with others, your heritage, and the natural world—fostering a greater sense of gratitude and relational harmony.

Relevant links

Gratitude Practices

Further reading

"The Gratitude Project: How the Science of Thankfulness Can Rewire Our Brains for Resilience, Optimism, and the Greater Good"

Story Circles
of Climate Connection

Objective

To explore and share personal stories that highlight the interconnectedness of humanity, nature, and climate action, drawing inspiration from global narratives that reflect universal themes of belonging and interdependence.

Steps to take

01. Engage with Climate Stories

Visit the Global Oneness Project and choose a story, film, or photo essay that resonates with the theme of climate action and interconnectedness.

Reflect on how the story's narrative connects with your own experiences of acting for the environment or feeling the impact of climate change.

02. Gather a Circle

Invite a group of friends, family, or community members to a gathering where each person will share a story about a moment when they felt deeply connected to the environment or inspired to take climate action.

Provide a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere—perhaps outdoors or in a cozy, shared space.

03. Share and Listen

Begin the circle by sharing your reflections from the story you explored on

the Global Oneness Project. Highlight key themes or moments that inspired you.

Invite each person to share their own story. Encourage the group to listen actively, without interrupting, and to notice common themes or unique perspectives.

04. Reflect on Patterns

After everyone has shared, discuss as a group:

- What threads or patterns emerge from these stories?
- How do these moments of connection shape your understanding of the need for climate action?

Relate these reflections to the broader ecosystem and global climate systems.

05. Create a Symbol of Climate Connection

Collaboratively create a symbolic representation of the stories shared. This could be:

- A visual collage made from drawings or words contributed by each participant.
- A group poem, where each person adds a line inspired by their story.
- A shared action, such as planting a tree or creating a climate-related community pledge.

06. Carry the Stories Forward

Encourage each participant to reflect on how these stories and connections can inspire their daily lives and actions for the planet. For example:

- Reducing waste, engaging in advocacy, or supporting local conservation efforts.

Outcome

Through storytelling and shared reflection, you will deepen your sense of connectedness to others, the natural world, and the need for collective climate action, fostering a stronger commitment to sustainability.

Relevant links

The Global Oneness Project – Stories of Interconnection
Films like "A Thousand Suns" or "The Island President" available on the website.

Further reading

"Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants" by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Collections of poetry:

- "The Soul of Rumi: A New Collection of Ecstatic Poems" by Coleman Barks
- "Songs of Kabir" translated by Rabindranath Tagore
- "The Collected Poems" of Octavio Paz
- "Voices from Chernobyl: The Oral History of a Nuclear Disaster" by Svetlana Alexievich (Prose Poetry)
- "Poems of the Inuit" compiled by Knud Rasmussen
- "The Essential Haiku: Versions of Basho, Buson, and Issa" edited by Robert Hass

Cosmic Perspective

Objective

To cultivate humility by reflecting on your place within the vastness of the universe, recognizing the interconnectedness of all life and systems, and acting in accordance with the needs of the situation without concern for personal importance.

Steps to take

01. Watch a film on the overview effect

Start by watching a short film that captures the essence of the Overview Effect, such as "The Overview Effect" by TED-Ed. The video highlights the transformative experience of viewing Earth from space, emphasizing its fragility and unity.

02. Reflect on the scale

After watching, spend a few moments reflecting on these questions:

- How does the scale of the universe change the way you view your daily concerns?
- What does this perspective reveal about the interconnectedness of life on Earth?
- How does it inspire you to think about your role in global systems, including environmental sustainability?

03. Overview effect reflection

Imagine yourself as an astronaut viewing Earth from space. Reflect on these prompts:

- What emotions arise when you see Earth as a single, fragile ecosystem?
- How does this perspective influence your thoughts about caring for the environment and collaborating with others?

Consider how this "zoomed-out" view reinforces the importance of humility—recognizing that while your role may seem small, it is part of a much larger, interconnected system.

04. The hummingbird's story

Read or watch the story of the hummingbird and the burning forest. In this story, a small hummingbird carries drops of water to extinguish a massive fire. When questioned why it bothers, the hummingbird replies, "I am doing what I can." (Watch here)

Reflect on these questions:

- How does this story relate to acting with humility?
- What does it teach about focusing on meaningful actions, regardless of their perceived scale?
- How can you apply this mindset to address challenges in your own life or community?

05. Commit to humble action

Identify one concrete action inspired by the activity to demonstrate humility. Examples include supporting local environmental initiatives, reducing waste, or engaging in meaningful conversations about interconnectedness.

Outcome

This activity will help you develop a sense of humility by combining the cosmic perspective of the universe's vastness with the grounded wisdom of the hummingbird's story.
It demonstrates the value of aligning personal actions with the needs of a situation, highlighting the importance of small, meaningful contributions to the greater good.

Relevant links

"Powers of Ten" by Charles and Ray Eames

Further reading

"The Pale Blue Dot" by Carl Sagan

Empathy Mapping for Building Trust

To enhance empathy and compassion by understanding others' perspectives, fostering deeper connections, and building trust in relationships. This can also include addressing misunderstandings about environmental actions or values.

Steps to take

01. Preparation

Pair up with a partner or focus on someone you interact with regularly (e.g., a friend, peer, or family member).

Choose a real-life situation where you had a disagreement or misunderstanding with this person. If relevant, consider a situation related to differing views on environmental or climate-related actions (e.g., recycling, travel choices, or energy use).

02. Empathy mapping

Take a blank piece of paper and divide it into four quadrants labeled:

- **What they SAY:** What did the person explicitly say during the interaction?
- **What they THINK:** Based on the situation, what might they have been thinking but not saying?

- **What they FEEL:** What emotions do you believe they were experiencing? Why?
- **What they DO:** How did they act or react? What behaviours did you observe?

03. Walk in their shoes

Reflect deeply on each quadrant and write down your thoughts.

Take 5 minutes to imagine being that person in the given situation. Consider what personal experiences, fears, or values might have influenced their actions.

If addressing environmental issues, think about how their perspectives on such matters might stem from upbringing, access to resources, or exposure to information.

04. Self-reflection

In a separate section, reflect on your own thoughts and feelings during the interaction:

- What was I saying, thinking, feeling, and doing?
- What might have contributed to the misunderstanding or tension?
- What assumptions did I make about the other person?

05. Building compassion

Based on your empathy map, think of one thing you can do to repair or improve trust in your relationship with this person.

This could be initiating a conversation, offering an apology, or expressing your understanding of their perspective.

06. Final connection

If appropriate, discuss the empathy map with the person, explaining how understanding their perspective helped you gain new insights.

Share how this exercise has influenced your feelings of compassion.

Outcome

By stepping into another person's shoes, one deepens own empathy and compassion. This activity encourages understanding of others' thoughts, emotions, and actions, ultimately building stronger, more trusting relationships rooted in empathy. Addressing environmental misunderstandings can also foster collaboration on shared goals.

Relevant links

"The Listening Post: How to Truly Hear" by Julian Treasure (TEDx Talk)

Further reading

"The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World" by Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu
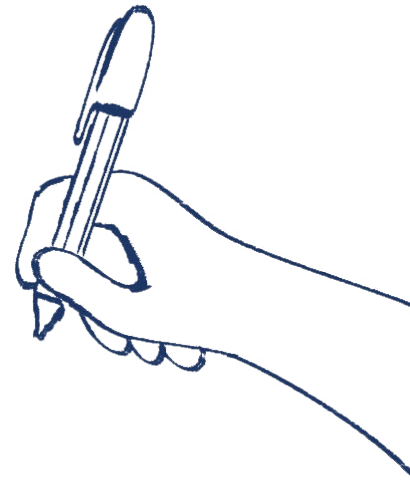
Me with You

Building a community of actors

03

Building upon the self-awareness and relational skills gained in the previous chapters, this chapter guides youth in developing the capacity to collaborate and co-create change with others. Centered around the IDG dimension of Collaborating, this chapter focuses on advancing social skills and collective abilities that are essential for effective teamwork, empowering youth to become active, contributing members of a climate-conscious community.

The chapter emphasizes the power of collaboration as a driving force in addressing complex climate challenges. It highlights the importance of cooperation, shared responsibility, and a sense of solidarity that enables youth to engage in climate action efforts with others who share similar goals and values. By learning to work effectively in groups, youth can create a foundation for community-wide action, bringing together diverse perspectives and strengths to achieve impactful results.

In this chapter, youth will explore practices that deepen their ability to:

- Build trust and shared purpose within a group, fostering a sense of unity and commitment toward shared climate goals.
- Co-create solutions by practicing active listening, respecting diverse viewpoints, and integrating ideas to develop more holistic approaches.
- Communicate effectively in group settings, focusing on clear expression, active feedback, and constructive dialogue to ensure everyone's voice is heard.
- Navigate conflict and resolve differences in ways that strengthen team bonds, encouraging resilience and adaptability within collaborative efforts.

These skills allow youth to cultivate a supportive, action-oriented community that can effectively address climate issues at the local level and beyond. By fostering a spirit of teamwork, they learn how to create inclusive spaces where everyone's contributions are valued, helping to build a resilient network capable of driving sustainable change.

Although these activities can be completed individually, they are especially beneficial in group settings. By working together, youth will have the opportunity to practice collaborative skills in real-time, build community connections, and experience the power of shared climate action firsthand. The final chapter will expand on these group dynamics, focusing on how youth can lead community-level actions for climate justice. The activities are complemented by relevant links and further reading suggestions.

Through the skills and experiences gained in this chapter, youth will develop the collective capacity to drive climate action effectively within their communities. By cultivating collaborative abilities, they will be better equipped to mobilize others, create impactful initiatives, and build a sustainable movement for climate justice.

Harmonizing Communication for Climate Action

Objective

To practice collaborative communication by fostering active listening, exploring the balance of verbal and non-verbal communication, and adapting to diverse perspectives to address climate action challenges effectively.

Steps to take

01. Set the stage

Gather a group of friends or peers in a quiet space conducive to open conversation. Bring simple materials such as paper, markers, and a timer.

02. Non-verbal representation of a problem

Start with a silent exercise: as a group, use gestures, drawings, or other non-verbal methods to represent a specific climate-related challenge (e.g., deforestation, plastic pollution, or energy waste).

Reflect on the experience:

- How did you convey ideas without words?
- What challenges did you face, and how did you overcome them?
- What non-verbal cues (gestures, facial expressions) were most helpful?

03. Building a sustainable solution through dialogue

Transition to verbal communication. Discuss the represented challenge as

a group, aiming to collaboratively propose a sustainable solution. Ensure everyone has a chance to speak.

Practice active listening:

- When someone shares an idea, paraphrase their point to confirm understanding before responding.
- Ask open-ended questions to deepen the discussion (e.g., "What could be a small, actionable step for this solution?").

04. Genuine dialogue circle - collaborative climate solutions

Continue building on the proposed solutions through a structured dialogue circle. Use a talking object (e.g., a small item passed around) to ensure each person has a chance to speak without interruption.

Encourage participants to integrate ideas from others into their suggestions, emphasizing collaboration over individual advocacy.

05. Conflict simulation - Climate action debate

Choose a scenario involving potential conflict related to the proposed solution (e.g., "Should limited resources be focused on community education or direct action projects?").

Assign roles and collaboratively resolve the issue. Use these communication techniques:

- Speak using "I" statements to express personal views constructively.
- Actively listen to opposing viewpoints.
- Seek common ground and propose compromises.

06. Reflection and application

Reflect together:

- What communication strategies were most effective in the context of climate action?
- How did non-verbal and verbal communication complement each other?
- How can these skills be applied to engage others in climate initiatives and resolve challenges constructively?

Outcome

You will strengthen your ability to listen actively, foster genuine dialogue, manage conflicts constructively, and adapt communication styles to diverse settings. These skills will help you collaborate more effectively in climate action initiatives and engage diverse stakeholders meaningfully.

Relevant links

"10 Ways to Have a Better Conversation" by Celeste Headlee (TED Talk)

Further reading

"Crucial Conversations: Tools for Talking When Stakes Are High"
by Patterson, Grenny, McMillan, and Switzler

Crafting a Shared Vision for Climate Action

Objective

To develop the skills and motivation to build, develop, and facilitate collaborative relationships with diverse stakeholders through the creation of a shared vision for climate action, fostering psychological safety and genuine co-creation.

Steps to take

01. Set the stage

Gather a diverse group of peers or stakeholders interested in addressing climate issues. Create a safe, welcoming space where everyone feels valued and encouraged to share ideas.

02. Start with shared intentions

Begin by discussing the group's collective motivations for participating in the activity. Use prompts like:

- "Why is addressing climate action important to you?"
- "What values or principles should guide our collaboration?"

Write these shared intentions on a large piece of paper or digital board visible to everyone.

03. Collaborative vision mapping - Non-verbal step

Provide materials such as markers, paper, and sticky notes.

Ask each person to draw or visually represent their vision for an ideal climate-positive future. Encourage them to think creatively, using shapes, symbols, or abstract representations.

Post all the individual visions together, creating a gallery.

04. Facilitate co-creation through dialogue

In small groups, review the collective gallery of visions. Discuss:

- Common themes or overlaps in the representations.
- Unique perspectives that stand out and why they're valuable.

Collaboratively combine the ideas into one cohesive vision, ensuring everyone's voice is heard. Use prompts like:

- "How can we integrate these ideas into a shared vision?"
- "What can we learn from the differences in our perspectives?"

05. Build a shared plan of cation

Transition the shared vision into actionable steps. In groups, brainstorm answers to:

- "What small, concrete actions can we take to make this vision a reality?"
- "How can we collaborate across our differences to achieve these goals?"

Assign roles or tasks based on individual strengths and interests.

06. Create a symbol of unity

As a group, design a collective symbol, logo, or artifact that represents the shared vision. This could be a simple drawing, a physical object, or even a group photo.
Place this symbol somewhere visible during future meetings to remind everyone of the collaboration's purpose.

07. Reflect on the process

End the activity by reflecting on the experience. Use prompts like:

* "What made this process feel safe and inclusive?"
* "How did we ensure genuine co-creation and shared ownership?"
* "What can we do to strengthen our collaboration in the future?"

Outcome

Participants will experience the power of co-creation by building a shared vision and actionable plan in an inclusive and psychologically safe environment. This activity fosters trust, respect for diversity, and a sense of shared purpose, empowering participants to take meaningful climate action together.

Relevant links

"Building our Local Peace Community Through Unlearning" with Charles Eisenstein & Jodie Evans

Climate Interactive is a globally recognized organization that uses systems thinking, interactive models, and simulations to address complex climate challenges. Their resources are widely used in workshops, classrooms, and policymaking settings to inspire climate action and systems thinking worldwide.

Further reading

"Sacred Instructions: Indigenous Wisdom for Living Spirit-Based Change" by Sherri Mitchell

Exploring Inclusivity Through Photographs

Objective

To use photographs as a medium for exploring diverse perspectives, fostering mutual understanding, and connecting participants to inclusive approaches to environmental and cultural challenges.

Steps to take

01. Prepare a set of photographs

Gather a set of photographs representing diverse themes such as different cultural practices, natural landscapes, and community actions related to sustainability.

Tips:

- If you don't have access to a photo bank, suggest participants bring their own images or use royalty-free resources such as Unsplash or Pexels.
- Use images from local or personal contexts to make the activity more relatable.
- Suggested photo types: landscapes impacted by climate change, diverse community gatherings, or creative solutions to environmental challenges.

02. Create a gallery

Arrange the photographs in a physical space (on a wall or table) or digitally

(e.g., a shared document or presentation).

Ask participants to walk through the gallery or scroll through the images silently, taking note of the ones that resonate most with them.

03. Pair and share

In pairs, ask participants to choose one photograph that stands out to them. Share with their partner:

- "What drew you to this photograph?"
- "What story do you see in it, and how does it connect to your own experiences?"
- "How might someone from a different background interpret this image?"

04. Group dialogue

Bring the group together and discuss the photographs using prompts like:

- "What common themes emerged in your discussions?"
- "How did the photographs help you understand different perspectives?"
- "How can these images inspire inclusive actions in addressing environmental challenges?"

05. Create a new narrative

Ask participants to work together to select a set of 3-5 photographs that tell a cohesive story about inclusivity and collaboration.

Write captions or a short narrative connecting the images, focusing on how they reflect diverse approaches to solving shared challenges.

06. Reflect and commit

End the activity with reflections:

- "What did you learn about inclusivity and intercultural competence through this activity?"
- "How can we use visual storytelling to foster collaboration and inclusivity in our communities?"

Encourage each participant to commit to one action inspired by the images or discussions, such as engaging with diverse groups or supporting inclusive initiatives.

Outcome

Participants will experience the power of co-creation by building a shared vision and actionable plan in an inclusive and psychologically safe environment. This activity fosters trust, respect for diversity, and a sense of shared purpose, empowering participants to take meaningful climate action together.

Relevant links

"Everyday Climate Change" (Instagram)

Further reading

"Belonging: The Ancient Code of Togetherness" by Owen Eastwood

Trust Through Movement

Objective

To foster trust within a group through a playful and movement-based activity, creating a sense of interdependence and mutual support without relying solely on verbal communication.

Steps to take

01. Prepare the space

Find a large open area where participants can move freely. Ensure the space is safe for physical activity.

02. Pair up for blindfolded trust walks

Divide participants into pairs. One person in each pair wears a blindfold while the other guides them through an obstacle course set up in the space. Obstacles can be as simple as chairs, cones, or taped lines on the floor.

The guide must use only their voice to direct their partner, focusing on clear and calm communication.

03. Switch roles

After completing the course, switch roles so both participants experience being the guide and the one placing trust in the guide.

04. Add playful variations (optional)

Introduce challenges such as completing the course within a time limit or guiding without using specific directional words (e.g., "left" or "right").

For larger groups, consider a relay where pairs hand off to the next pair after completing the course.

05. Debrief and reflect

Gather the group to discuss the activity. Use prompts like:

- "How did it feel to trust someone to guide you?"
- "What was most challenging about being the guide?"
- "How can we build trust in group settings based on what we learned today?"

