

C8: THE ROLE OF YOUTH



EARTH WILL SURVIVE
CLIMATE CHANGE
WE WON'T

WHEN WILL I HEAR
YOU TALK ABOUT
CLIMATE CHANGE
MR. MODI?

YOU SOLD OUR FUTURE
JUST FOR PROFIT

Respect Existence
OR
Expect Resistance

THE

YOU
YOU
YOU P
YOU

DON'T BE TRASHY,





Carbon Initiative Forum is non-profit that aims to empower the youth through the mainstreaming of climate policy in education. *We see a void in the public space on policy discussions about the climate. There hasn't been enough awareness, conversation and therefore expectation from the public towards policy makers and corporations is lacking. We want to make climate a voting issue in India and create a space, through CIF, for dialogue, discussion and chiefly an impetus from youth and other individuals to drive actions at various governance levels.*

We are a comprehensive platform to ask the right questions to the right people and gain clarity and our target audience includes youth of age group 14-28 years.

OUR MISSION IS TO EDUCATE & ENGAGE ON CLIMATE POLICY

“ Our planet needs each one of us right now. We need you to inspire change to control climate change. ”

“ On our platform, understand what the policy makers are doing to limit global warming, engage with us and enhance awareness on it. ”

“ We enable the youth to become better future climate decision makers by educating them on climate change and climate policy. ”

OUR OBJECTIVES

- Create city level chapters that work on city level issues
- Our vision is to become a national platform, growing and collated by the people
- Enable a larger movement and consequently a larger impact towards climate action

VOLUNTEER LIKE A PLANETEER!

Whether you're a lifelong environmentalist, a new activist just starting out, or someone totally new to the concept of climate change, join our **#CIFClimateClub** or **#LocalCityChapter** and be the planeteeers our planet needs.

LEAD THE WAY. INSPIRE THE YOUTH. CLIMATE POLICY NEEDS YOU.



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Importance of climate literacy

Education is the only answer to stop climate change. The world needs quality climate education for all (#ItsTimeYouAct). UNESCO's data from 100 countries shows that only half of the world's national curriculum make any reference to climate change. Through its Education for Sustainable Development programme, UNESCO has been working to make education a more central and visible part of the international response to climate change.

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris Agreement and the associated Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) agenda call on governments to educate, empower and engage all stakeholders and major groups on policies and actions relating

to climate change. Climate literacy and policy education should be added as a mandatory in university syllabus. There is a growing need to conduct workshops on climate policy education across Indian universities.^[1]

Climate policy education will help the youth become,

Responsible consumers

Conscious leaders

Hold political leaders accountable

Spread community sustainability



Significant initiatives

Below are a few of the international initiatives taken on the climate front

UN Youth Climate Summit

The UN Youth Climate Summit is a platform for young climate action leaders to showcase their solutions at the United Nations and to meaningfully engage with decision-makers on the defining issue of our time.

This historic event took place on September 21, 2019 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York prior to the UN Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit on September 23, 2019.

The Youth Climate Action Summit brought youth climate champions together from more than 140 countries and territories to share their solutions on the global stage, and deliver a clear

message to world leaders: we need to act now to address climate change. The event gave voice to the demands of young people for far swifter action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



Voices of Youth

UNICEF has created a dedicated platform for young advocates to offer inspiring and original insights on issues that matter to them.

Adapted from the Young Climate Activists in Latin American and the

Caribbean toolkits, developed by young activists, young designers and UNICEF experts, this Climate Action for Youth series will provide you with the knowledge, tools, and resources to participate in global youth climate action and advocate for change.^[2]

Youth UNESCO Climate Action Network YoU-CAN

The Youth UNESCO Climate Action Network (YoU-CAN) was officially launched during COP25 in December 2019. In line with the UNFCCC Paris Agreement, aimed to significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change, YoU-CAN was created with

a view to supporting and facilitating youth-led climate action to reach its full potential and impact, by building on existing relevant youth action in the areas of Natural Sciences, Education, Culture, Social and Human Sciences, Communication and Information.^[3]

Young Champions of the Earth (United Nations Environment Programme)

Platforms and initiatives across UNEP have given relevant roles to young people, developing meaningful engagement in the environmental space. UNEP recognizes the importance of working with and for young people. Their programmes make a stronger coordination effort for meaningful youth participation.

