

Youth Climate Movements - Overview and Resources

Background on Youth Strikes

In the United States, youth are being organized by [U.S. Climate Strikes](#), with the goal of March 15, 2019 being a major turning point for youth engagement across America. Protests and actions are being organized across California and the United States, for example:

- [San Francisco](#): Youth are organizing to meet at Diane Feinstein's office for a protest between 12-3pm on Friday March 15, 2019.
- [Sacramento](#): Youth are organizing at the state capital for a protest between 12-2pm on Friday March 15, 2019.

Students are being encouraged to organize acts of solidarity on their school campus. This movement is also being paired with the one-year anniversary (March 14th) of the #Enough movement (protesting Congress' inaction on gun violence). In 2019, #Enough has grown into the [#Enough - Youth Week of Action](#), to take place between March 11 - 15th, and concluding with standing in solidarity with the [Youth Climate Strikes](#) on Friday, March 15th.

Overview of Youth Climate Movement

There is momentum building worldwide to make 2019 a historical turning point for youth engagement on the issue of Climate Change.

The release of the Special Report, "[Global Warming of 1.5 Degrees Celsius](#)," by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), in October 2018, increased momentum for youth engagement on the issue of climate change. This is largely due to dire warning that the impacts of climate change like extreme weather are already deadly and damaging, and that humans have just [12 years](#) to limit devastating worldwide warming. This momentum is also due to the bold actions of a Swedish youth named, Greta Thunberg.

In August 2018, Greta, then 15 years old, decided that instead of going to school on Fridays, she would stand outside her country's parliament in protest and demand stronger climate action from her government. She referred to this action as a climate strike, and coined the concept of [#FridaysForFuture](#). She also went on to speak at multiple forums in late 2018 and early 2019: [COP24](#), [TEDx](#), WEF "[Our House is On Fire](#)." This one simple act has inspired millions worldwide and sparked school strikes across the globe.

Youth across the world are responding to Greta's call for action. The following articles and videos provide a brief overview of the Youth Climate Strike movement's growth over the course of just a few months:

- i-D Article: [Youth Strike for Climate Change](#)
- Vox Article: [Why Students are Going on Strike](#)
- The Years Project Video: [Students Strike for the Climate](#) - #WeCanSolve
- Sky News: [Students Strike Over Climate Change](#) (UK)
- ITV News: [Students go on Strike from School in Climate Change Protest](#) (UK)
- ABC Australia: [Students Protest for Climate Change](#)
- Global News: [Student Protests in Belgium for Climate Change](#)

Stakeholder Considerations and Strategies for Engagement

Below are strategies and ideas for each stakeholder group to consider how they might engage with the Youth Climate Strike Movement.

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| <p>Students</p> | <p>Key Question: <i>What might participation look like, and what impact would my participation have on my community?</i></p> <p>A) On Campus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness and Advocacy: Organize a sit-in, rally, or flash mob; facilitate an arts demonstration utilizing visual or performing arts, wear a color/ribbon in solidarity with the Climate Strike on March 15. • Action: Lead or support an initiative to reduce the ecological footprint of your school's campus (i.e. zero waste, no idling during school drop off/pick up, water conservation, etc.) - for more ideas on collective action see https://sites.google.com/view/environmental-literacy-for-all/resources/teachers/tools-for-green-schools <p>B) Off Campus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spread awareness of the Youth Climate strikes taking place March 15. • Take action to reduce your individual ecological footprint. • Support environmental sustainability campaigns in your local community such as banning single-use disposables, green transportation, etc. |
| <p>Teachers</p> | <p>Key Question: <i>How might I integrate opportunities to connect climate change and environmental literacy into my classroom?</i></p> <p>A) Levels of Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entry: Warm up, current event discussion, HW task, etc. • Medium: Make the integration of Climate Change into your curriculum a regular practice on Fridays • High: Design a series of lessons that lead up to or kick-off on March 15th <p>B) Topical Ideas and Resources: There are already existing curriculum and resources to help get you started - see resources at https://sites.google.com/view/environmental-literacy-for-all/what-why/climate-education</p> |
| <p>Administrators</p> | <p>Key Question: <i>How might I support youth efforts and become an ally?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a supportive context for students to advocate and spread awareness, for example: allow rallies and assemblies, support peer teaching, host an evening town hall, wear a color or ribbon in solidarity, etc. • Support teacher professional development for Environmental Literacy. See https://sites.google.com/view/environmental-literacy-for-all/professional-learning • Consider strategies for reducing the ecological footprint of the facilities and operations at your district/site - learn more about how to do this https://sites.google.com/view/environmental-literacy-for-all/resources/teachers/tools-for-green-schools |
| <p>Community Partners</p> | <p>Key Question: <i>How might I be a youth ally and demonstrate my commitment to ensuring an environmentally healthy and socially just future for all?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents and Board Members: Pass a PTA or School Board resolution that commits to becoming an environmentally sustainable school. Assist your school in becoming a Green Certified Business. See https://schoolsforclimateaction.weebly.com/ • Non-profit and Environmental Education Organizations: Support youth who engage with your programs to become leaders for an environmentally sustainable future. • City/County Agency: Listen to the concerns of the youth voice and take action. • Business: Consider becoming a Green Certified Business, support youth leaders with resources and materials, etc. |