06. Connect to climate action (debriefing)

Emphasize how trust is foundational for effective collaboration in tackling complex challenges like climate change. Highlight that trusting others' expertise, perspectives, and contributions is essential for driving impactful collective actions.

Outcome

Participants will experience the power
of co-creation by building a shared vision
and actionable plan in an inclusive
and psychologically safe environment.
This activity fosters trust, respect for diversity,
and a sense of shared purpose, empowering
participants to take meaningful climate action
together.

Relevant links

"These Death-Defying Human Towers Build on Catalan Tradition",
Short Film Showcase

Further reading

"It's Not That Radical: Climate Action to Transform Our World"
by Mikaela Loach

A book written by a young activist who didn't know how to start her journey
in climate action. The book is a call to action across movements,
and for readers to find their place in the struggle for a better future.

Digital Waves

Objective

To develop skills in digital mobilization by leveraging online platforms and tools to create awareness, inspire action, and build a movement around a climate-related issue.

Steps to take

01. Define your digital cause

Select a specific climate-related issue to focus on.
Craft a clear and concise digital campaign goal, such as:

- "Reach 1,000 signatures for a petition to ban single-use plastics in our town."
- "Engage 500 people to share our climate action video in one month."

02. Develop a digital strategy

Choose platforms where your target audience is most active (e.g., Instagram, TikTok, Twitter, or WhatsApp).
Decide on the key elements of your campaign:

- Content types: Videos, memes, stories, or infographics.
- Tone: Informative, inspiring, or humorous.
- Call to Action: Clear asks such as "Sign up," "Share this," or "Join our live event.

03. Create engaging content

Work in teams or individually to design campaign materials using free tools:

- Canva: For creating posters, infographics, or Instagram posts.
- InShot: For editing short videos.
- Bitly: To shorten links and track clicks.

Examples of content ideas:

- A short video showing the local impact of climate change.
- An infographic on how individuals can make a difference.
- A meme or GIF to grab attention and make the issue relatable.

04. Mobilize online communities

Use digital tools to spread your campaign:

- Hashtags: Create a unique, catchy hashtag for your campaign (e.g., #GreenFutureNow).
- Collaborations: Partner with influencers, local organisations, or content creators to amplify your reach.
- Challenges: Launch a simple challenge, like sharing a photo of sustainable practices or tagging friends.
- Events: Host a webinar, live Q&A, or virtual rally to engage your audience directly.

05. Track engagement and iterate

Use analytics tools provided by platforms to monitor:

- Number of likes, shares, and comments.
- Reach and engagement rates.
- Traffic to petitions, sign-ups, or other calls to action.

Reflect as a group:

- What content worked best, and why?
- How can we improve our reach or engagement?

06. Build a legacy

Discuss how to sustain momentum after the campaign:

- Create a dedicated account or page to keep sharing updates.
- Plan regular follow-ups or content to maintain engagement.
- Celebrate milestones with your audience, thanking them
  for their support.

Outcome

Participants will gain practical experience in using digital tools and platforms to mobilize support for a cause, empowering them to lead impactful online campaigns and build digital communities for climate action.

Relevant links

Mobilisation Lab – Digital Campaigning Resources

Further reading

"How to Blow Up a Pipeline" by Andreas Malm

A book and a film that follows a fictional group of eight young individuals who decide to blow up an oil pipeline at two key locations. It explores the moral validity of extreme actions in addressing the climate crisis, the question of terrorism, and the use of property damage and sabotage as activist tactics.

Mwe

Driving community action for climate justice

04

In this chapter, the journey from self-development to community impact reaches its full expression as youth are equipped to take bold, collective action for climate justice. Centered around the IDG dimension of **Acting**, this chapter provides practical tools, case studies, and inspiring stories of youth-led initiatives that demonstrate the transformative power of community-driven climate efforts.

Here, youth are encouraged to take the collaborative skills and eco-conscious values developed in earlier chapters and apply them to create tangible, positive change within their communities. This chapter emphasizes action orientation and the ability to mobilize others, highlighting the transition from "inside-out" growth to a "bottom-up" movement that addresses pressing climate challenges at the community level and beyond.

In this chapter, youth will be guided to:

- **Design and lead community-focused initiatives** that tackle local climate issues with real-world impact, from sustainability projects to advocacy campaigns.
- **Mobilize and inspire others** by creating inclusive, action-oriented spaces that encourage widespread participation and collective responsibility.
- **Advocate for climate justice** by working with community members to address environmental and social inequities, empowering those most affected to have a voice in climate solutions.
- **Adapt and innovate** in the face of obstacles, learning to navigate challenges, assess risks, and adjust strategies to sustain momentum and impact.

Through a combination of tools (such as project planning guides and outreach strategies), case studies of successful youth-led initiatives, and inspirational stories from young climate activists, this chapter equips youth with the resources and motivation to lead effective, community-based climate actions. Each resource is designed to support youth in transforming vision into action, demonstrating that climate justice is attainable when young leaders step forward to drive meaningful change.

The case studies will be listed under the following categories:

- **Advocacy/Awareness** Campaigns focusing on raising awareness and educating the public about climate issues, aiming to shift perspectives or spread essential information about topics such as climate impacts, sustainable practices, or climate justice.
- **Behavioral Change Campaigns** aiming to influence personal or community behaviors to promote sustainable habits, such as reducing waste, conserving energy, or adopting eco-friendly practices.
- **Activist Interventions** involving direct actions like climate strikes, protests, or creative forms of activism (e.g., artivism) that bring visibility to climate issues and inspire public support.
- **Community-Level Actions** engaging at the local level with concrete, hands-on activities such as tree planting, clean-ups, creating green spaces, or other grassroots projects that have immediate or long-term community impact. Youth-led projects could involve creating emergency preparedness plans, building infrastructure for climate resilience, or educating communities on adaptation strategies.
- **Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration** projects that bring together multiple sectors, such as government, NGOs, businesses, and educational institutions, to tackle climate issues collaboratively. This type highlights how cross-sector partnerships amplify youth-led climate action.
- **Circular Economy and Social Entrepreneurship** actions focusing on creating sustainable economic models, such as reducing waste through recycling, repurposing materials, or launching eco-friendly businesses. These initiatives balance economic viability with environmental responsibility.

- **Educational and Capacity-Building Initiatives** aiming at increasing climate literacy and building practical skills in sustainable practices. This includes workshops, educational resources, or programs that train youth and communities in environmental science or advocacy techniques.
- **Art and Cultural Expressions for Climate Action** encompassing creative approaches like art, music, film, or cultural events to inspire climate action and communicate climate issues innovatively. This could include community murals, eco-theater, storytelling, digital media campaigns, etc.

While individual reflection remains valuable, this chapter is geared toward group-based activities that foster community engagement and collective action. By working together to initiate climate projects, youth can amplify their impact, strengthen local resilience, and contribute to a global movement for climate justice.

By the end of this chapter, youth will have the skills, confidence, and practical experience needed to spearhead community-driven climate action. They will have taken their journey full circle, from inner growth to outward impact, and become part of a larger, interconnected movement working for a sustainable and just future.

Courage in Action

Objective

To explore and practice courage by reflecting on Greta Thunberg's journey, identifying personal values, and developing actionable steps to stand up for those values, even in the face of challenges.

Steps to take

01. Set the context

Begin by briefly sharing Greta Thunberg's story, highlighting her courage to stand up for climate justice. Key points include:

- At 15 years old, she started skipping school on Fridays to protest outside the Swedish Parliament, demanding action on climate change.
- Despite criticism and significant personal challenges, her persistence inspired a global youth movement, Fridays for Future.
- Greta's courage lies in her ability to disrupt societal norms and challenge inaction on climate issues, using her voice to make a difference.

02. Reflection on values

Ask the group to take a few minutes to reflect on their own core values. Use prompts like:

- "What issue or value matters most to you?"
- "What inspires you to take a stand, even when it's difficult?"

Encourage each person to write down one value they feel strongly about and an example of a situation where they acted (or wanted to act) courageously to uphold that value.

03. Courage mapping

In small groups, discuss how Greta's actions connect to the values she stood for (e.g., environmental justice, intergenerational equity, honesty).

Create a "Courage Map" as a group by identifying potential barriers to standing up for values (e.g., fear of judgment, lack of support) and ways to overcome them (e.g., finding allies, staying informed, practicing self-compassion).

04. Take a stand simulation

Role-play a scenario where individuals must stand up for their values in the face of opposition. Examples might include:

- Defending sustainable practices in a school or community meeting.
- Challenging a peer or family member's misunderstanding of climate issues.

After each simulation, discuss:

- "How did it feel to stand up for your values?"
- "What strategies helped you stay courageous?"

05. Plan your act of courage

Ask each person to identify a small, real-life action they can take to uphold their values in the coming weeks. This could be:

- Speaking up in a group discussion.
- Organizing a small awareness campaign.
- Writing to local leaders about a climate issue.

06. Debrief and reflect

Gather as a group and reflect:

- "What did Greta's story teach us about courage?"
- "How can we channel her courage to take action in our own lives?"
- "What support do we need from each other to stay committed?"

Outcome

Through Greta's example, the group will explore what it means to act with courage, connect it to their personal values, and identify practical ways to apply it in their lives.

Relevant links

Greta Thunberg's full speech to world leaders at UN Climate Action Summit

Further reading

"All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis"
edited by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson and Katharine K. Wilkinson

The Paperclip Challenge

Objective

To foster creativity by exploring an unlimited number of uses for a simple object, building innovative thinking, and linking ideas to actionable solutions for climate action.

Steps to take

01. Individual brainstorming

Give each person a paperclip (or show one if paperclips aren't available) and a piece of paper or a digital device to write on.

Set a target: "Try to come up with at least 20 different uses for a paperclip." Encourage everyone to work independently for 5–10 minutes, listing as many uses as they can imagine, whether practical, creative, or completely unconventional.

02. Group sharing and expansion

After the individual brainstorming session, gather as a group and share the ideas. Create a combined list on a large sheet of paper or a shared digital document.

Encourage discussion to build on each other's ideas and push creativity further by asking:

- "What happens if we change the size or material of the paperclip?"
- "Can we combine paperclips to create something new?"
- "What if the paperclip is part of a bigger system or tool?"

03. Set a new focus – Climate Action

Reflect together on the brainstormed ideas and discuss:

- "Which of these uses could contribute to solving a climate-related challenge?"
- "Can any of these ideas promote sustainability, reduce waste, or raise awareness about environmental issues?"

Highlight the importance of creativity in addressing climate challenges by identifying links between the ideas and real-world problems.

04. Group decision

As a group, vote on or reach consensus about the most promising idea(s) that could directly serve climate action.

Examples might include using paperclips for upcycled art projects, DIY tools for repair, or creative awareness campaigns about sustainability.

05. Turn ideas into action

Choose one or two ideas to bring to life as a group. Develop a simple plan by assigning roles and brainstorming steps to implement the chosen idea(s). For instance:

- Create a piece of art from paperclips to showcase at a local event.
- Use paperclips as part of a DIY workshop to teach repair skills.

06. Debrief and reflect

Conclude with a group discussion:

- "What surprised you about the ideas we came up with?"
- "How did working individually and then collaboratively enhance creativity?"
- "What did this teach us about linking creative thinking to climate action?"

Outcome

The group will exercise their creativity, collaborate on innovative solutions, and discover how even the simplest ideas can contribute to meaningful climate action.

Relevant links

"Climate Change Creative: Art for A Sustainable Future", Loop, BBC Scotland

"Fighting Climate Change with Art" by Thijs Biersteker

Further reading

"Your Brain on Art: How the Arts Transform Us" by Susan Magsamen and Ivy Ross

The Chain of Possibilities

Objective

To foster optimism by collaboratively exploring and celebrating possibilities for positive change, demonstrating the potential of individual and collective actions to address climate challenges.

Steps to take

01. Set the tone

Begin by discussing the importance of optimism in driving action, particularly when facing challenges like climate change. Share an inspiring example of a successful environmental initiative to set a positive tone (e.g., a reforestation project or community clean-up effort).

Share a short case study or story of change from the toolkit that showcases how optimism and collective action led to impactful results. Reflect on the story as a group using prompts like:

- "What inspired you about this story?"
- "How did optimism play a role in achieving the outcome?"

02. Create the chain of possibilities

Form a circle as a group. Start with one person, who shares a simple action or idea that could positively impact the community or theenvironment (e.g., "I will start using reusable bags").

The next person builds on this idea, adding their own action that complements or expands it (e.g., "I will encourage my friends to join me in reducing plastic waste").

Continue around the circle until everyone has contributed, forming a "chain" of possibilities.

03. Make It physical (optional)

Use small cards or sticky notes for each person to write their idea before sharing it.

As each person shares, physically connect their card to the previous one, creating a visual "chain" that symbolizes the collective power of optimism and action.

04. Highlight ripple effects

Discuss how each small action contributes to larger outcomes, emphasizing the ripple effect of optimism and collective effort. Use prompts like:

- "How can these individual actions inspire broader change?"
- "What happens when we combine our efforts?"

05. Take a step forward

Encourage each person to take one step forward from their idea and commit to making it happen within a set timeframe (e.g., "I will implement this action in the next week").

06. Debrief and reflect

Gather as a group to discuss:

- "How did sharing ideas impact your outlook on our ability to make a difference?"
- "What stood out to you about the chain of possibilities we created?"
- "How can we support each other in staying optimistic and motivated?"

Outcome

This activity builds optimism by showcasing the cumulative power of individual and group actions. The group will leave with a sense of hope, agency, and shared purpose in addressing climate challenges.

Relevant links

Explore stories of successful community driven climate projects from Project Drawdown.

Further reading

"The Optimistic Environmentalist: Progressing Toward a Greener Future" by David R. Boyd

The Long Game

To practice perseverance by tackling a group challenge that requires sustained effort, problem-solving, and mutual encouragement to achieve a meaningful outcome.

Steps to take

01. Set the challenge

Choose a group challenge that requires time and dedication, reflecting the importance of perseverance. Examples could include:

- Building a functional object from recycled materials (e.g., a small planter or birdhouse).
- Designing a local campaign to raise awareness about a climate-related issue.
- Ensure the challenge is achievable but requires persistence, creativity, and teamwork over a set period.

02. Divide the work

Break the challenge into smaller tasks or milestones. Assign each task to individuals or small teams, ensuring that all contributions are interconnected.

For example, in building a planter:

- One team designs the concept.
- Another collects materials.
- A third assembles the final piece.

03. Reflect on barriers

Before starting, discuss potential challenges the group might face, such as setbacks, disagreements, or limited resources.

Brainstorm strategies to overcome these barriers, emphasizing the importance of supporting one another and staying focused on the end goal.

04. Work through the challenge

Begin the challenge and encourage the group to document progress. Regularly check in on milestones and celebrate small wins to maintain motivation.

If setbacks occur, pause and discuss how to adapt. Use prompts like:

- "What's holding us back right now?"
- "How can we adjust our approach to keep moving forward?"

05. The final push

As the challenge nears completion, reflect on how persistence has been key to reaching this stage. Encourage everyone to share one action or decision they took to persevere during the process.

06. Debrief and connect to climate action

Gather as a group to discuss:

- "What did we learn about perseverance through this challenge?"
- "How did we support each other to keep going despite obstacles?"
- "How can we apply this mindset to long-term climate action efforts?"

Highlight the parallels between completing the challenge and the sustained effort required to address environmental issues.
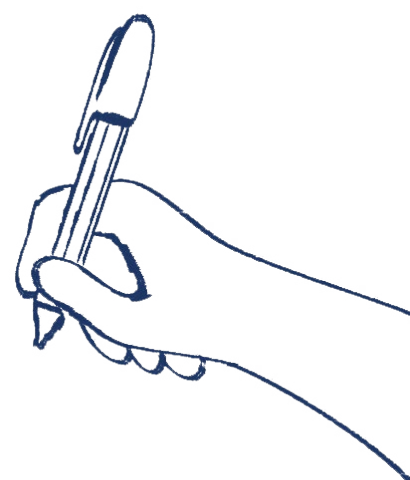
Outcome

Through this hands-on activity, the group will experience the value of perseverance, learning how to maintain focus, adapt to challenges, and support one another in achieving meaningful results.

Relevant links

"Long Walk to Freedom" by Nelson Mandela

Further reading

"The Green Belt Movement: Sharing the Approach and the Experience" by Wangari Maathai

From inspiration to action

05

This chapter emphasizes the culmination of the Inner Development Goals (IDG) skills journey, where youth translate their personal growth and collaborative capacities into tangible climate advocacy and leadership. Building on the foundation of self-awareness, relational skills, and collaborative abilities developed in earlier chapters, this section focuses on collective action. It guides youth groups in moving from inspiration and alignment to concrete initiatives that address pressing climate challenges.

Phase 1: The Week Experience – Aligning and Mobilising Your Group
This activity serves as an energizing and thought-provoking starting point for youth groups. Using a structured process inspired by The Week, it helps participants align their motivations, explore shared visions, and connect emotionally with the urgency of climate action. By fostering a sense of collective purpose, this phase ensures that youth groups begin their journey with clarity, unity, and inspiration, setting the tone for impactful collaboration.

Phase 2: Pathways to Change
Building on the alignment achieved in Phase 1, Phase 2 offers a series of structured pathways designed to guide youth in tackling local climate challenges through diverse approaches. These pathways are inspired by the categories of action highlighted in the case studies, including **Advocacy and Awareness Raising, Behavioral Change, Activist Interventions, Community-Level Actions, Multi-Stakeholder Collaborations, Circular Economy and Social Entrepreneurship, Educational and Capacity-Building Initiatives, and Art and Cultural Expressions for Climate Action.** Each pathway equips participants with practical tools, trategies, and inspiration to address climate issues

effectively, whether through advocacy, direct intervention, creative expressions, or collaborative efforts. By engaging with these pathways, youth will develop the skills, confidence, and collaborative spirit needed to transform ideas into impactful, community-driven actions.

The Week Experience

Objective

To inspire and align a community of youth by participating in <u>The Week</u>, a structured program designed to help people confront the climate crisis, explore its implications, and get mobilised to act collectively.