Young Champions of the Earth is a forward-looking prize designed to breathe life into the ambitions of

brilliant young environmentalists aged 18 - 30. UNEP has been working with the gaming industry to explore how, through their massive reach, they can inspire young people to learn and act in support of the environment. The gaming industry reaches 1 in 3 people on the planet and has a platform with unprecedented influence. How can this rapidly expanding media platform be harnessed to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals?^[4]



Connect4Climate

The Youth4Climate initiative amplifies the work of young climate leaders and celebrates the power of the young generation to drive ambitious climate action. Global citizens under 30 are inheriting a hotter, more unpredictable climate that has enormous implications for their future. But they also have incredible power to change the course

we're on-by calling on policymakers, implementing innovative solutions, telling their stories, and collaborating across national lines. For a brief history of the rise of the global youth climate movement, check out the C4C - supported documentary Youth Unstoppable, directed by the young filmmaker Slater Jewell-Kemker.^[5]

Space within UNFCCC

YOUNGO

It is the official children and youth constituency of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). YOUNGO is a vibrant, global network of children and youth activists as well as youth NGOs, who contribute to shaping the intergovernmental climate change policies and strive to empower youth to formally bring their voices to the UNFCCC processes.

In 2009, the UNFCCC secretariat extended constituency status to admitted youth NGOs. YOUNGO's

vision is to empower children and youth to take action and work to enhance their skills and capacity to drive the necessary and ambitious climate actions and policies at all levels towards a livable and just climate future. YOUNGO representatives make official statements, provide technical and policy inputs to negotiations and engage with decision-makers at the UN climate change conferences, and promote youth participation in climate change projects at local and national levels.

YOUNGO focuses on the following areas:^[6]

1

Awareness,
Knowledge and
Capacity Building

2

Collaboration,
Cooperation and
Network

3

Policy, Lobby and
Advocacy

4

Youth
Action



UNEP/UNESCO YouthXchange Initiative

In 2001, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) created the YouthXchange Initiative to promote sustainable lifestyles among youth (aged 15-24) through education, dialogue, awareness-raising and capacity-building. YouthXchange works with young people, governments, educators, non-governmental organizations, trainers,

and youth leaders in more than 50 countries around the world. At the national and local levels, YouthXchange capacity-building activities are secured through a diverse network of partners, and supported by printed YouthXchange publications, such as the flagship YouthXchange Training Kit on Responsible Consumption (translated into more than 20 languages) publication and a bilingual YouthXchange website.^[7]

Youth Forum on Climate Change

The UNESCO Youth Forum was created in 1999 to provide young people with the opportunity to present their concerns and ideas to Member States and help shape the direction of UNESCO.

Every two years, young people from 195 Member States come together at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris to discuss and debate thematic areas of concern.

The forum culminates in a series of recommended actions to be presented at the UNESCO General Conference. These actions take into account the lived experiences and unique perspective of youth as well as the challenges facing young people today, ensuring that the voices of youth are properly represented in programmatic decisions made by the Member States.^[8]





The Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change

Building on the youth climate movement, the Secretary-General launched his Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change on 27 July, 2020 to amplify youth voices and to engage young people in an open and transparent dialogue as the UN gears up to raise ambition and accelerate

action to tackle the climate emergency.

Its members brought the voices of young people into high-level decision making and advised the Secretary-General on the implementation of his 2020-21 Climate Change Strategy.^[9]

CliMates

CliMates is an international laboratory of ideas and actions, bringing together volunteers, students and young professionals around climate issues. The objective of this Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) is to meet the challenge of climate change. The organization gathers over a hundred students from more than 30 countries, collaborating to conduct research and action projects in partnership with many influential climate actors.

After a year of collaborative research on various climate related issues (towards low-carbon agriculture, adaptation policies and economic development), CliMates members gathered in Paris for the first CliMates International Summit along with youth and students from partner organizations as well as high-level experts from academic institutions, NGOs and think-tanks.^[10]



Greenbits Initiative

Greenbits Initiative is a project aiming to leverage active youth participation in policy making by developing their capacity. As a result, young people are empowered to not only relate climate change, environment and sustainable development policies to their adaptation initiatives, but also engage in such

policies from the grassroots level.

Greenbits Initiative aims to build a critical mass of the public pressure to influence formulation of ambitious climate change policies through increased awareness and enhanced involvement of young people.^[1]



Starting point – Joining a Local Climate Chapter

“

India is the third largest greenhouse gas emitter in the world, following China and the United States.

”

Over half of the world's population currently resides in cities, collectively contributing to 75% global greenhouse gas emissions, thus making the role

of cities in addressing climate change necessary. Therefore, the role cities play in the climate action of the country is a necessary one.