Steps to take

01. Explore *The Week*

Visit <u>The Week's website</u> to understand its purpose and format.

Register your group or organisation to participate in the program.

02. Prepare the group

Assemble a diverse group of youth from your community who are interested in addressing climate action.

Share an overview of The Week, emphasizing its focus on building awareness, fostering reflection, and creating a sense of urgency to act on climate.

03. Participate in the three Acts

Act 1: The Climate Crisis
Watch the curated content provided by The Week, which explores the science and social impact of climate change.

Reflect as a group on how the crisis affects your community and the world. Use prompts like:

- "What surprised or moved you the most?"
- "How do these global challenges connect to our local experiences?"

Act 2: The Shift
Engage with the materials highlighting pathways to systemic change and the role of individuals and communities in this transition.

Discuss:

- "What gives you hope in this shift?"
- "What role can we play as a group in driving change locally?"

Act 3: Taking Action
Explore actions and solutions that align with your group's interests and skills. Brainstorm and prioritise steps the group can take to address a specific climate challenge in your community.

04. Liaising with the following activity

Conclude *The Week* by reflecting on the experience as a group:

- "What did we learn about our shared values and the urgency to act?"
- "How can we build on this energy to address a local climate challenge?"

Introduce the next step: *From Research to Climate Action*. Highlight how the insights gained during The Week will inform the group's advocacy efforts.

Outcome

By participating in The Week, youth will gain a deeper understanding of the climate crisis, align their values and priorities, and build a foundation for meaningful collective action within their community.

Attribution

The Week is an initiative designed to bring people together to confront the climate crisis and inspire action. It is offered for free for anyone who wants to organize The Week private circle with friends, family, neighbors, members of your sport club or other communities.

Voices of Change: Climate Advocacy

Objective

To empower young leaders to take effective climate action at the local level through a structured advocacy process. This activity integrates research, strategy, and implementation to enable participants to develop a comprehensive advocacy plan addressing climate challenge in their community.

Steps to take

01. Research and Context Analysis

Objective: Understand the climate-related challenges in the local context.

Coordinate the group to:

Research pressing climate issues in their city, neighborhood, or workplace (e.g., extreme weather events, waste management problems).

- Explore local policies or initiatives addressing these challenges.
- Identify gaps in existing policies or community responses.
- Tools: Use local government websites, community surveys, or interviews.

02. Define the Advocacy Goal

Objective: Translate a problem into a clear advocacy goal.
Steps:

- Use a **Problem Tree** to break down the central climate issue into root causes and effects (e.g., lack of green spaces leads to urban heat islands).
- Transform the Problem Tree into a **Solution Tree**, identifying actionable goals (e.g., "Increase green spaces in urban areas").
- Define the overarching advocacy goal (e.g., "Lobby for a policy mandating green infrastructure in new urban projects").

03. Stakeholder and Policy Mapping

Objective: Identify key actors and their roles.
Steps:

- Map stakeholders, including decision-makers, influencers, and community groups.
- Categorize stakeholders based on their interest and power to influence the issue.
- Develop a policy map showing how local or national policies impact the identified climate challenge.
- Tools: Stakeholder mapping matrix and policy influence diagrams.

04. Set SMART Objectives

Objective: Create actionable and measurable objectives aligned with the advocacy goal.
Steps:

- Break the goal into Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound (SMART) objectives.
- Example: Increase public demand for urban greening policies by engaging at least 500 community members through workshops and awareness campaigns within six months, leading to a formal proposal submitted to the city council.

05. Develop Key Messages

Objective: Craft impactful messages to mobilize support and engage stakeholders.

Steps:

- Create messages tailored to different audiences (e.g., policymakers, local communities).
- Highlight benefits, such as economic savings, health improvements, or community resilience.
- Ensure messages are clear, evidence-based, and resonate with cultural and local values.

06. Choose Advocacy Tactics

Objective: Select appropriate methods to achieve the advocacy objectives. Possible tactics:

- **Lobbying**: Engage directly with policymakers to propose new climate-friendly regulations.
- **Public Campaigning**: Use social media or events to raise public awareness.
- Media Engagement: Publish op-eds or leverage local press to spotlight the issue.
- **Community Actions**: Host events like tree planting or workshops.

Evaluate the risks and benefits of each tactic.

07. Develop and implement an action plan

Objective: Outline a clear roadmap for action.
Steps:

- Assign roles and responsibilities.
- Set a timeline for activities.
- Identify resources needed (e.g., funding, volunteers, partnerships).
- Tools: Gantt chart or project management templates.

08. Monitor, Evaluate, and Learn (MEAL)

Objective: Track progress, assess impact, and refine strategies.

Steps:

- Define indicators for success (e.g., number of stakeholders engaged, policies influenced).
- Regularly evaluate activities and adjust the plan as needed.
- Document lessons learned to improve future advocacy efforts.

Outcome

Participants will develop a detailed and actionable advocacy plan addressing a local climate challenge. The activity builds skills in research, collaboration, and strategic planning, fostering empowered and effective local advocates.

Key resource

"Civic Space Toolkit for Sub-Saharan Africa" by CIVICUS.

Although not specifically aimed at climate action, this toolkit is a valuable resource for guiding you step by step through the process of designing and implementing an advocacy strategy for social and policy change. Authored by Gerasimos Kouvaras, it references the Advocacy Strategy Framework developed by Sarli Kouvaras Consulting PC. Download it here.

Further reading

"This Is Not A Drill: An Extinction Rebellion Handbook", by Extinction Rebellion

From Habits to Change: Creative Campaigns

Empower youth to design and implement innovative, digital-first campaigns that inspire sustainable behavioral shifts in their communities, leveraging the power of social media and creative storytelling to spark long-term environmental impact.

Steps to take

01. Choose a climate behavior to tackle

Collaborate as a group to identify a specific behavior that impacts the environment (e.g., reducing food waste, ditching fast fashion, or saving energy).

Use online polls or social media platforms (like Instagram Stories or TikTok) to ask your peers what climate-related habits they'd most like to change.

02. Discover the "Why not"

Use Instagram polls, DMs, or short surveys on platforms like Google Forms to uncover barriers preventing your target audience from adopting sustainable behaviors.

For example:

- Why don't they recycle?
- Why do they prefer single-use plastics over reusable options?

03. Design a fun, shareable challenge

Create an engaging campaign with a clear call to action that's easy to replicate, such as:

- **"Plastic-free Fridays"**: Encourage followers to avoid plastic for a day and post their creative solutions.
- **"Switch-off challenge"**: Ask peers to turn off unnecessary lights and share the coolest ambient lighting hacks.
- **"Upcycle It!"**: Host a TikTok challenge for transforming old clothes or items into something trendy and new.

Develop a catchy hashtag and vibrant visuals to spread the word.

04. Launch and engage

Kick off the campaign with a powerful video or infographic explaining the issue and the change you're promoting. Share it across platforms like TikTok, Instagram, or Snapchat.

Partner with local influencers, artists, or content creators to amplify your reach.

Post daily prompts, progress stories, and shout-outs for participants to keep the momentum going.

05. Create a digital tracker

Use a simple tool like a Google Sheet or an app like Canva to visually track your campaign's impact.

Encourage participants to share updates with photos or videos, tagging your campaign's handle or hashtag.

06. Celebrate the wins

Highlight achievements through short, engaging "thank you" reels
or shout-out stories.

Host a virtual or in-person celebration event to recognize the most creative
or impactful contributions.

Outcome

A dynamic, youth-led movement driving
measurable behavior changes in your community.
The campaign will demonstrate how small,
everyday actions can collectively lead
to a significant climate impact while creating
a sense of community and shared purpose.

Key resource

Explore the "Behavior Change for Nature Toolkit" by Rare.org
for more ideas and resources.

Creative Disruption: Climate Impact

Objective

Equip youth with the tools and confidence to design bold, creative actions that grab attention, ignite conversations, and inspire meaningful engagement with urgent climate issues.

Steps to take

01. Choose a message that speaks volumes

Focus on a climate issue that resonates with your group and community.

Keep it short and impactful (e.g., "Stop Plastic Pollution Now," "Act for Climate Justice," "Save Our Forests").

Create a slogan or visual cue that can easily be shared on social media and in real life.

02. Innovate the delivery

Artivism in action: Paint murals, create striking installations, or design wearable art with powerful messages.

Flash mob power: Organize a dramatic flash mob in a public space with coordinated movements that symbolize your cause (e.g., melting ice for climate change).

Visual storytelling: Use TikTok, Instagram Reels, or YouTube Shorts to create impactful videos—documenting your preparation, the event, and its aftermath.

Theatrical protests: Stage a performance piece or climate die-in to symbolically highlight the urgency of your cause.

03. Engage the key players

Collaborate with local artists, musicians, or community influencers to lend their creative skills and amplify your message.

Invite local leaders, journalists, and changemakers to your event and tag them in social media posts.

Create media kits with visuals, quotes, and information about your action to share with journalists and bloggers.

04. Blow it Up (Digitally)

Pre-event hype: Tease your event with cryptic posts or countdowns to build excitement.

Live streaming: Use platforms like Instagram Live or TikTok to stream your action as it happens, letting followers join virtually.

Hashtag it: Create a unique, catchy hashtag for your intervention and encourage participants to use it when sharing content.

05. Reflect and amplify further

Post-action, gather feedback from participants and your audience. What worked? What could be better?

Measure impact by tracking social media metrics, local news coverage, or public engagement (e.g., likes, shares, or direct messages).

Create a highlight reel or photo gallery to celebrate the action and inspire others.

Outcome

A high-energy, youth-led intervention that amplifies the urgency of climate issues and inspires others to take action. Participants will learn how creativity and boldness can spark meaningful conversations and reach a wider audience.

Key resource

"The Climate Resistance Handbook" by Daniel Hunter

This handbook offers actionable strategies and real-world examples for organizing creative and impactful climate resistance actions. It's an essential resource for young activists looking to amplify their voices through direct action and innovative tactics.

Growing Local Climate Resilience

Objective

Empower youth to initiate and implement hands-on projects that directly address climate challenges and strengthen community resilience through collaborative efforts.

Steps to take

01. Engage the community

Host informal gatherings or structured listening sessions with residents, local groups, and schools to identify tangible climate challenges specific to the area, such as lack of green spaces, urban flooding, or insufficient waste management.

Example: What's one thing we can do this month to make our community greener or safer from climate risks?

02. Co-design solutions

Collaborate with community members to design practical initiatives based on the identified needs.

Example Actions:

- Tree Planting Drives: Choose native species to improve biodiversity and reduce urban heat.
- Rainwater Harvesting Systems: Install low-cost collection systems in schools or community centers.

- Community Composting Stations: Reduce organic waste and create nutrient rich soil.
- Green Infrastructure Projects: Create pocket parks, green rooftops, or urban gardens.

03. Implement together

Form action teams with clear roles and responsibilities (e.g., planting teams, outreach coordinators, logistics leads).

Set short-term goals, like planting 50 trees in one month or creating a compost station within two weeks.

Involve all age groups in the process, offering educational moments to explain the benefits of the actions being taken.

04. Celebrate progress and milestones

Host small events or social gatherings to acknowledge achievements, such as the first tree planted or the opening of a green space.

Example: Hold a community picnic in the new garden or host a 'compost reveal' event showing its success.

05. Document and share

Use social media platforms to post photos, videos, and stories highlighting the project's journey.

Create before-and-after visual comparisons to showcase the tangible impact of the actions.

Engage local media or write to local newspapers to amplify your initiative's visibility.

Outcome

Direct environmental improvements
in the community, such as reduced waste,
increased green coverage, or improved water
management.

Stronger ties among community members through
shared efforts and collective pride.

Practical, scalable examples of climate resilience
that can inspire replication elsewhere.

Key resource

"Toolkit for Youth on Adaptation & Leadership" by CARE

The toolkit is a comprehensive resource designed to empower young
individuals to lead climate adaptation and resilience initiatives within their
communities. This toolkit offers interactive resources and strategies
to help youth understand climate challenges and develop effective,
inclusive solutions. It emphasizes leadership development, community
engagement, and practical action, making it an invaluable guide
for youth-driven climate projects.

Partnerships for Climate Solutions

Objective

Empower youth to foster collaborations with diverse stakeholders to tackle systemic climate challenges by pooling resources, aligning expertise, and leveraging collective impact.

Steps to take

01. Identify and map stakeholders

Purpose: Identify individuals, groups, or organizations that can contribute resources, expertise, or influence to address a specific local climate issue (e.g., improving waste management, expanding green spaces, or implementing renewable energy projects).

Conduct a stakeholder mapping exercise to identify local and regional actors, such as NGOs, businesses, government entities, educational institutions, and community leaders.

Use a mapping tool or matrix to classify stakeholders based on their level of interest, influence, and resources related to the identified climate issue.

02. Engage and build alliances

Organize inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogues, focusing on shared climate goals.

Present clear objectives and potential benefits to all participants. Ensure representation from diverse sectors and marginalized groups to foster inclusivity.

Use ice-breaking exercises or storytelling to establish trust and create a collaborative atmosphere.

03. Align and leverage resources

Propose collaborative projects that align with the goals and capacities of all stakeholders.

Explore opportunities for partners to contribute funding, tools, expertise, or technical support.

Develop Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) or informal agreements to outline roles and responsibilities.

04. Pilot a community project

Co-design and implement a small-scale initiative, such as a community-wide recycling program, renewable energy workshops, or urban greening projects.

Use participatory approaches to ensure community involvement and ownership.

Monitor and adapt the project based on stakeholder feedback and emerging challenges.

05. Reflect and scale up

Evaluate the pilot project's outcomes using measurable indicators (e.g., waste reduction, community engagement levels).

Document learnings to refine strategies and build a scalable framework for future initiatives.

Identify additional partners to expand the scope or replicate the initiative in other areas.

Outcome

Youth-led initiatives gain traction and effectiveness by harnessing the diverse resources, expertise, and influence of multi-sector partnerships. This approach cultivates a culture of collaboration, paving the way for broader systemic solutions to local climate challenges.

Key resource

The DIY Manual on Engaging Stakeholders by CARE

A hands-on guide providing tools and practical advice for effectively identifying, engaging, and collaborating with diverse stakeholders in sustainable projects.

Green Enterprises for a Circular Future

Inspire and equip youth to develop innovative enterprises that address local environmental challenges while fostering a transition to a circular economy.

Steps to take

01. Spot the opportunity

Identify environmental challenges in your community (e.g., plastic waste, e-waste, food surplus).

Use tools like community mapping or surveys to pinpoint actionable circular opportunities.

Example: "How can discarded textiles be repurposed into marketable goods?"

02. Draft a circular business plan

Use frameworks like the Business Model Canvas to integrate circular principles.

Define aspects like target audience, sustainable material use, and revenue streams.

Explore Impact Hub's "Embedding Circularity Toolkit for guidance on developing a circular value chain.

03. Prototyping and validation

Develop a low-cost prototype or proof of concept.

Engage stakeholders (e.g., potential users or local NGOs) to test the solution and provide feedback.

Example: Partner with local businesses to trial composting bins for food waste.

04. Scaling and partnerships

Build networks with local organizations, businesses, and government bodies to expand reach.

Seek funding opportunities, including grants, impact investors, or public-private partnerships.

Leverage tools like Impact Hub's Circularity in Action for case studies on successful circular ventures.

05. Embed circular practices

Ensure circular principles such as reducing waste, designing for reuse, and sourcing sustainable materials are integral to your enterprise.

Example: Use recycled or upcycled materials for product manufacturing.

Outcome

Participants will establish enterprises that integrate circular principles, creating tangible solutions to environmental challenges while driving local economic growth.

Key resource

"Embedding Circularity Toolkit" by Impact Hub.

A comprehensive resource for developing and scaling circular economy initiatives.

Climate Literacy for All

Objective

Enable youth groups to design and implement engaging educational programs that raise climate awareness and build sustainability skills within their communities.

Steps to take

01. Design inspiring content

Focus on relatable, impactful climate topics like renewable energy, waste management, or biodiversity.

Use storytelling to connect emotionally, data visualization to simplify complex issues, and real-world case studies to inspire actionable ideas.

Example: Develop a workshop showcasing how small changes, like reducing single-use plastics, contribute to global climate solutions.

02. Incorporate creative engagement

Plan workshops with interactive elements such as group discussions, climate trivia, or role-playing activities.

Include hands-on experiences like DIY projects (e.g., creating upcycled items), energy-saving audits, or tree-planting initiatives.

Example: Organize a session where participants map their daily carbon footprint and brainstorm ways to reduce it.

03. Empower peer educators

Identify and train enthusiastic participants to become peer educators who can replicate the program in their schools, communities, or workplaces.

Provide accessible resources like step-by-step guides, activity templates, and tips for engaging diverse audiences.

Example: A trained youth leader could host a DIY workshop on eco-friendly practices in their community center.

04. Track impact and iterate

Use simple feedback forms or group reflections to measure the program's effectiveness and gather suggestions for improvement.

Document successes and challenges, and refine the program based on participant input.

Example: Prompt participants with questions like, "What action will you take this week because of this workshop?"

Outcome

Youth-led climate literacy initiatives will empower communities with the knowledge and skills to take informed, sustainable actions. These programs foster local engagement and inspire collective climate-conscious behavior.

Resource link

Toolkit on Green Soft Skills, developed by SALTO-Youth

This toolkit focuses on cultivating green soft skills through non-formal education methods. It offers practical activities and resources for youth workers to empower young people with the knowledge and skills needed to foster sustainability and environmental awareness in their communities.

Inspiring Change Through Creativity: Art for Climate Justice

Objective

Use art and culture as transformative tools to engage communities, raise awareness, and inspire collective action toward environmental sustainability and climate justice. This pathway encourages youth to explore diverse artistic mediums to connect emotionally with their audience, amplify messages, and build solidarity for climate action.

Steps to take

01. Spot the opportunity

Introduce the group to inspiring examples of artivism and cultural expressions that have impacted climate action. Share videos, exhibits, or stories from global and local artists using creative approaches to address environmental issues.

Discuss how art can connect people emotionally and transcend barriers like language and cultural differences.

Suggested resource: Explore Fine Acts' Climate Artivism Collection.

02. Host Creative Climate Jams

Organize an event where participants brainstorm and co-create climate-themed artworks. Possible formats include:

- **Visual Art**: Murals, graffiti, posters, or upcycled sculptures.
- **Performing Arts**: Theatre, spoken word poetry, dance, or music performances.
- **Digital Media**: Short films, animations, social media campaigns, or digital storytelling.
- **Traditional and Local Crafts**: Utilize indigenous art forms to connect with cultural heritage.

Encourage inclusivity and allow everyone to contribute, regardless of skill level.

03. Curate Public Exhibitions or Performances

Showcase the group's work to the community by organizing art exhibitions in public spaces, performances at local events, or virtual galleries online.

Collaborate with local schools, cultural institutions, or NGOs to maximize reach.

Example: A climate-themed mural in a public square, paired with QR codes linking to information about local sustainability initiatives.

04. Use Art as a Catalyst for Dialogue

Pair artistic showcases with facilitated discussions or workshops to encourage reflection and engagement.

Provide prompts like:

- "How does this art piece make you feel about the climate crisis?"
- "What solutions does it inspire in you?"

Encourage attendees to contribute their ideas and pledge actions in response.

05. Leverage Digital Platforms for Broader Reach

Amplify the group's message by sharing artworks and performances on social media, YouTube, or climate-focused platforms.

Use hashtags and challenges to involve wider audiences in creating and sharing their own climate-themed art.

Suggested platform: Artivive for augmented reality experiences in public art.

06. Engage with Intergenerational and Local Perspectives

Incorporate narratives and artistic traditions from older generations, indigenous communities, or other underrepresented groups to create a more inclusive and diverse representation of climate action.

Example: Partner with a local elder to co-create a storytelling performance about environmental changes over decades.

07. Encourage Replication and Sharing

Develop a toolkit or guide for others to organize their own climate-themed art events. Include templates for posters, scripts, or DIY instructions for upcycled crafts.

Share lessons learned and success stories to inspire similar initiatives.

08. Measure and Celebrate Impact

Collect feedback from attendees to evaluate how the art inspired awareness or action.

Celebrate milestones and outcomes by hosting a reflection session or creating a summary video to showcase the journey and its impact.

Outcome

Youth-led climate literacy initiatives will empower communities with the knowledge and skills to take informed, sustainable actions. These programs foster local engagement and inspire collective climate-conscious behavior.

Resource link

Fine Acts' Climate Artivism Collection – Explore impactful climate-themed art campaigns.

The Center for Artistic Activism – Learn how to combine art and activism effectively.

Guide to climate justice for artists and collaborators by Creative Carbon Scotland

Amplifier – Access free climate art posters for public use.

Important note

Participants are encouraged to explore their own artivistic potential as individuals or groups, using their creativity to inspire change. At the same time, they can research existing artists or artivists whose work aligns with their climate goals to engage them as collaborators. Additionally, consider recruiting youth artists within your community to join your group and contribute their creative talents to the cause. Together, these partnerships can amplify your efforts and enrich your climate action initiatives with diverse artistic perspectives.

Case studies

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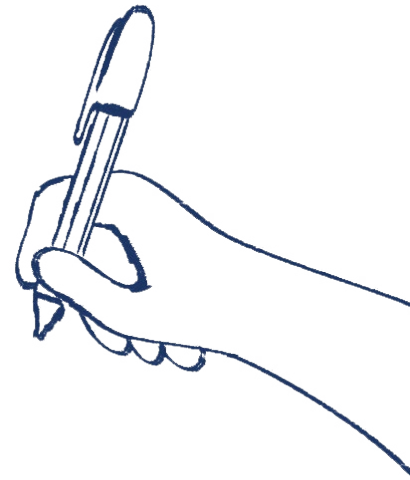
Inspiring Change Through Creativity: Art for Climate Justice

Engaging Young People in Climate Litigation

The problem

Young people are underrepresented in environmental decision-making processes. Governments and corporations are not being held accountable effectively for their contributions to climate change.

Goals

- Empower Young People: Equip them with the knowledge and tools to engage in climate litigation and environmental justice efforts.
- Enhance Youth Participation: Advocate for systemic inclusion of youth in environmental decision-making processes, including climate youth assemblies.
- Strengthen Legal Provisions: Push for more ambitious EU environmental and climate laws, along with robust Access to Justice (A2J) mechanisms.
- Establish connections: Build a network where young people can connect, share, and strategise on climate litigation and advocacy efforts.

Approach

Youth and Environment Europe (YEE) collaborates with universities, NGOs and young climate activists across Europe to implement the Legal Seeds 4 initiative. Through its advocacy, YEE campaigns for more ambitious EU environmental and climate laws, while promoting systemic youth

participation in environmental decision-making processes. The capacity-building efforts include workshops and webinars designed to equip participants with in-depth knowledge of climate and environmental legal issues. Additionally, YEE established the Youth Climate Law Hub, a dynamic network connecting young people from diverse backgrounds to share litigation opportunities, advocacy strategies, and campaign ideas.

Features

The Legal Seeds 4 initiative employed a dynamic and inclusive approach to engage young people in environmental law and climate activism. The program promotes young people as legal "champions" equipped to defend their future through climate litigation and advocacy. Workshops and webinars acted as "training sessions," preparing participants to tackle environmental challenges with confidence. The Youth Climate Law Hub served as a vibrant "arena" where young activists could connect, strategize, and share resources. To capture attention and drive participation, the initiative used accessible and relatable messaging, presenting complex legal concepts in simple and engaging formats. Interactive discussions, real-world case studies, and digital resources further enrich the learning experience and create a strong, interconnected community of young environmental advocates.

Lessons learned

Although environmental law may be considered a 'bubble', by using an approachable communications strategy and building a community of likeminded young people, this initiative demonstrates that demonstrated that complex legal topics can be made accessible and engaging.

Find out more: https://yeenet.eu/project/legal-seeds-4/

What you can do

Browse their <u>one stop library</u> to educate yourself
on environmental law or alternatively listen
to the podcasts series <u>"On Climate and Law"</u>.
Find out if there's a <u>YEE member organization</u>
in your country and join the program.

Relevant links

<u>One Stop Library</u>

<u>"On Climate and Law"</u>

<u>YEE member organization</u>

Health for Future by KLUG e.V.

Health professionals for Climate Justice

The problem

The climate crisis is driving a growing health emergency, with severe physical and mental health consequences.

Goals

To empower, educate and mobilise the healthcare sector to become agents of change on climate action.

Approach

Health for Future (H4F), founded in August 2019 by the German Climate Change and Health Alliance (KLUG e.V.), operates as a movement and action forum for health professionals advocating for climate justice. Independent from its parent organization, H4F adopted a multigenerational approach, with a strong emphasis on young health professionals leading the charge.

The movement engages healthcare actors and institutions through strikes, community actions, workshops, and campaigns. It positions health professionals as trusted societal change agents, using their expertise and influence to champion the social-ecological transformation necessary to combat the climate crisis. With approximately 60 local groups across Germany, H4F's decentralized structure ensures that participants can independently plan and execute diverse projects.

Features

Health for Future frames the healthcare sector as both a victim of and a

contributor to the climate crisis, emphasizing the sector's unique responsibility to act. The initiative uses impactful campaigns and direct actions to engage the public and healthcare professionals alike. Strikes and community actions showcase the urgency of the climate crisis, while workshops and educational campaigns empower participants with the knowledge and tools needed to address systemic challenges.
The movement emphasizes a collaborative spirit, connecting local groups to foster a robust network that shares best practices and strategies. Partnering with KLUG e.V., H4F benefits from institutional support while maintaining its independence and grassroots ethos.

Lessons learned

By aligning the health sector with the climate justice movement, Health for Future has demonstrated the power of positioning trusted professionals as agents of change. It has also shown that empowering young health professionals leads to innovative and energetic approaches, ensuring a multigenerational movement for systemic change.

What you can do

Join as an individual or organization the Planetary Health Alliance.
Start an international Health for Future group in your region or if not applicable to you, share this with your network of healthcare professionals.

Relevant links

Planetary Health Alliance

Green Disability
by Green Disability

There is no Climate Justice Without Disability Justice

The problem

The climate crisis has a disproportionate impact on people with disabilities.

Goals

- Promote Disability-Inclusive Climate Policies: Advocate for the integration of disability rights into global environmental and climate action plans.
- Raise Awareness: Highlight the intersection of disability rights and climate justice to build empathy and understanding.
- Empower Disabled Youth: Provide tools, skills, and platforms for young people with disabilities to actively engage in climate action and policy advocacy.

Approach

Green Disability addresses the intersection of climate change and disability through a strategic approach that combines education, advocacy, and storytelling. Central to the initiative are workshops, advocacy campaigns, and skill-building sessions, which provide young people with disabilities with the tools to participate in climate action.

These workshops cover topics like accessible climate policies, sustainable living practices and digital inclusion, equipping participants with actionable knowledge and skills.

Features

To amplify its impact, Green Disability uses innovative storytelling techniques, such as AI-based arts and digital platforms to convey the lived experiences of disabled individuals. These narratives foster empathy and a deeper understanding of how environmental and social issues intersect with disability. The initiative also actively engages local communities and collaborates with organizations to promote inclusive climate policies and practices.

Green Disability creates a vibrant global community of over 600 young people with disabilities, offering them a platform to connect, collaborate, and advocate for disability-inclusive climate solutions. By integrating storytelling into its approach, the initiative humanizes the climate crisis and underscores the urgency of disability justice within environmental action.

Lessons learned

One of the major challenges Green Disability faced was raising awareness about the overlooked intersection of disability and climate change. This was addressed by engaging directly with local communities and employing storytelling to amplify disabled voices. Moving forward, expanding partnerships and ensuring accessible resources will be crucial to sustaining and scaling the impact of this important work.

Find out more: https://linktr.ee/GreenDisability

What you can do

Read the founder's Puneet Singh Singhal Story and connect with the movement.

Relevant links

Find out more

Puneet Singh Singhal Story

Fossil Fuel Non Proliferation Treaty Initiative

The problem

Fossil fuels, like coal, oil, and gas, are the main cause of climate change because they release most of the harmful greenhouse gases into the air. Using more of these fuels makes it harder to fight climate change and hurts people in poorer countries the most. Even though we need to act fast, there's no worldwide plan to stop using fossil fuels and switch to clean, sustainable energy.

Goals

The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative is inspired by the success of international treaties addressing nuclear weapons and other global threats. The initiative is built on three pillars:

- Non-Proliferation: Prevent the expansion of fossil fuel production by halting new projects that lock in emissions and undermine global climate targets.
- Equitable Phase-Out: Manage a fair and just decline of existing fossil fuel production in line with scientific targets and global climate justice.
- Support for Transition: Invest in renewable energy systems and ensure the rights of workers, communities, and countries reliant on fossil fuel industries during the transition.

Approach

The initiative brings together people like government leaders, scientists,

community organizers, and local groups from around the world. It works to build strong teams that push for policy changes, gain public support, and match global climate goals like the Paris Agreement. The initiative also partners with cities—more than 80 so far, including big ones like Los Angeles and Vancouver. Through campaigns, research, and teamwork, it leads a global effort to tackle the impact of fossil fuels on climate change.

Features

The initiative focuses on equity, making sure solutions help vulnerable people and poorer countries. It ensures everyone is included, especially those who are often left out. By supporting movements that shift money away from fossil fuels and into clean energy, it creates even bigger change.

Lessons learned

Join their online open youth space led by young people, for young people, between 10 to 29 years old. Organise and demand your City representatives to sign the Treaty.

What you can do

Read the founder's Puneet Singh Singhal Story and connect with the movement.

Relevant links

Find out more

Online Open Youth Space

EnviroVision Green Leaders by EnviroVision2050

Youth Cleaning Up the Ocean and Preserving the Planet.

The problem

The environment is facing serious challenges like ocean pollution, climate change, and loss of biodiversity. Pollution from plastic waste and industries like fast fashion are harming ecosystems, but many people don't realize how everyday choices contribute to the problem.

Goals

To empower young people to become active changemakers who work to protect the planet and increase awareness about important issues like ocean conservation, climate change, and biodiversity.

Approach

The EnviroVision Green Leaders Programme educates and inspires young people in India to protect the environment. Through interactive workshops, fun projects, and teamwork, participants learn about the oceans, climate action, and biodiversity conservation.

This program is for all youth, especially those from underserved or non-coastal areas. It shows that you don't have to live near the ocean to help it. Activities like cleanup drives and lessons about how industries like fast fashion affect oceans make it clear how our choices impact the planet.

The program also uses a mix of education, science, and communication to bring together young people, local communities, and experts. This collaborative approach helps everyone learn from each other and work toward a common goal.

Features

EnviroVision Green Leaders offers a range of exciting opportunities for youth in India such as workshops and projects on marine pollution. One of their flagship projects, the Green Leaders Ocean Literacy Programme, endorsed by the UN Ocean Decade, is designed to educate and inspire youth, especially from landlocked regions, to take action for ocean conservation. By linking ocean literacy with broader environmental issues, the organization has empowered hundreds of young people in India to champion sustainability in their communities and engage with stakeholders.

Lessons learned

Motivating young people to stay committed to environmental causes can be challenging, especially after an action ends. EnviroVision found that connecting the cause to topics youth care about, like fashion, and showing how small daily choices impact the environment, makes a big difference.

Find out more: www.envirovision2050.org

What you can do

Find out more about what causes <u>marine pollution</u>.

Join a local clean up initiative or even better organize a clean up day where you live.
There's even a <u>World Clean Up Day</u>.

Relevant links

<u>Find out more</u>

<u>Marine Pollution Fact</u>

<u>World Clean Up Day</u>

Changing behaviors by ZIK Črnomelj

Small local actions to change a community

The problem

Many communities struggle with unsustainable practices, loss of cultural heritage, and limited career opportunities.

Goals

ZIK Črnomelj, a community organization in Slovenia, aims to create a more resilient and sustainable community by addressing local challenges through education, cultural preservation, and practical initiatives. Their goals include transforming community practices, preserving cultural heritage and empowering young people.

Approach

ZIK Črnomelj uses education and community-driven events to inspire change at the grassroots level. By connecting social, environmental, and cultural themes, the organization creates programs that resonate with local residents.

Their initiatives focus on practical solutions that are accessible and relatable. For example, they encourage sustainable habits through clothing swaps, teach eco-conscious living through herbalism workshops, and help young people explore career options through interactive fairs. By combining education with action, ZIK Črnomelj fosters long-term behavioral changes and a stronger sense of community.

Features

ZIK Črnomelj's initiatives include:

- Clothing Swaps: Community events promoting sustainable fashion by reducing waste and advocating for mindful consumer habits. These events raise awareness about the environmental impact of fast fashion while offering a practical, fun alternative.
- Herbalism Days: Workshops and local markets that teach participants about biodiversity, herbalism, and natural product creation. This initiative preserves cultural heritage while encouraging eco-conscious living.
- Poklicijada Career Fair: Interactive fairs and workshops that connect young people with career opportunities, addressing local skill shortages and reducing brain drain.

Lessons learned

Through their integrated approach, ZIK Črnomelj proves that even small organizations can drive big changes. Practical and relatable activities, like clothing swaps or herbalism workshops, make sustainability accessible and help individuals feel empowered to create change.

Find out more: https://www.zik-crnomelj.eu/

What you can do

Join or organise a clothing swap event.

Find out if there's a local organisation changing mindsets where you live.

Relevant links

Find out more

Climate Justice Flashmob by Sudwind

Dancing for a Sustainable Future

The problem

Climate change demands urgent action, yet political and public response often lags behind. The lack of meaningful local policies in Austria, addressing climate justice and promoting sustainable mobility, motivated Südwind activists to find a creative way to call for change.

Goals

To advocate for bold political actions to combat climate change and ask the city of Graz to adopt climate-friendly policies, such as affordable public transport, pedestrian-friendly streets, and improved cycling infrastructure.

Approach

Südwind adopted a unique and emotionally engaging strategy to make their message resonate. A flashmob was chosen as the medium to communicate the urgency of climate justice. Collaborating with professional dance instructors, activists participated in a series of workshops to learn the choreography.

The flashmob was designed to take place in a central square in Graz, accompanied by professional sound equipment to amplify its impact. To maximize inclusivity and engagement, the second part of the performance invited passersby and local politicians to join in spontaneously.

Extensive public relations efforts, including outreach to media and local leaders, ensured significant attention before and after the event. This creative action was complemented by the establishment of a local platform advocating for sustainable mobility and compliance with climate targets.

Features

The flashmob was more than just a performance; it was an integrated action with multiple layers of impact:

- **Workshops**: Five preparatory workshops allowed activists to learn the choreography, build camaraderie, and deepen their commitment to the cause.
- **Public Engagement**: A second phase of the flashmob invited onlookers, including political leaders, to participate, creating an immediate and personal connection to the message.
- **Media Attention**: A strong media campaign amplified the reach of the event, ensuring that its message resonated far beyond Graz's central square.
- **Coalition Building**: The action strengthened alliances between Südwind and other climate initiatives, creating a lasting network for future collaborations.

Lessons learned

The Climate Justice Flashmob highlighted the power of creativity in advocacy. By incorporating art and emotion into their campaign, Südwind successfully captured public attention and inspired action.

Find out more: https://www.suedwind.at/tanzen-fuer-klimagerechtigkeit/

What you can do

Your limitation is only your imagination.

Think of creative ways to organize and mobilise people. Become an Imagination Activist (yes there is such a term).

Relevant links

Find out more

Climate Choir Movement

Singing for Climate

The problem

The climate and ecological crises continue to escalate, but traditional forms of activism don't always reach or engage all members of society.

Goals

To use the power of music to draw attention to critical environmental issues and mobilize public opinion.