A local government's ability to introduce climate policies depends greatly on the country's institutional political set-up as well as the availability of resources, technical know-how, and political will. The prime minister, a number of federal ministries, the parliament, expert groups, the business sector, civil society actors, research institutes and international organizations play supreme roles in the national climate policy making.

The Planning Commission, which was replaced in October 2010 by the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI

Aayog), and the Financial Commission are the pillars for policy making and implementation.

CLIMATE SMART CITY ASSESSMENT is one of the positive initiatives aimed at establishing various climate related actions in 100 cities of India while continuing the undergoing developmental projects simultaneously. Cities are evaluated on various parameters and ranked accordingly. Cities can check their progress and improve the quality of the city.^[12]

Climate movements

Climate movements, especially led by the youth, play a significant role in awakening the world about the risks of climate change. Here are few of the most influential movements across the world,

- ❖ **FRIDAYS FOR FUTURE:** Kicked-off by a protest by Greta Thunberg in front of the Swedish government, this movement has then influenced millions of school students worldwide who skip Friday classes for demonstration which targets the government and political leaders to take action on climate change and promote sustainable development of the nations.

- ❖ **GLOBAL CLIMATE STRIKE:** As the name suggests, it is an international movement which takes place from 20-27 September where people are encouraged to walk out of their schools, jobs and homes to strike for climate issues like targeting fossil fuel industries or political leaders. The movement focuses on creating a sense of urgency to tackle climate change.
- ❖ **EARTH DAY:** The first-ever Earth Day was held in the United States almost exactly 50 years ago on April 22, 1970. The organizers wanted to raise awareness of concerns such as pollution and toxic waste and were inspired by the anti-war movement led by students at the time, according to its website. Earth Day has now become a global event ever since 1990, when 200 million people in 141 countries joined forces to bring it to the world stage.
- ❖ **EXTINCTION REBELLION:** Extinction Rebellion, a direct-action group that organizes creative forms of protest, launched in London in May 2018. The group brought the UK capital to a standstill and began targeting events such as Fashion Week in order to further their mission. Chapters of the group have since opened in 68 countries around the world, from Russia to South Africa.





**GRETA
THUNBERG**

My war against climate change

"Politicians only giving speeches, not taking action. In Delhi when the pollution is bad, they only give children a three day holiday."



**LICYPRIYA
KANGUJAM**
CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIVIST

Climate youth activists

As youth are a major part of the population and the future of the planet, there have been many young activists who have succeeded in influencing the youth to act on the pressing issue of climate change. Below are few young activists doing their best in making a difference,

- ❖ **GRETA THUNBERG:** While talking about climate activists, her name immediately comes to mind. This Swedish girl protested alone in front of the Swedish government at the mere age of 15. She is known to challenge world leaders to take immediate action on climate change mitigation.
- ❖ **NYOMBI MORRIS:** This young Ugandan activist is fiercely passionate about preserving the environment and promotes the right to speech. In march 2021, he was physically threatened and had his placard and cell phone snatched while protesting. He started actively participating in climate movements after he realized that Uganda is highly vulnerable to climate change and the flood that displaced his family was related to climate change.
- ❖ **LICYPRIYA KANGUJAM:** She is one of the world's youngest climate activists, advocating for climate action at the age of 6. She has addressed political leaders at the United Nations Climate Change Conference, given TEDx talks at least six times, founded 'The Child Movement' and traveled to 32 countries to raise awareness before she even turned 10.
- ❖ **ELLA AND AMY MEEK:** Another young activists, these two sisters are fighting against plastic pollution and waste in the United Kingdom. The duo started 'Kids Against Plastic' in 2016 at the ages of 10 and 12, and have since picked up more than 100,000 pieces of single-use plastic litter all across the country. They have even been featured in TEDx.

What you can do as an individual

It's the individual effort of everybody working together towards a collective goal that causes real, effective change - David Hogg

Each individuals' actions can lead to a significant impact. Below are few things you can do as an individual to help fight climate change,

- Start by getting educated on climate policy and find out ways to contribute - it can be as simple as starting by signing petitions.
- Stay updated with climate conferences and understand what world leaders are saying and doing to address the issue.
- Write a letter to your Environment Minister.
- Send emails to local ministers to protect habitats - ask politicians what is their plan of action to meet the NDC commitments.
- Join a Local Climate Chapter to work on local climate related issues.
- Consume less - everything we use comes from the earth e.g. the paper that we use comes from trees.
- Use public transport as much as possible.
- Eat more vegetables.