Approach

The Climate Choir Movement combines music and activism to inspire change and build community. The initiative began in Bristol in 2022 and has since grown to include over 900 participants rehearsing in 17 locations across the UK and internationally, including Zimbabwe. Performances are held at significant locations to maximize public and media attention. Participants join a network of like-minded individuals, building relationships and solidarity through shared goals and experiences.

Features

The Climate Choir Movement promotes inclusive participation and welcomes people of all ages and skill levels, ensuring that everyone can contribute to the fight for climate justice. Key actions include:

- **Flash Mob Performances**: Choirs perform in high-visibility locations and at major events, such as the UK Parliament, where 150 singers protested the proposed Rosebank oil field.

- **Protest Songs**: Their repertoire includes original songs like "Let Us Stand" and "We Got All the Love," which convey powerful messages of unity, environmental stewardship, and hope.
- **Global Expansion**: The movement supports choirs in cities like Bath, Oxford, London, and Sheffield, as well as international groups, fostering a worldwide network of climate-conscious communities.

Lessons learned

The Climate Choir Movement demonstrates that creative and peaceful protest can have a significant impact on raising awareness and inspiring action. One challenge has been coordinating large-scale events across multiple locations, which the movement addresses through strong local leadership and collaboration.

Find out more: https://climatechoirmovement.org/

What you can do

Watch them perform and get inspired.

Do you like singing? Join your local choir and gradually introduce to them the climate choir spirit.

Relevant links

Find out more

Huge Climate Choir sneaks into Parliament to deliver message

Artists for Climate by TEDx and Fine Acts

Inspiring action, one brushstroke at a time

The main goal of Artists for Climate is to mobilize the power of creativity to address the climate crisis. Their objective is to use art as a tool to raise awareness about the climate emergency and build a global community of artists who collaborate on creative projects for climate action.

Goals

To advocate for bold political actions to combat climate change and ask the city of Graz to adopt climate-friendly policies, such as affordable public transport, pedestrian-friendly streets, and improved cycling infrastructure.

Approach

Artists for Climate connects artists, cultural workers, and organizations around the world, offering resources and support to amplify their impact. By blending art with activism, the initiative works to communicate the urgency of the climate crisis while also inspiring hope. The project operates through collaborative efforts with cultural institutions, climate organizations, and community groups to integrate art into climate strategies, making it a central part of climate action plans. The initiative engages artists to create digital art, perform at events, and collaborate on campaigns that speak to a wide audience.

Features

Between 2021 and 2024, Artists for Climate hosted 22 creative bootcamps worldwide, engaging over 160 artists and bringing hundreds of new works into the collection. A highlight of the movement includes the global open call for digital illustrations about climate change, where thousands of submissions were received.

These works form The Climate Collection, an open-license vault of visuals that help promote climate action. Artists for Climate works with cultural and climate organizations to integrate art into broader climate action initiatives.

Lessons learned

The power of art to address complex issues like climate change lies in its ability to evoke emotions, create connections and inspire action.

What you can do

Download and use the <u>free artwork</u> for promoting your climate related actions.

Don't forget to give appropriate credits to the artist.

Relevant links

<u>Artists for climate – The Climate Collection</u>

Tree planting to empower communities

Making our planet a greener place, one tree at a time

The problem

Losing green spaces harms the environment in many ways. It reduces plant and animal life, lowers air and soil quality, makes communities less prepared for climate change, and weakens their ability to recover from environmental or social challenges.

Goals

Tree planting initiatives are sweeping across the globe as people want to protect existing forests, restore degraded lands and create green spaces. These projects focus on different goals like making cities greener, fixing riverbanks, supporting farming with trees, cooling the air, or inspiring young people to take action. Together, they show how planting trees can help solve many connected problems.

Dentri project by Mamagea
Urban tree mapping

In Thessaloniki, a city with one of the lowest green space ratios in Europe (2.7 m² per resident), a handful of citizens are making change happen. Under the guidance of Mamagea, an environmental NGO focusing on urban sustainability, they are mapping vacant tree pits in their neighborhoods and planting new trees to strengthen the city's green infrastructure, and planting new trees to boost the city's green spaces.

The initiative collaborates with the Green Department of the Municipality, which helps plant the trees and ensures their care for long-term success. By involving young people in activities like mapping, planting, and environmental advocacy, the project encourages community participation and a sense of responsibility for the environment.

https://mamagea.gr/projects/5_dentriproject

**Afforestation of Luwasozi river banks
by Tawonga Community Based Organization**
Agroforestry and entrepreneurship

In Malawi, along the Luwasozi river banks, women and young farmers are leading the way to restore forests and improve their communities. Through the Tawonga Community Based Organization, 13 farming groups are working together to plant trees, grow crops sustainably, and create new business opportunities.

Tree planting is the heart of this project. Each group plants 850–900 trees every year on an acre of land. They use smart methods like drill seeding to plant seeds at the right depth, helping the trees grow better and survive longer. To support these efforts, the community raises money through local churches, markets and other events.

A team of experts in farming and business supports the farmers, helping them work together to bring back Malawi's forests. This project combines tree planting with sustainable farming and small businesses, making it both good for the environment and helpful for the community's economy.

https://m.facebook.com/p/Tawonga-cooking-oil-processing-and-animal-feed-enterprise-100064143034986/

Transforming Agriculture through Permaculture by Mlatho Farms
Agri-learning Hub

Mlatho Farms and Agri-Learning Hub in Malawi helps young people tackle environmental and economic challenges. The program focuses on

permaculture, Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA), and entrepreneurship, with tree planting at its core. This offers practical solutions to deforestation, climate change, and youth unemployment.

Youth are the driving force behind this project. In 2024, 192 young people joined the Permaculture Awareness Course, where they learned hands-on skills to start tree nurseries and lead tree planting efforts. The project aims to raise 150,000 tree seedlings, with 50,000 already growing. These trees are planted to restore damaged land, and some are sold to earn money, making the program financially sustainable.

https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064316520366

I Make Rain by Mesopotamo Fog Forest Alliance
Harvesting Mist, Growing Forests, Restoring Balance

The Mesopotamo Mist Initiative is creating a greener, healthier Mediterranean by copying the natural fog-collecting process of Madeira's cloud forests. The project plants evergreen trees near rivers and valleys to increase moisture in the air, cool the area, and support wildlife.

Tree planting is the heart of this work, with over 500 evergreen trees already planted. These trees help spread moisture, lower temperatures by up to 2°C, and improve soil health. In just one year, the number of plants and animals in the area grew by 15%, showing the project's success.

Young people lead the way, with over 200 joining workshops and tree-planting events. Inspired by Madeira's cloud forests, they researched tree types and planned where to plant them. By visiting schools and hosting community events, the project encourages everyone to help protect the environment.

Green Spaces Initiative (GSI)
by Movement for Environmental Action (MEA)
Planting fruit trees at schools

GSI helps schools and cities in Malawi by planting fruit trees, improving

the environment, providing food, and teaching young people about nature. In many areas where GSI works, green spaces are disappearing and opportunities for young people to lead environmental projects are limited.

GSI runs tree-planting campaigns led by students, workshops to raise awareness, and training to build leadership skills. By working with local leaders and organizations, GSI reaches more people and makes a bigger impact.

Fruit tree planting is the heart of the project, especially in schools. These trees make the environment healthier, increase food supplies, and create spaces for learning and fun. By involving students and their communities, GSI helps people understand how nature fights climate change.

Young people play a key role. Through campaigns, workshops, and hands-on activities, they learn to lead and take action for the environment. Schools act as centers for education and change, while these efforts also expand into cities and communities, turning empty spaces into vibrant green areas.

What you can do

Support a tree planting initiative close to where you live.

Relevant links

Mamagea Dentri Project

Tawonga cooking oil processing and animal feed enterprise

Mlatho Farming Enterprise and General Services

Global Shapers Community Hubs

Young Minds, Local Change, Global Impact

The problem

Big issues like climate change and environmental damage need local solutions that fit each community. Young people have the passion and creativity to help, but they often don't have the tools or spaces to make a real difference in their local communities.

Goals

- Help young people become leaders in tackling global problems locally.
- Teach communities about climate change and sustainable living.
- Build partnerships to make local projects more powerful and effective.

Approach

The Global Shapers Community, an initiative of the World Economic Forum, is a global network of youth-led hubs focused on creating meaningful local impact. With hubs in over 150 countries, young people work together to tackle big challenges like climate change and sustainability.

Each hub is powered by the creativity and energy of young leaders, who develop solutions that fit their communities. The program offers training, tools, and resources to help young people turn their ideas into action and create real impact.

Approach

Global Shapers focus on teamwork, new ideas, and grassroots projects to

make a difference. They lead everything from awareness campaigns to hands-on activities like tree planting and waste reduction. Even with limited resources, they succeed by planning smart and partnering with local groups. Their initiatives range from public awareness campaigns to hands-on solutions for environmental challenges, often overcoming resource and logistical constraints through effective planning and partnerships.

- In Calabar, Nigeria, the Zero Waste project runs school campaigns, social media outreach, and community collaborations to reduce waste and teach climate-conscious habits.
- In Geneva, Switzerland, the Climate Reality Campaign helps people shrink their carbon footprints through workshops and public events.
- In Kigali, Rwanda, the hub runs tree-planting and sustainability workshops to fight deforestation.

Lessons learned

When young people are given the tools and support they need, they can lead real change. By focusing on what each community needs, these projects make a lasting impact and inspire more people to get involved in creating a better future.

Find out more: https://www.globalshapers.org/home

What you can do

Find likeminded people in your area: https://www.globalshapers.org/hubs

Relevant links

Find out more

Find likeminded people in your area

Terra Franca (Free Land) by HRYO

Turning abandoned land into a beekeeping haven

The problem

In Cruillas, a neighborhood in Palermo, land once taken from the local Mafia sat abandoned and lifeless. Instead of being useful, it became a sad reminder of lost opportunities and the damage caused by organized crime. Young people and locals had no green spaces to enjoy or projects to join that could bring the community together.

Goals

The Terra Franca project, started in 2019 by the Human Rights Youth Organization (HRYO), aimed to transform this neglected land into a vibrant, sustainable green space. The primary objective was to regenerate the land for the benefit of the local youth community while promoting environmental and social well-being.

Approach

The project employed a combination of environmental regeneration and community engagement. Using permaculture principles, Terra Franca created a balanced and sustainable ecosystem. The land has been revitalized with a variety of features including a bee colony, a holistic apiary, a greenhouse for biodiversity, a chicken coop, and a pond.tools, and resources to help young people turn their ideas into action and create real impact. Through the PermaYouth initiative, international training

essions equip youth leaders with skills in permaculture. The BeeWoman project empowers vulnerable women, particularly those with migratory backgrounds, by enhancing their professional skills and providing new opportunities.

Features

Visitors can learn about beekeeping in a natural way, where bees thrive on the flowers and plants around them. The greenhouse lets plants grow all year long, and the space is designed to bring people closer to nature.

The project also focuses on innovation and sustainability. Bee Wraps, an eco-friendly alternative to plastic wrap made from beeswax-infused fabric, are one of Terra Franca's creative products. Workshops and educational materials teach the community to build DIY top-bar beehives, promoting self-reliance and ecological awareness.

Lessons learned

Terra Franca shows how communities can work together to bring life back to abandoned spaces. By involving young people and women, the project creates a sense of belonging and responsibility. The mix of biodiversity, innovation, and sustainability helps the environment and makes life better for everyone.

Find out more: https://www.terra-franca.it/

What you can do

Visit a local Beekeeping Initiative and learn about bees, or try creating your own sustainable solutions!

Relevant links

Find out more

Green April
by Burgas Municipality

Bringing together the community for a whole month

The problem

In Burgas, Bulgaria, big environmental issues like pollution, deforestation, and wasteful habits need everyone to work together to solve them.
But many citizens, especially young people, don't have enough chances to learn about climate action or get involved in helping the planet.

Goals

The "Green April" initiative, led by the Municipality of Burgas, focuses on protecting the environment and educating people about sustainable living. By aligning with the European Commission's NextGenerationEU plan, the project aims to:

- Protect the environment through community action.
- Teach people, especially youth, about sustainable habits.
- Build awareness about climate change and how everyone can help.

Approach

Collaboration was at the heart of "Green April's" success. The Municipality of Burgas partnered with local municipal bodies and organisations and supported a variety of impactful activities, including planting 100 saplings in deforested areas, cleaning polluted spaces and hosting hands-on workshops.

Participants not only contributed to tangible environmental improvements but also gained insights into sustainable practices and the circular economy. By blending information campaigns with practical actions and creative expression, "Green April" inspired active participation and innovative idea-sharing among youth.

Features

The initiative combined environmental restoration with creative educational activities. Key actions included tree planting, local cleanups, and innovative workshops centered on "Sustainable Fashion." Youth engagement was a central element, with students actively participating in creating figurines from recycled textiles, organizing textile swaps, and attending lectures on the circular economy.

Lessons learned

"Green April" showed how teamwork between local government, organizations, and youth groups can create a big impact. By involving young people in meaningful ways, the project proved that creative activities can inspire real change.

Find out more: https://yicburgas.bg/aktualno/

What you can do

Participate in initiatives organized by your Municipality. If they are inactive, why not write them an email and suggest it's about time they should do something!

Relevant links

Find out more

European Climate Pact

Bringing together the community for a whole month

The problem

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges of our time. While more people are aware of the issue, we still need to work together—across all parts of society—to make real progress.

Goals

The European Climate Pact, part of the European Green Deal, is a movement bringing people together to help Europe become climate-neutral by 2050. It's about uniting individuals, communities, and organizations to take action and make Europe more sustainable. The Climate Pact offers opportunities to:

- learn about climate change
- develop and implement solutions
- connect with others and maximise the impact of these solutions

Approach

The Pact invites everyone—young people, schools, NGOs, businesses, and local governments—to work together on meaningful actions. These include cutting down emissions, switching to renewable energy and/or promoting sustainable ways of living, like reducing waste and reusing resources.

Young people are a huge part of this movement. The Climate Pact encourages youth to become Climate Pact Ambassadors, spreading awareness and leading local campaigns. There's even an EU Climate Action Academy, where anyone can join webinars, learn from experts, and find resources to take action.

Features

Everyone has a place in the Pact. People or groups joining can facilitate a wide range of activities designed to drive climate action and education. Youth ambassadors engage in workshops, campaigns, and educational programs, where they raise awareness about climate challenges and promote sustainable lifestyles.
Partnerships are also a cornerstone of the initiative. Stakeholders from various sectors—including schools, local governments, and businesses—join forces to implement green practices.

Lessons learned

The European Climate Pact shows how teamwork can tackle climate challenges. When people from all walks of life come together, the impact is greater and reaches more communities. Young people play a special role, leading creative projects and inspiring others to take action.

Find out more: https://climate-pact.europa.eu/index_en

What you can do

Watch this space and Become a Pact Ambassador when the call opens. https://climate-pact.europa.eu/get-involved/ become-pact-ambassador_en

Relevant links

Find out more

Become a Pact Ambassador

International Policy-Hackathon for Climate Justice by Südwind

Hacking for climate justice

The problem

For years, leaders have talked about tackling climate change, but real action is often missing. Many young people feel frustrated and left out of these conversations, even though climate change impacts their future the most.

Goals

Südwind's initiative aims to give young people a real chance to be heard by decision- makers. The goal is to connect youth with political leaders, ensuring their ideas are included in discussions about climate justice. By creating opportunities for young people to share their innovative solutions, the initiative helps them play a key role in shaping a fairer and greener future within the European Union.

Approach

The project uses hackathons, which are creative events where people come together to solve specific problems. Youth organizations and individuals from all over Europe joined forces to brainstorm, share ideas, and develop solutions for climate justice. These ideas were presented to an international jury of seven politicians from different levels and groups.

The **hackathon** gathered 70 participants from diverse backgrounds. They worked in teams, refined their ideas, and presented them in short, mpactful pitches—similar to the ones seen on popular TV shows like 2 Minutes

2 Million. This format made it easy to communicate their ideas clearly and effectively.

Features

The hackathon featured:

- Collaborative idea generation with youth participants from across Europe.
- A structured format for presenting climate solutions, inspired by entrepreneurial pitch formats.
- An international jury that evaluated proposals across various categories, awarding prizes to outstanding ideas.
- A platform to present winning proposals to EU Parliament decision-makers, ensuring direct communication of youth-driven solutions.

Features

This hackathon showed how powerful youth collaboration can be in tackling climate challenges. By creating a platform where young people's voices were truly valued, the initiative proved that their fresh ideas and energy are crucial for solving big problems like climate change.

Find out more: https://www.suedwind.at/klimagerechtigkeit/klima-und-jugend/mit-jugendbeteiligung-gegen-die-klimakrise/

What you can do

If you're into intense and creative teamwork, consider joining a beginner-friendly climate Hackathon close to where you live.

Relevant links

Find out more

Cartiera by Abantu Società Cooperativa Sociale

Ethical Fashion meets Circular Economy

The problem

Industries like luxury fashion and car manufacturing create lots of waste, including high-quality materials like leather and fabric. At the same time, many people, such as refugees, asylum seekers, and unemployed youth, struggle to find jobs and ways to integrate into society.

Goals

Cartiera, an ethical fashion project started in 2017, tackles these problems by turning waste into beautiful new products while helping people in need. The goals are:

- **Reduce waste** by reusing discarded materials.
- **Promote sustainability** through creative recycling.
- **Empower people** by giving them job training and work opportunities

Approach

Cartiera collects leftover leather and fabric from industries like fashion and automotive and turns them into stylish, handcrafted accessories like bags and wallets. By upcycling these materials, they reduce waste and show how to use resources responsibly.

The project also focuses on inclusion and skill-building. It trains refugees, asylum seekers, and unemployed youth in leatherworking

and craftsmanship, helping them learn valuable skills for future jobs. Since 2017, Cartiera has trained 115 people, hosted 21 internships, and provided 15 steady jobs.

Features

Cartiera exemplifies a circular economy model by recovering over 20 tons of leather that would have been thrown away, showing how recycling can reduce waste and help the environment. The initiative's social impact is equally significant. By training and employing marginalized groups, the project helps people rebuild their lives and contribute to their communities. Cartiera supports traditional craftsmanship, revives old industrial areas and creates new opportunities for skilled work.

Lessons learned

Cartiera demonstrates the potential of combining circular economy principles with social entrepreneurship. By partnering with top brands, the project gains access to high-quality materials and reaches a larger audience. Its success shows how training and empowering marginalized people can solve social problems and bring back valuable skills.

Find out more: https://www.coopcartiera.it/en/homepage/

What you can do

Look for ethical brands when shopping and avoid mass market retailers. Have you heard of thrifting?

Relevant links

Find out more

Safe Passage Bags by Lesvos Solidarity

Empowering Refugees Through Sustainability

The problem

Lesvos, a major entry point for refugees into Europe, faces two big challenges: A social one as refugees struggle to find independence and integrate into society and an environmental one, as abandoned life jackets and dinghies from refugee crossings create pollution and waste.

Goals

Led by Lesvos Solidarity, the Safe Passage Bags initiative aims to transform waste materials from refugee crossings into unique, handmade bags and accessories. By training refugees, asylum seekers and local residents in upcycling techniques, the program seeks to create opportunities for income, social inclusion and sustainability.

Approach

The program takes discarded life jackets and dinghies—symbols of dangerous refugee journeys—and repurposes them into products that represent hope and strength. Refugees, asylum seekers, and locals learn sewing, design, and craftsmanship, gaining skills to build a better future. These skills provide income, confidence, and a pathway to becoming part of their new communities.

Youth are also central to the project, learning valuable vocational skills and becoming active contributors to their futures. The initiative creates a

supportive environment where participants collaborate, grow, and find solidarity.

Safe Passage Bags raises awareness about the refugee crisis and environmental issues through educational campaigns and partnerships with local and international organizations. It shows how sustainability and social justice can go hand in hand.

Features

Safe Passage Bags exemplifies the principles of the circular economy by upcycling waste materials into valuable products, reducing landfill contributions, and promoting sustainable production and consumption practices. By extending the lifecycle of materials, the program addresses climate change and fosters resource efficiency.

Lessons learned

Safe Passage Bags shows how environmental sustainability, and entrepreneurship can create meaningful change. By partnering with diverse groups, the initiative amplifies its impact and provides a model for addressing global challenges with creativity and compassion.

Find out more: https://lesvossolidarityshop.org/

What you can do

Support brands and products that prioritise fair labor practices, sustainability and positive community impact.

Relevant links

Find out more

Too Good To Go: Fighting Food Waste Sustainably

Every year, Europe throws away over 88 million tons of food. When food rots in landfills, it produces methane, a greenhouse gas even worse than carbon dioxide for the environment. At the same time, many restaurants, supermarkets, and bakeries end up with perfectly good food they can't sell, wasting resources and adding to the problem.

Goals

Too Good To Go aims to fight food waste while promoting smarter, sustainable habits. It works by connecting people with businesses offering leftover food at lower prices.
The main goals are:

- Cutting down on food waste and reducing its environmental impact.
- Encouraging sustainable buying habits.
- Teaching people, especially young ones, how small actions can make a big difference.

Approach

Too Good To Go uses a simple mobile app to connect users with nearby cafes, restaurants, bakeries, and grocery stores that have unsold food. Through the app, people can buy this food at discounted prices instead of letting it go to waste. This creates a win-win: businesses cut down on

waste while making some money back and users save money while helping the environment.

The app's tech-savvy design makes it a favorite among young people who care about climate change and enjoy finding great deals. It turns everyday shopping into a way to fight food waste and protect the planet.

Features

- **App Platform**: Easy-to-use app that connects users with local businesses offering surplus food.
- **Discounted Pricing**: Users can purchase unsold food at reduced prices, benefiting both their wallets and the planet.
- **Educational Campaigns**: The app educates users about the environmental impact of food waste and encourages more sustainable consumer behavior.
- **Partnerships**: Too Good To Go works with local governments, non-profits, and businesses to expand its reach and impact.

Features

Too Good To Go proves that young people can lead the way in solving big problems. By combining technology, sustainability, and saving money, it's showing how small, everyday actions can create a massive impact on the planet and our wallets.

Find out more: https://www.toogoodtogo.com/

What you can do

Search for last-minute deals from cafes and restaurants in your local area. Shop smart and learn how to store leftovers properly.

Relevant links

Find out more

Primavera X by LiveLab

Engaging Brazilian youth in water preservation through gaming

The problem

Brazil faces significant challenges in keeping its freshwater clean and safe. Pollution, deforestation, and poor waste management are harming rivers, lakes, and reservoirs.
This threatens animals, plants, and people who depend on these water sources.

Goals

Primavera X is a program in Brazil that started in 2018 and is now in its fourth edition. It uses games to inspire young people to take action for the environment. The main goals are to protect and restore water sources, raise awareness, and encourage teamwork to make a positive impact.

Approach

Primavera X makes saving the environment fun and easy by using game-like challenges:

- **Missions and Quests**: Each week, participants, called "heroes and heroines," get a mission with tasks like saving water, planting trees, or cleaning rivers.
- **Teamwork**: Participants form teams with friends, classmates, or community members to complete projects together. They clean local streams, plant trees, and teach others about protecting the environment.
- **Learning by Doing**: The program matches Brazil's environmental education goals, helping young people learn through real-life activities.

Features

Primavera X is more than just a game—it's a way for young people to discover their strengths and use them to help their communities protect water. It's free, so anyone can join, no matter their background.
The program has nationwide impact and can be copied in other areas to spread the benefits. Participants get support through digital guides and access to forums, and the chance to earn recognition for their best projects.

Lessons learned

Primavera X shows how games can inspire young people and communities to care for the environment. By making learning fun and active, the program helps create a new generation ready to lead efforts to save our planet.

Find out more: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=595uxnkv0fc&t=1s

What you can do

Are you into gaming? Every year the Playing for the Planet Alliance organises an annual challenge where games studios are asked to implement environmentally themed content into their live games. Check out if your favorite gaming studio is participating https://www.playing4theplanet.org/green-game-jam

Relevant links

Find out more

Green Game Jam

ScaleUPcycling
by Nicosia Development Agency

Young people trained on reuse and upcycling

The problem

The world has a big waste problem and managing it sustainably is getting harder.
Upcycling—turning old things into something new and useful—can help, but not enough people, especially young ones, are doing it.

Goals

ScaleUPcycling aimed to address waste pollution by:

- Teaching young people and youth workers how to save resources, reduce waste, and upcycle.
- Building a collaborative digital platform to share knowledge, connect people, and build skills.
- Helping participants create and run local upcycling projects.
- Encouraging sustainable practices with fun, creative, and interactive learning.

Approach

The Nicosia Development Agency noticed that young people lacked the skills, tools, and support to help with waste reduction and upcycling. They also wanted ways to work together to make a bigger impact.

The project focused on these needs:

- **Digital Platform**
  A multilingual online hub was created for young people to share ideas, access training materials and connect with others who care about upcycling.
- **Fun Learning**
  The project offered training modules, an e-learning plan, podcasts, and videos to teach young people and youth workers about sustainability in an engaging way.
- **Community Projects**
  Workshops, events, and partnerships with NGOs brought people together to learn and take action locally.
- **Creative Tools**
  Participants received cool tools like a digital flipbook and training resources to help them improve their upcycling skills.

Features

The platform was available in six languages, making it easy for people from different backgrounds to join. With podcasts, videos and hands-on activities, the training was designed to be exciting for young people. Working with local groups and NGOs helped the project reach more people and provide great resources.

Lessons learned

Interactive and engaging content, like motion videos, podcasts and practical training, are the best way to get young people interested and keep them involved.

Find out more: https://scaleupcycling.eu/

What you can do

Find inspiration in the upcycling trend on TikTok and join the movement.

Relevant links

[Find out more](#)

Transnational Youth Forum 2022 by Hope for Children CRC Policy Centre

The problem

The inextricable link between climate change and the rights of future generations is often overlooked in policy discussions, leaving youth voices underrepresented in addressing these interconnected issues.

Goals

The Transnational Youth Forum 2022 aimed to:

- Foster mutual dialogue between youth, experts, and policymakers on climate change's impact on the rights of future generations.
- Raise awareness and inspire action through education and policy recommendations.
- Encourage active participation of young people in policy advocacy at national and international levels.

Approach

The project, funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Commission, brought together stakeholders from various countries to engage in a structured dialogue on climate justice and human rights.

Key elements included:

- **Workshops and Research Projects**
  Youth participants prepared five research projects over a year, culminating in the publication of the final report: "Climate Change, Global Concerns, and the Rights of Future Generations."
- **Advocacy Training and Recommendations**
  Forty participants from Cyprus, Portugal, Italy, and the UK attended an advocacy workshop in Nicosia. They developed and presented policy recommendations to local and international stakeholders.
- **Collaborations and Discussions**
  The final conference provided a platform for engaging environmental NGOs, youth organizations, and policymakers to amplify the youth perspective on climate change and intergenerational rights.

Features

The initiative's strengths included a collaborative environment fostering youth-led research, capacity-building activities, and dissemination of key findings through online and offline channels.

Lessons learned

- Engaging policymakers in meaningful dialogue required innovative strategies to ensure their participation.
- Visibility and advocacy were essential to amplifying youth voices in institutional environments.

Key Outcomes

- The final report and policy recommendations provided actionable insights for stakeholders.
- Awareness was raised through dissemination efforts, reaching broader audiences and encouraging participation in climate justice initiatives.

What you can do

Use the report's findings as a reference to organize local advocacy campaigns and workshops. Engage with stakeholders to discuss the importance of linking climate action to intergenerational equity.

For more information, visit the Hope for Children CRC Policy Centre.

Relevant links

Hope for Children CRC Policy Centre

ActNow by Cromo Foundation

Bridging Science and Youth Through Innovative Educational Tools

The problem

Environmental challenges are growing but there's a big gap between the scientific community and the public—especially young people. Many young people don't have access to easy-to-understand resources that turn complex science into useful actions

Goals

ActNow helps young people learn about the environment and sustainable living. The project makes science easy to understand, encouraging young people to take action with creative and fun learning methods.

Approach

ActNow uses exciting tools and activities to bring science to life for young people:

- **Mobile AR Games**: Augmented Reality (AR) games create a fun and interactive way to learn about the environment and what you can do to help.
- **Simulation Games**: These games put young people in realistic situations where they can apply what they've learned and practice solving problems.
- **Workshops and Training**: Hands-on workshops teach participants how to use AR tools and practice sustainable actions.

- **MOOC for Climate Action**: A free online course, available in six languages, makes climate education available to everyone, everywhere.
- **Helpful Guides**: ActNow created easy-to-follow training materials and a manual for educators, making it simple to teach others.

Features

ActNow is packed with resources to reach many people. The online course and materials are in six languages, helping people from different backgrounds learn about climate action. Tools and games are flexible and can be used online or offline, making them adaptable to any situation. While not entirely youth-led, the project actively includes young people in its planning, activities, and outreach, giving them a chance to contribute and grow.

Lessons learned

Fun and interactive tools, like AR and games, make learning about climate action easier and more engaging for young people.

Find out more: https://www.actnow-europa.eu/

What you can do

Check out the ActNow e-learning platform

Relevant links

Find out more

ActNow e-learning platform

Buttergoose Village by CISV

A volunteer-run summer camp for climate

The problem

Teaching kids about self-awareness, empathy, and staying connected to the world often focuses on adults or older youth. But these lessons are just as important for children. Many kids don't have chances to learn about inner development, active citizenship or climate issues in a structured way. This leaves them less prepared to handle future challenges.

Goals

Buttergoose Village is managed by CISV (Children's International Summer Villages). It was created to give children aged 11 to 13 a meaningful experience focused on:

- Building inner development and skills like self-awareness, empathy, and connection to others.
- Encouraging active citizenship and cultural understanding among kids from different countries.
- Teaching climate awareness in a way that inspires, without overwhelming them.
- Promoting teamwork and cross-cultural collaboration through shared activities.

Approach

Buttergoose Village operated as a four-week summer camp located near

Malmö, on the Sweden-Denmark border, run entirely by volunteers. The camp used fun activities and outdoor learning to help kids grow and learn.

- Natural Setting: The campsite, surrounded by forests, was perfect for teaching kids – especially those from cities — about nature and their role in protecting it.
- Activities: Kids played educational games, worked together on cultural activities, and shared daily chores to build teamwork, independence, and empathy.
- Trained Volunteers: Volunteers aged 16 to 55, supported by CISV Malmö, were trained to make sure the camp was safe and enriching.
- Cultural Exchange: Kids from 10 countries (including 4 EU nations) attended, learning about different cultures and overcoming challenges like privacy norms through open discussions and teamwork.

Features

Buttergoose Village made climate awareness understandable for kids by breaking down big ideas into smaller, relatable lessons. The camp emphasized sustainable habits and gave kids practical tips to help the planet.

Volunteers benefited too, growing personally as they helped build a supportive community for the kids. This showed how teaching and learning can go both ways.

Lessons learned

The camp demonstrated that IDGs could effectively be introduced to children through fun, hands-on activities in a non-formal setting. Spending time in nature helped urban kids feel closer to the environment and more responsible for it.

Find out more: https://cisv.org/programmes/village/

What you can do

If you like the idea, you can become a local or international volunteer and even join the camp staff https://cisv.org/volunteer/

Relevant links

Find out more

Volunteer with CISV

Place4Hope by Rosetta Life

Empowering Youth Through Art

The problem

Climate change brings serious challenges like water shortages, wildfires, and health problems, but young people often don't have the tools or platforms to share their ideas or make a difference.

Goals

Place4Hope helps fill this gap by combining science, art, leadership and storytelling to inspire action and build global connections. The program aims to:

- Give young people creative tools to express themselves, share stories, and advocate for change.
- Show how climate change impacts health and marginalised communities.
- Encourage teamwork across cultures to tackle global climate issues.
- Use art to raise awareness and share solutions that others can use too.

Approach

Place4Hope brought together 28 young leaders from around the world for a Summer School program. Participants used creative methods to explore climate change and its impact on health.

- Workshops and Discussions: Safe spaces let participants share their ideas and learn from each other's experiences with climate justice.
- Storytelling: Young leaders used art forms like films and zines to share their personal and local stories about climate issues.

- Collaboration: Group sessions focused on brainstorming solutions, while partnerships with organizations helped participants build connections and learn more.
- Cross-Cultural Sharing: Participants exchanged ideas about climate challenges in their home countries, helping everyone see the bigger picture and work together on solutions.

Features

The program used art and media to give young people a voice. Participants created a film that combined their stories and ideas. It became a powerful way to inspire action and share their perspectives with a wider audience. Also, workshops provided a judgment-free environment where young leaders could confidently share their thoughts and develop their advocacy skills. At the end, they produced a zine and other creative materials with practical solutions and ideas for more conversations about climate and health.

Approach

Workshops provided a safe space for participants, building their confidence to speak up and develop their advocacy skills. Sharing global perspectives also helped participants understand common climate challenges and find collective solutions.
Handling schedules and logistics taught organizers the importance of planning to ensure maximum participation.

Find out more: https://www.canva.com/design/DAGPiHO_OMg/oXRD589Zac6_ukWgaHMiwg/edit

What you can do

Feeling creative? Make a zine about climate change and the topics you care about.

Relevant links

Find out more

Stand up! for climate by DISSCO

Can laughter help us avoid climate catastrophe?

The problem

Talking about climate change can feel overwhelming and traditional ways of sharing information often fail to connect with people. It's hard to engage large audiences on such a serious and complex issue.

Goals

Stand Up! for Climate is an academy organized by DISSCO (Dissemination-Science- Communication) that uses humor to make climate conversations easier and more engaging. The aim is to bring on stage diverse voices and perspectives and explore the potential of climate action with participants and members of the audience.

Approach

Stand Up! for Climate is like a school where participants learn to use comedy to talk about environmental issues. The program combines humor, science and storytelling to make climate communication more fun and effective.

- Diverse Perspectives: Participants come from different fields, such as engineering, activism, science and filmmaking. This mix of experiences helps create comedy that reflects many different views.
- Training in Comedy: Participants are trained in stand-up comedy skills like crafting jokes and performing on stage.
- Climate Discussions: They also join discussions about environmental challenges, which inspire the content of their comedy.

- Comedy Show: The program ends with an open-mic comedy show, created by participants, comedians, and climate experts. The show is both educational and entertaining, showing how humor can deliver serious messages about climate action.

Features

The stand-up comedy show help audiences connect with climate issues in a fresh and memorable way. Both participants and audiences reported "aha" moments where humor helped them see climate challenges in a new light.

Lessons learned

Humor Works! Comedy made climate topics easier to understand and more enjoyable to talk about. Also, teamwork matters as including people from different fields enriched the comedy sets with unique ideas.

Find out more: https://dissco.ch/stand-up-comedy-academy/

What you can do

Visit a stand up comedy club.
A good laugh is always welcome!

Relevant links

Find out more

Comics Journalism by Athens Comics Library

A comic for the City I am dreaming of

The problem

Young people face the daily effects of the climate crisis, but they often lack access to clear, accurate information about these issues. Misinformation makes it harder for them to understand what's happening or share their ideas on creating a sustainable future.

Goals

Comics Journalism addresses this by helping teenagers explore climate challenges and express their thoughts through comics, a creative and easy-to-access medium. The initiative aimed to:

- Improve understanding of climate change and fight misinformation.
- Teach teenagers critical thinking and storytelling by combining journalism with comics.
- Give young people a way to share their experiences and solutions for climate issues in their city.

Approach

The program included two months of workshops for two groups of teenagers: students from a local school and young participants from the Greek Network for Children's Rights. The workshops integrated journalism with the art of comic, guiding 30 teenagers to learn how to act

as journalists by researching and exploring how climate change affects Athens.

They then turned their findings into comic stories, sharing their ideas, worries, and solutions for a sustainable future. The workshops taught both investigative and creative skills, encouraging teens to see themselves as problem-solvers for their city's environmental issues. The project was supported by the Youth Climate Action Fund and the Municipality of Athens, tying it to larger efforts to involve young people in climate solutions.