- Participate in the democratic process actively - We have the power to choose our leaders.
- Network - Connect with those who are already taking action for climate change.
- Stop using single-use plastic as almost 90% of the plastics are not recycled.
- Throw away less food. Start composting at home.
- Reduce, reuse, repair, recycle.
- Change your homes source of energy. Speak to building authorities to install solar panels where possible.
- Switch to an electric vehicle-makes sense only if it is charged by renewable energy.
- Choose eco-friendly and organic products.
- And most important - Speak up!



The evil of green washing

Citizens have recently grown more environmentally conscious and they are likely looking for ways to make ecologically mindful purchases. However, all of their efforts to buy from companies that claim to make better environmental decisions may not be as beneficial as we imagine.

Greenwashing is a dirty tactic used by a corporation or group that spends more effort and money on presenting themselves as environmentally friendly than on reducing their environmental effect. *It's a deceptive marketing trick meant to deceive customers who prefer to buy goods and services from environmentally conscious companies.*

Greenwashing firms, for example, can claim that their products are made from recycled materials or have energy-saving features. Although some of the environmental claims may be somewhat valid, greenwashing corporations frequently exaggerate their claims or benefits in order to deceive consumers.

In recent years, it has become clear that

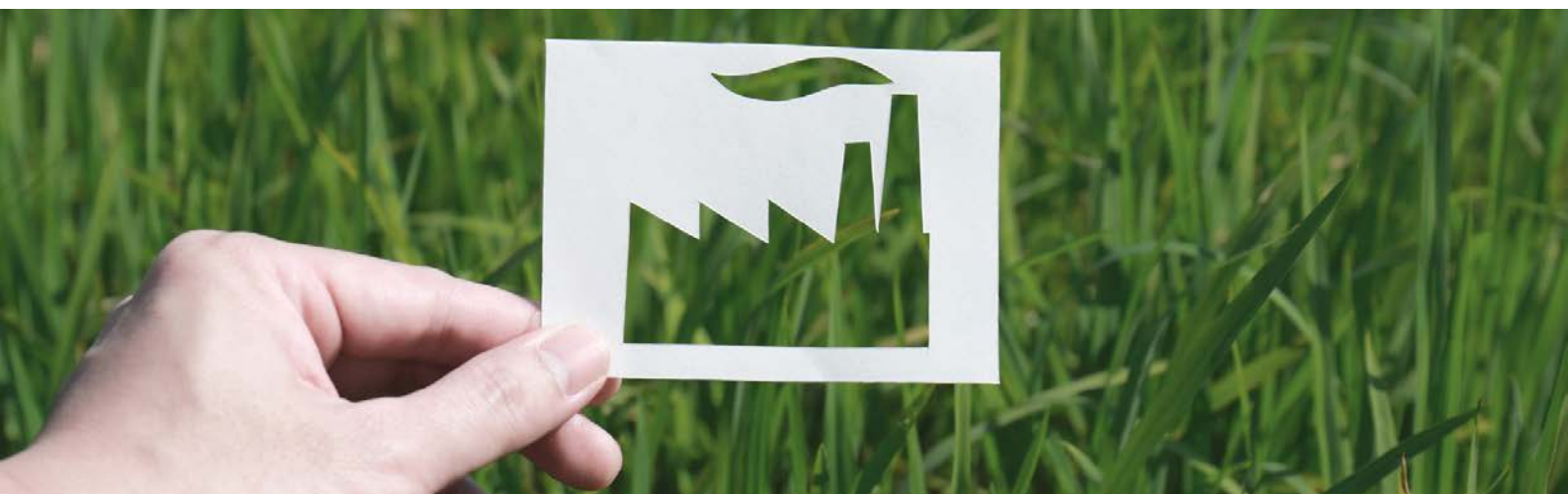
consumers are willing to pay a higher price for environmentally friendly goods.

It can be observed whether or not a company is guilty of greenwashing. Companies might boast of their product's environment friendly features while not disclosing their negative impact.

There can be vagueness in their statements like 'non-toxic', 'new and improved', 'natural' that doesn't actually relate with sustainability.

Most importantly, companies might make claims without any proof to back them up.

Greenwashing isn't used by all businesses and organizations. Some of them do have a favorable environmental impact. As a mindful consumer, it should be checked if the company's actions match their words. Consumers will be able to understand dirty marketing methods and hold corporations accountable for greenwashing as a result of this.^[13]



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Calculate your carbon footprint to make more informed decisions on how you can cut your share of emissions!

<https://www.carboninitiativeforum.org/measure>



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