Features

The most significant outcome of the project was the creation of original comic stories by the participants, which captured their unique perspectives on climate change.
These stories were compiled into a digital booklet, which showcases the participants' work and documents the project's approach, offering a guide for others to replicate it. The booklet was disseminated to a network of 100 partners (schools and NGOs) with the aim to share the main idea and inspire them to implement it within their communities.

Lessons learned

Empowering young people to express their perspectives through creative mediums like comics proved to be an effective way to engage them in climate issues.

Find out more: https://athenscomicslibrary.gr/

What you can do

Create Your Own Comic! There are many online fun tools to share your ideas or experiences about climate challenges in your community through comics.

Relevant links

Find out more

Inspiration and Success Stories: Positive News from 2024 by Euronews Green

The problem

Amidst the challenges of the climate crisis, it's vital to celebrate progress and innovation. This Euronews Green compilation showcases uplifting environmental stories from 2024, highlighting groundbreaking achievements, inspiring initiatives, and encouraging advancements in sustainability. From community-led conservation efforts to technological breakthroughs combating climate change, these stories remind us that positive change is happening and motivate us to continue our journey toward a greener future. Explore these success stories to spark hope and inspiration for your climate action journey!
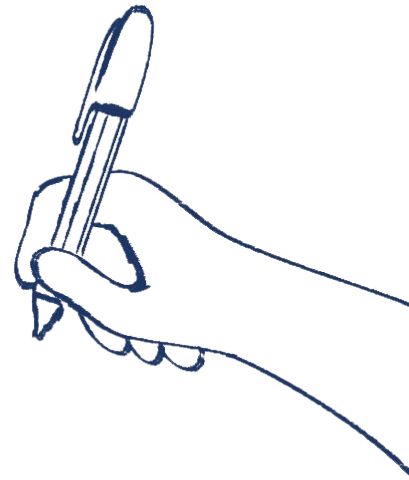
From Climate Actions to Entrepreneurial ideas!

Cultivating the entrepreneurial potential of your initiative

By Impact Hub

Impact Entrepreneurship, or Social Entrepreneurship as it is also known, is one way to take climate action as it can help you build and scale your ideas and initiatives, potentially achieving change on a large scale.

Climate action is a powerful catalyst for change, driving solutions that tackle pressing environmental challenges. Yet, many initiatives hold untapped potential to evolve into sustainable entrepreneurial ventures, creating lasting impact while fostering local economic resilience.

Guided by the expertise and global network of Impact Hub, this section outlines actionable steps and tools to help you evaluate and transform your climate initiative into a viable and impactful enterprise!

If you have an Impact Hub in your area, contact them to understand how they can work with you to grow your idea or initiative. You can also join Impact Hub's global online community of Impact Makers.

By combining innovation, collaboration, and a commitment to sustainability, these steps empower you to turn your vision into a thriving initiative that contributes meaningfully to your community and the planet.

You can find inspiring stories of environmental action taken by impact entrepreneurs here: impacthub.net/impact-stories.

But before jumping into entrepreneurial action, let's introduce you to the concept of **Circular Economy and why it is so relevant for sustainable initiatives**.

We take resources from the ground to make products, which we use, and

when we no longer want them throw them away: take-make-waste. We call this a linear economy. We need to change from this linear model into a Circular Economy. A Circular Economy is an economy that is restorative and regenerative by design. The Circular Economy is based on three principles:

1. Design out waste and pollution.
2. Keep products and materials in use.
3. Regenerate natural systems.

Circular Economy is a powerful model consisting of principles and activities that aim to retain the value of resources, materials, components and products for as long as possible in the economy. It takes a systemic approach to reducing consumption of natural resources and to contributing to sustainable development.

Whether you are launching a local campaign, starting a community project, or exploring a business idea, understanding Circular Economy principles will help you create sustainable, scalable, and system-changing solutions.

Why are sustainability and the circular economy thriving?

"The transition to sustainability is [...] our search for a new social contract: a natural social contract, with a radically different view on the relationship between man and his environment. This is a transition from ego-consciousness to eco-consciousness. Society is increasingly asking for a social order and environment that is ecologically sound, economically supported, and socially connected".

Patrick Huntjens, Social Innovations Lector in the Green Domain, InHolland University of Applied Sciences.

All around us, people are finding amazing new ways to protect the environment and use resources wisely. Think about your smartphone for a minute. In the past, it would probably end up in a landfill when it got old

or broke. But today, many companies are designing phones that can be easily fixed or removed so their materials can be reused. That's what we call a circular economy – where nothing goes to waste, just like in nature!

Young people like you are leading this green revolution. Students are creating school gardens, starting recycling clubs, and developing innovative ideas to reduce waste.

Companies are listening too! They're making products from recycled materials, using renewable energy, and finding creative ways to package items with less plastic, benefiting both their productive line and the environment!

Companies that reduce waste, reuse materials, and optimize energy usage often see their operational costs drop significantly. For example, large manufacturers implementing circular principles have reported saving millions by recovering and reusing materials that would have been discarded.

Job creation is another significant economic win. The green transition is spawning entirely new industries and job categories. From solar panel installers to sustainability consultants, from repair technicians to environmental engineers – these aren't just jobs: they're careers with growing demand.

Innovation is driving new business models, too. Companies offering product-as-service solutions (like clothing rental platforms or tool-sharing services) are creating new revenue streams while reducing resource consumption. Start-ups focused on recycling technologies, sustainable materials, and clean energy solutions are attracting significant investment capital from governments, venture funds, and impact investors.

Local economies benefit as well. When communities invest in recycling programs, repair cafes, and local food systems, money tends to stay within the community rather than flowing out to distant suppliers.
Urban farming initiatives, for instance, create local jobs while reducing transportation costs and emissions.

Perhaps most importantly, sustainable practices help businesses future-proof their operations. As environmental regulations tighten and consumers increasingly demand eco-friendly products, companies that adapt early gain a competitive advantage. They avoid potential fines, capture market share, and build brand loyalty among environmentally conscious customers.

The shift toward sustainability isn't just an environmental imperative – it's becoming a key driver of economic growth, innovation, and prosperity. It shows that we can have both: a healthy planet and a thriving economy. So, how can you make sure your initiative follows circular economy principles? A key aspect is how you design your business process, keeping sustainability at its core.

Designing a business initiative with a circular approach has some specificities we should consider. When it comes to circular products or services, the focus is on the optimization of the positive environmental effects on the materials used but also on the design of products and services for many life cycles, uses and users to reduce and reuse waste, improving human impact on our environment and planet!

Whenever you design a business process, ask yourself:

- What would nature do in designing this product?
- What do our potential customers need?
- How can our product/service have a positive social impact?

Here is a list with some criteria to keep in mind:

- Durability
- Standardization and compatibility
- Ease of maintenance and repair
- Adaptability and upgradability
- Disassembly and reassembly
- Reuse, remanufacturing and remarketing
- Recyclability
- Customer attachment and trust, so products are loved, liked or trusted longer

And here is a list of some interesting resources:

- [Biomimicry Toolbox](#)
- [Circular Product Design IKEA](#)
- [The Role of Design in the Circular Economy, Philips Lighting](#)

Now that we've seen why the circular economy is essential for businesses and communities let's explore how you can integrate these principles into your initiative.

Imagine turning your climate actions into a sustainable entrepreneurial journey that transforms your volunteering into a meaningful job!

Let's dive so into 10 practical steps to transform your climate actions into a meaningful, sustainable business!

10 steps to transform your idea into an entrepreneurial initiative?

Now that we've explored why the circular economy is essential for businesses and communities, it's time to see how to bring these principles into your own initiative. Imagine transforming your climate actions into a sustainable entrepreneurial journey that not only strengthens your impact on the environment but can also transform your activism into a meaningful job!

Let's dive into the practical steps that will help you assess how to turn your vision and action into a sustainable entrepreneurial idea!

Develop your sustainable business strategy

Step 1: Identify Local Needs and Gaps

Evaluate specific environmental challenges within your community to uncover opportunities for sustainable solutions.

Step 2: Analyze the Initiative's Core Value Proposition

Understand What Makes Your Initiative Unique in addressing ecological and social issues effectively.
Utilize Impact Hub's resources and available tools (like workshops, mentorship, or networking) to refine your idea and align it with sustainability goals.

Step 3: Identify risks and opportunities

Ask the following questions:

- What opportunities exist for adopting a more green or/and circular economy approach?
- What's the real value of what we deliver? Can we reimagine how potential customers use your products and services?
- How can technology—like digital tools, AI, or engineering—help improve or transform our initiative?"
- What benefits can be realized in the short and long term?

Step 4: Assess Market Demand

Research the audience or customer base willing to support, invest in, or adopt your proposed solution.
Engage with Impact Hub's entrepreneurial communities to gain insights into market needs and trends.

Step 5: Set Goals: Identify SMART Goals

Create goals that are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time framed
Align your goals with your customers/ community needs and the overall vision of your business
Iterate, iterate, iterate

Step 6: Develop a Business Model

Explore sustainable business models that align with your initiative, such as social enterprises or circular economy principles.

Assess green options for your business model

- Circular Supplies: Use renewable energy and bio-based or fully recyclable inputs
- Resource Recovery: Recover useful resources out of materials, by-products or waste
- Product life-extension: Extend product life cycles by repairing, upgrading and reselling, as well as through innovation and product design.
- Sharing Platform: Connect product users to one another and encourage shared use, access or ownership to increase product use.

Think of various technological options that can help make your idea more innovative and sustainable. Here are some examples of how different types of technology can support green businesses:

- Digital technologies such as Ithe nternet of Things (IoT), big data, blockchain, and RFID help companies track resources and monitor utilization and waste capacity.
- Physical Technologies such as 3D printing, robotics, energy storage and harvesting, modular design technology and nanotechnology help companies reduce production and material costs and reduce environmental impact.
- Biological Technologies such as bio-energy, bio-based materials, biocatalysis, hydroponics and aeroponics help companies move away from fossil-based energy sources.

Evaluate Financial Viability

- Analyze costs, revenue streams, and sustainability to ensure economic viability.

Craft a Long-Term Vision and Plan

- Develop a roadmap for scaling the initiative, adapting to new challenges, and aligning with sustainability goals.
- Collaborate with Impact Hub to co-design strategic collaborations and ecosystem-building initiatives that drive systemic change.

Participate in incubation and acceleration programs to develop and validate your business model. Impact Hubs offers several online and offline opportunities!

Step 7: Test with a Pilot Project

Launch a small-scale version of your initiative to gather feedback, measure impact, and refine your approach.
Build a Support Network Engage with mentors, entrepreneurs, and community leaders who can provide guidance and amplify your initiative. Join Impact Hub's global community of Impact Makers and use Impact Hub's collaborative spaces to pilot your project, connect with individuals committed to building a just and sustainable society, and receive support from a like-minded community.

Step 8: Stakeholders engagements and partnerships

Engaging with the right stakeholders is crucial for long-term success as you develop your initiative. Whether you are launching a local climate project or scaling an entrepreneurial idea, building strong partnerships ensures support, resources, and impact.

Stakeholders are individuals, groups, or organizations that can influence or are impacted by a business's operations. They can be internal and external to the organization. Common examples of stakeholders include investors, suppliers, shareholders, consumers, employees, volunteers, government entities, and relevant local communities. A business needs anyone involved in their operations to be actively involved in the ecosystem of the business. By engaging key stakeholders someone secures a virtuous circle where everyone wins.

1. Stakeholders Identification: It is important to understand who are the wider groups or individuals who are impacted and at the same time impact your business. When identifying your stakeholders, consider these key questions
- **Who will use or benefit from our product/service?**
- **Who cares about how we operate and make decisions?**
- **Who has the power to influence or change our direction?**

2. Stakeholders Prioritization: To prioritize stakeholders, consider their level of influence and interest in your initiative. Those with high influence

and high interest should be closely engaged, while those with low influence and low interest may require only occasional updates. A simple tool like a Stakeholder Engagement Matrix can help you decide where to focus your energy.

Tools:

- Empathy Map – Helps understand your stakeholders' perspectives and needs.
- Stakeholder Engagement Assessment Matrix – Stakeholder Engagement Assessment Matrix – A tool to prioritize stakeholders based on their level of influence and interest

3. Engagement Strategies and Community Building: A strong stakeholder network doesn't just help your initiative survive—it helps it thrive. By fostering an engaged community around your project, you create a support system that amplifies your impact and ensures long-term sustainability. Some questions to keep in mind while crafting your community engagement strategy are the following:

- **Purpose**: Why does the community exist?
- **Identity**: Who is this for and what is our selection process?
- **Values**: Which 3 principles are important to us?
- **Experience** What happens in our community on a recurring basis that helps us achieve our goals and expresses our values in action?
- **Roles**: What different roles can stakeholders play in our community? What's the give/get relationship?
- **Communication** What are the simplest channels for us to communicate with each other?

Tools:

- Stakeholder Engagement Canvas – A framework to develop a structured engagement strategy.
- The Community Canvas – A guide to building strong and engaged communities around your initiative.

Step 9: Securing Resources and Financing:

Turning your initiative into a long-term, impactful project requires securing the right financial resources. There are various funding options available, and choosing the right one depends on your needs, goals, and the stage of your initiative. Here's a simplified breakdown of the key financing methods and how to prepare for them.

Types of Financing

Microfinance: Small loans designed for early-stage initiatives, often supporting underrepresented groups. Find microfinance institutions in Europe here.

Things to consider:

- **Pros**: Low and fixed interest rates, predictable monthly payments, and you keep full ownership.
- **Cons**: You're personally responsible if the loan isn't repaid, approval requires good credit, and repayment is required even if the business fails.

Equity Financing: Equity financing occurs when a company exchanges an ownership stake in exchange for capital. Equity investors typically look for returns on their investment through dividend payments or an increase in the value of company stock. For initiatives that are focusing on social & environmental impact, there is a dedicated groups of funders, called impact investors. You can find different impact investing groups, here:

Things to consider:

- **Pros**: No interest payments, no personal liability if the business fails, and often preferred by investors over loans.
- **Cons**: You give up some control of your business, and securing funds can be challenging without a strong track record.

Grants: Funds provided by governments, foundations, or organizations without repayment obligations. However, they are competitive and often have specific conditions on how the money must be used. Check out funding opportunities from philanthropic foundations here.

Things to consider:

- **Pros**: Free funding with no need for repayment, and the application process can be simple.
- **Cons**: Highly competitive and must be used for specific purposes set by the grant provider.

Crowdfunding: Raising small amounts of money from a large number of people through online platforms. Crowdfunding is a form of crowdsourcing and alternative finance that innovators or citizens use to reach many micro-donors, who are compensated with recognition or a gift for supporting the initiative. Compare crowdfunding platforms in Europe here.

Things to consider:

- **Pros**: Access to funds without repayment, potential to raise more than traditional methods, and increased visibility through marketing.
- **Cons**: No guarantee of reaching funding goals, and significant time and effort may be wasted if the campaign fails.

Bootstrapping: Using personal savings or reinvesting revenue to fund your initiative. This allows full control over your project but may limit growth potential due to limited resources.

Things to consider:

- **Pros**: You keep full ownership and control, and there's less risk since you're using your own money.
- **Cons**: Limited funds may slow down growth and expansion.

Preparing to Attract Funding

Before applying for funding, it's important to be well-prepared and understand how to make your initiative attractive to funders. Here's what to keep in mind:

- **Know Your Audience**: Research potential funders and understand their priorities. Adapt your proposal to fit their mission and funding goals.
- **Tell a Compelling Story**: Clearly explain:
- Who you are and what your initiative does.
- Why your work matters.
- What impact you aim to achieve.
- How much funding you need and how you will use it.
- **Build Connections**: Engage with funders through networking events, competitions, emails, or direct meetings to increase your chances of success.
- **Understand the Terms**: Always review legal and tax implications before signing funding agreements. Seek professional advice if needed.
- **Create a mind blowing presentation**: Having an engaging presentation or introduction is important when requesting funding from an organization. A proper presentation will attract attention and ensure that your efforts are not neglected.
- **Create a Strong Budget & Proposal**: Funders want to see clear financial planning and measurable outcomes. Make sure your application includes:
  - A detailed budget breakdown.
  - Evidence of past impact or research to support your claims.
  - Simple and clear language (avoid jargon).
- **Track & Report Results:** Once you receive funding, monitor your progress and share results with your funders. This strengthens your credibility and opens doors to future opportunities.

Step 10: Measuring Social and Environmental Impact

Tracking the environmental and social impact of your initiative is essential for its **long-term success and credibility**. By measuring and showcasing your impact, you can **attract supporters, investors, and partners** who

value sustainability and social change. Aligning your impact assessment with the **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** can strengthen your initiative's relevance, as many entrepreneurs and funders prioritize SDG-driven solutions.

Why Measure Impact?

Impact measurement helps you:

- **Demonstrate real-world benefits**—Show how your initiative positively affects people and the planet.
- **Improve decision-making**—Use data to refine and scale your activities.
- **Increase funding opportunities**—Many investors and partners support businesses with measurable impact.

There are several frameworks and tools available to assess your environmental and social impact:

- Circulytics – Helps businesses evaluate their circular economy performance.
- Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) – Provides sustainability reporting standards.
- Cradle to Cradle Circularity Product Verified – Assesses product circularity and sustainable design.
- UL Environment – Evaluates environmental claims and product sustainability.
- World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) – Supports corporate sustainability and impact measurement.

Integrating impact metrics into your initiative will **strengthen your credibility, drive continuous improvement, and help you create a meaningful, long-lasting change.**

Embarking on an entrepreneurial journey rooted in sustainability is no small feat—but you don't have to do it alone. By transforming your climate action into an entrepreneurial initiative, you are not just building a business; you are contributing to a global movement for a greener, more equitable future.

As you take the next steps, remember that **Impact Hub is here to support you.** Across our 100+ locations worldwide, we provide incubation, mentorship, funding opportunities, and access to a thriving community of changemakers who share your vision. Whether you need expert guidance, collaboration opportunities, or just a space to refine your ideas, **you are never alone on this journey.**

📣 **Get Connected!** Reach out to your nearest **Impact Hub** or join our **global online community** to tap into a wealth of resources, partnerships, and opportunities. You can also explore inspiring stories of impact-driven entrepreneurs who, just like you, started with a passion for change.

🌍 **Your ideas matter. Your actions count. And together, we can shape a more sustainable future.** So, take that next bold step—**because the world needs your innovation, and there are people out there ready to help you make it happen!**

Resources

Beautiful Trouble: A Toolbox for Revolution

Beautiful Trouble is a vibrant resource for activists and changemakers, offering a comprehensive toolbox of creative strategies and tactics for impactful social and environmental justice campaigns. It combines case studies, principles, and practical tools drawn from grassroots movements worldwide, providing a rich repository of ideas to inspire innovative and effective actions. With its emphasis on artivism, direct action, and collaboration, Beautiful Trouble equips youth leaders with the skills and confidence to challenge injustices and drive meaningful climate action. Whether you are planning a campaign or seeking inspiration, this resource is a go-to for transformative activism.

Explore more

Community Climate Action Toolkit

by the Schumacher Institute

The toolkit offers a comprehensive guide for empowering local communities to address climate challenges effectively. Rooted in systems thinking and resilience- building, the toolkit provides practical resources, case studies, and step-by-step strategies to help communities design and implement impactful climate initiatives. It focuses on fostering collaboration, engaging diverse stakeholders, and tailoring actions to local needs, making it an invaluable resource for youth-led projects. This toolkit inspires practical action, helping communities transition towards sustainability while building collective ownership of climate solutions.

Explore more

Inner Development Goals Toolkit: Change starts within

The IDG Tools platform is a comprehensive resource designed to deepen understanding and practice of the Inner Development Goals (IDG) framework. It offers practical exercises, methodologies, and resources to explore the five IDG dimensions: Being, Thinking, Relating, Collaborating, and Acting. As our toolkit adopts the IDG lens, this platform is a valuable link for those wishing to immerse further in these dimensions and skills through a variety of tailored activities.

Explore more

Applications

29K Aware app
by 29K Foundation

The 29k Aware app is developed as a free, accessible mental health platform designed to offer psychological tools for mental health and inner development.
Grounded in expert knowledge from psychologists and scientific literature, it provides open and private hosted live sessions, allowing users to process emotions and develop inner resilience through structured activities.

Youth engagement has been a central focus in the app's development. The team conducted interviews with young people, teachers, sports leaders, and NGOs working with youth, alongside systematic scientific literature reviews, to ensure the app's design is user-centered and evidence-based.

The 29k Aware app stands out as a scientifically developed, free platform that offers:

- Live Sessions: Open or private hosted sessions facilitated by psychologists to help users address their mental health concerns.
- Supportive Community: A digital space for individuals to connect with others facing similar challenges, creating a sense of solidarity and shared purpose.
- Evidence-Based Design: Development informed by extensive interviews, user testing, and a systematic literature review to ensure effectiveness.
- Focus on Inner Development: Activities and exercises that promote emotional resilience, sustainable habits, and personal growth.

Download app on Apple Store here and on Google Play here

Download

Earth Hero

Earth Hero is a free mobile app designed by a global team of volunteers committed to climate action. The app focuses on individual empowerment through personalized action plans rooted in science-based recommendations from the IPCC. Users can set climate pollution reduction targets, track their progress, and adopt new habits to reduce their carbon footprints.

The app promotes both individual and collective action. By connecting users to a global network of change makers, Earth Hero encourages collaboration and systemic impact. The platform also supports inclusivity and transparency, ensuring all users feel represented and respected, with their privacy safeguarded. By integrating technology and community, Earth Hero transforms the often-overwhelming challenge of climate change into actionable steps, fostering hope and determination among its users.

Download

The Routledge Handbook of Grassroots Climate Activism

IDG Skills: Courage, Connectedness, Mobilisation Skills

This comprehensive handbook explores the power and potential of grassroots movements in addressing the climate crisis. It offers a global perspective on how local communities and citizen-led initiatives are mobilizing for climate justice, highlighting strategies, challenges, and successes from diverse contexts. The book delves into innovative activism methods, from direct action to community-based approaches, while providing insights into the dynamics of grassroots organizing and its role in shaping systemic change. Ideal for youth leaders and activists, this handbook serves as both an inspiration and a guide for building impactful, community-driven climate movements.

View

The Art of Gathering by Priya Parker

IDG Skills: Inclusive Mindset and Intercultural Competence, Co-creation skills

This book offers invaluable insights into creating meaningful and impactful gatherings, whether they are meetings, workshops, or community events. Priya Parker emphasizes the importance of intentional design and purpose-driven facilitation to foster connection, collaboration, and trust among participants. For a young leader using this toolkit, the book provides practical strategies for organizing inclusive and engaging gatherings, essential for mobilizing others around climate action. By understanding how to bring people together effectively, young leaders can create spaces that inspire collective action and drive positive change.

View

Nonviolent Communication:
A Language of Life by Marshall B. Rosenberg

IDG Skills: Communication skills, Trust

This book introduces a transformative approach to communication that emphasizes empathy, understanding, and connection. It offers practical tools to navigate conflicts, build trust, and create collaborative dialogue in diverse group settings.
These skills are essential for fostering inclusivity, resolving differences, and inspiring shared purpose, enabling effective collaboration in tackling complex global challenges like climate action.

View

Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind
by Hayao Miyazaki (Manga)

IDG Skills: Critical Thinking

A Japanese manga series that tells the story of Nausicaä, a princess of a small kingdom on a post apocalyptic Earth with a toxic ecosystem. She soon becomes involved in a war between kingdoms while an environmental disaster threatens humankind. The series is translated in English and there's also a 1984 film adaptation.

View

Ducks: Two Years in the Oil Sands by Kate Beaton (Graphic Novel)

IDG Skills: Perspective skills

A graphic memoir that chronicles the author's time working in Canada's oil sands to pay off student debt. Through raw, evocative illustrations, Beaton explores themes of isolation, environmental impact, and the harsh realities of life in a male-dominated industrial workplace.

View

Being the Change: Live Well and Spark a Climate Revolution by Peter Kalmus

IDG Skills: Sense making

Being the Change explores the connections between our individual daily actions and our collective predicament. It merges science, spirituality, and practical action to empower you to move away from a consumerist lifestyle and create a just and carbon free future.

View

The Future We Choose: The Stubborn Optimist's Guide to the Climate Crisis by Christiana Figueres and Tom Rivett-Carnac

IDG Skills: Empathy and Compassion

Christiana Figueres and Tom Rivett-Carnac outline two possible scenarios for our planet. In one, they describe what life on Earth will be like by 2050 if we fail to meet the Paris Agreement's climate targets. In the other, they lay out what it will be like to live in a regenerative world that has net-zero emissions. They argue for confronting the climate crisis head-on, with

determination and optimism. The Future We Choose presents our options and tells us what governments, corporations, and each of us can, and must, do to fend off disaster.

(View)

If Women Rose Rooted: A Journey to Authenticity and Belonging by Sharon Blackie

IDG Skills: Connectedness

If *Women Rose Rooted* by Sharon Blackie weaves mythology, eco-feminism, and personal narrative to explore the deep connections between women, the land, and the natural world. Blackie invites readers on a transformative journey to rediscover a sense of belonging and authenticity through the wisdom of Celtic stories and the landscapes they evoke. The book serves as a powerful call to action, inspiring readers to reconnect with their environment, heritage, and inner selves, fostering a profound sense of connectedness essential for nurturing a harmonious relationship with the earth.toolkit inspires practical action, helping communities transition towards sustainability while building collective ownership of climate solutions.

(View)

The Story of More: How We Got to Climate Change and Where to Go from Here
by Hope Jahren

IDG Skills: Sense-making

Hope Jahren asks the central question of our time: how can we learn to live on a finite planet?

[View]

Tao Te Ching by Lao Tzu

IDG Skills: Inner Compass, Humility

This ancient Chinese text offers profound lessons on balance and harmony. Its teachings inspire mindful decision-making, humility, and aligned actions. In the context of climate action, the Tao Te Ching reminds us to work with nature, not against it, integrating sustainable practices into collective efforts.

[View]

Documentaries

Our Planet (Netflix, 2019)

Narrated by David Attenborough, this series focuses on the wildlife and natural wonders of eight different ecosystems and the devastating impact of climate change. It fosters empathy by showing the beauty of life on Earth, encouraging all of us to reflect on their responsibility to protect it.

[View]

Taking Root: the Vision of Wangari Maathai (Marlboro Productions, 2008)

"Taking Root" tells the inspiring story of Wangari Maathai, the Kenyan environmentalist and Nobel Peace Prize laureate who founded the Green Belt Movement, empowering women to plant trees as a solution to deforestation, poverty, and malnutrition. of climate change. It fosters empathy by showing the beauty of life on Earth, encouraging all of us to reflect on their responsibility to protect it.

View

Creativity & Innovation in Climate Action by MuemAction Post

This video highlights how artists and innovators contribute to environmental protection and inspire climate action through their creative endeavors.

View

Samsara and Baraka by Ron Fricke (2011 and 992)

A movie with no words, no narrative or voice-over. Yet a documentary that feels like a journey around the world in 96 minutes. It combines breathtaking footage of nature, people, and cultures. Watching it feels like opening your eyes to the beauty and complexity of the planet and asking yourself how we fit into this incredible tapestry of life.

View

Bigger than Us by Flore Vasseur, Denis Carot and Marion Cotillard (2021)

Bigger than Us is an inspiring documentary that follows the journey of young changemakers from around the world who are tackling some of the most pressing global challenges, including climate a ction, social justice, and human rights.
Through the eyes of Melati Wijsen, a 19-year-old activist from Bali, the film explores the power of youth-led initiatives and the resilience needed to drive meaningful change. It serves as a powerful reminder that collective action, fueled by courage and determination, can lead to transformative impact. Watching this film will motivate you to reflect on your own potential to make a difference and connect you to the global movement for a sustainable and equitable future.

View

YouTube Videos

Change Your Life – One Tiny Step at a Time
by Kurzgesagt – In a Nutshell
IDG Skills: Perspective skills

"If you are like most people, there is a gap between the person you are and the person you wish to be. There are little things you think you should do and big things you ought to achieve." Watch this video to learn how to start new habits and gradually change your life.

View

We WILL Fix Climate Change! by Kurzgesagt – In a Nutshell

IDG Skills: Complexity Awareness

A playlist by the famous youtube channel that presents climate change in an explanatory and hopeful way. They explain most aspects of climate change and their purpose is to deliver the message that "humanity is not doomed."

View

His Epic Message Will Make You Want to Save the World Short Film Showcase by National Geographic

IDG Skills: Inner compass, Sense-making, Connectedness

In this short film, spoken word artist Prince Ea makes a powerful case for protecting the planet and challenges the human race to create a sustainable future.

View

Global Read: Everyday Ubuntu by Mungi Ngomane

IDG Skills: Empathy and Compassion, Trust

Ubuntu is an African philosophy that emphasizes communal relationships and mutual care, encapsulated in the phrase "I am because we are." This worldview fosters a sense of shared responsibility and interconnectedness, which is vital for collective climate action. By embracing Ubuntu, individuals recognize that their well- being is tied to the well-being of others and the environment, promoting sustainable practices that benefit the entire community.

A healthy economy should be designed to thrive, not grow (Ted talk by Kate Raworth)

IDG Skills: Complexity Awareness, Creativity, Courage

What would a sustainable, universally beneficial economy look like? "Like a doughnut", says Oxford economist Kate Raworth. In a stellar, eye-opening talk, she explains how we can move countries out of the hole – where people are falling short on life's essentials – and create regenerative, distributive economies that work within the planet's ecological limits.

Social Media Accounts

Instagram account: @Decolonizemyself

IDG Skills: Openness and Learning Mindset

An Instagram account that explores decolonization, current events, healing and nature.

Instagram account: @theconsciouskid

IDG Skills: Openness and Learning Mindset

An Instagram account and an education platform that supports people to disrupt their racism and bias.
https://www.theconsciouskid.org/

Instagram/TikTok account: Earthrise Studio @earthrise.studio

IDG Skills: Sense making

An impact driven media platform producing content to transform climate, culture, and consciousness.

Instagram/TikTok account: Sam Bentley (@sambentley)

IDG Skills: Long term visioning

Good news for the planet you may not have heard

View account

Instagram/TikTok account: Mikaela Loach @mikaelaloach

IDG Skills: Connectedness

A British writer, activist and organizer, Mikaela uses her accounts to help people organize and build a powerful climate justice movement.

Instagram/TikTok/X account: Peter Kalmus @Climatehuman

IDG Skills: Connectedness

A NASA scientist and climate campaigner in a mission to stop the expansion of fossil fuel projects worldwide. You may have seen Peter's many viral posts and tweets, he was the most-followed climate scientist on X before people rapidly left the platform.

Instagram/TikTok account: Mitzi Jonelle Tan @mitzijonelle

IDG Skills: Connectedness

A Filipina anti-imperialist climate justice activist frequently posting on the intersectionality of climate change.

Instagram account: Ayisha Siddi @ayisha_sid

IDG Skills: Connectedness

US Pakistani human rights lawyer and land defender. With viral speeches at the UN Climate Change Negotiations, she connects climate change with land issues, migration and human rights abuses. Watch her reading a powerful poem she wrote at COP27 back in 2022.

Instagram account: Autumn Peltier @autumn.peltier

IDG Skills: Connectedness

An indigenous rights advocate and environmental rights activists that speaks about water rights across the world.

Digital Platforms and Networks

Nasa Climate Change
(@nasaclimatechange)
IDG Skills: Sense making

NASA is on a mission to make climate science popular and accessible to all. Their site offers a vast source of resources in order for you to understand climate change. THE place to start.

View

UN Climate Change

(un_climate_change)

IDG Skills: Sense making

The United Nations organization tasked with addressing the #ClimateCrisis

View

Intersectional Environmentalist

(@intersectionalenvironmentalist at all relevant social media platforms)

IDG Skills: Critical Thinking

By now, you should have realized that climate change is not only about the environment. This space highlights the stories of the people and communities most impacted by climate change. It also offers a platform of organizations and movements across the globe fighting for environmental and climate justice.

View

Sunrise Movement

IDG Skills: Mobilisation and Communication Skills

Mostly US based, a movement of young people organising to "put everyday people back in charge and build a world that works for all of us, now and for generations to come." If you're not from US, you can follow them to understand how they are building up their organisation power.

View

Angry Alliance – Alliance of Non-Governmental Radical Youth

(@angryalliance)

IDG Skills: Mobilisation and Communication Skills

A coalition of grassroots radical youth organisations from across the world is now building up. ANGRY is a representative body for grassroots youth organisers who are attending or engaging with the climate change negotiations (UNFCCC process). Add your name and join the list of Angry Youth across the world!

Follow them on social media channels @angryalliance

> View

Youngo UNFCCC IDG Skills: Collaborati

IDG Skills: Collaboration Skills, Inclusive Mindset and Intercultural Competence

A network of children and youth organisations, groups, and individuals who identify themselves as children or youth below the age of 35 years. YOUNGO is by youth, with youth, for youth and is the official youth constituency of the UNFCCC. Everyone up to the age of 35 and interested or engaged in climate action and advocacy is welcome to become a YOUNGO member. Just fill thisform.

> View

Undeniable Network

(@undeniable.network)

IDG Skills: Mobilisiation and Communication skills

An educational social media platform run by volunteers that is producing

content to move people towards demanding a fossil fuel free and just future. People can volunteer to help them run the platform and/or take action.
@undeniable.network

View

Learning Planet Festival

IDG Skills: Sense-making and Collaboration skills

The Learning Planet Festival is a global event that celebrates learning as a way to inspire collective action for a better future. It brings together youth, educators, and organisations to share innovative ideas and solutions addressing the world's most pressing challenges, including climate action.

View

Digital Platforms and Networks

Zero Hour

Zero Hour is a youth-led movement that centers on addressing climate change and environmental justice with a strong focus on frontline communities. Founded by young activists, the campaign emphasizes the urgency of climate action, raising awareness about the intersection of social and environmental issues. Through advocacy, education, and public mobilization, Zero Hour empowers youth to take leadership roles in demanding systemic changes that address climate crises and their disproportionate impacts on marginalized communities. Visit thisiszerohour. org to explore their initiatives and find ways to join the movement.

View Campaign

We, Youth for Climate Justice (WY4CJ)

We, Youth for Climate Justice (WY4CJ) is a global initiative that empowers youth to advocate for climate justice by amplifying their voices in international legal and policy spaces. WY4CJ works to hold governments and corporations accountable for their climate commitments, focusing on the rights of future generations and the protection of vulnerable communities. By mobilising youth globally, WY4CJ fosters leadership, legal literacy, and collective action to combat the climate crisis.

Explore wy4cj.org to discover how you can join their movement, access resources, and contribute to impactful climate justice advocacy.

View Campaign

Kick Polluters Out

A global campaign demanding the removal of fossil fuel companies and their lobbyists from international climate negotiations. These corporations, whose profits rely on driving climate change, undermine meaningful climate action and prioritize their interests over the planet's future. By exposing their influence and calling for policies free from corporate interference, the campaign seeks to empower governments to act in the best interest of people and the environment.

Visit kickbigpollutersout.org to join the campaign.

View Campaign

Fridays for Future

Fridays for Future is a global youth-led movement inspired by Greta Thunberg's school strike for climate action. It encourages young people worldwide to take a stand against climate inaction by organizing strikes, protests, and awareness campaigns. The movement amplifies the voices of youth demanding urgent climate policies to limit global warming and ensure a sustainable future. Through grassroots mobilisation, Fridays for Future fosters community-driven action, inspires collective responsibility, and challenges political and corporate leaders to prioritize climate justice. Its decentralized, inclusive approach empowers young activists to advocate for change at local, national, and international levels.

Visit fridaysforfuture.org to find out more and join.

View Campaign

The Sublime Toolkit: empowering youth for climate justice