

Climate Action Project



Concept Note 2021-2022

FAST FACTS

- **What:** Online learning experience centered on climate action
2,600,000 teachers and students globally in 2020. 30 million anticipated for 2021.
- **Where:** 142 countries in all continents
- **When:** ongoing – synchronous collaboration in October and November
- **Who:** Educators and students ages 6-22
- **How:** Students find solutions for climate change, share online so that those can be replicated globally.
- **Climate Action Day:** online, live event on November 4th having world-renowned speakers, reaching more than 500,000 attendees

This opportunity is free and is offered by Take Action Global, 501(c)3 non-profit.

Website: www.climateactionedu.org – www.climateactionday.net

OVERVIEW

The Climate Action Project (since 2017) launches annually in October for six weeks involving 2,600,000 participants (2020) across more than 140 countries. The free, global collaboration project aims to change students' behavior and society's mindset through education. It is in collaboration with WWF, UNEP and NASA and is supported by HH Dalai Lama, Dr. Jane Goodall, Queen Elisabeth, David Attenborough, President Santos from Colombia, scientists and public figures.

“Rather than asking students to memorize the definition of climate change – we ask them to find solutions, take meaningful actions and call on governments.”

Koen Timmers
founder Climate Action Project

During the student-centered project, students will explore, discuss, create, solve problems, and share findings and solutions to the website. This way students can learn from their global peers and gain authentic insights. The project allows students to be creative, collaborate at a global scale, understand empathy, think critically, and take action in meaningful ways. We work with governments in 15 countries including Canada, UK, South Africa, Philippines to name a few.

“Climate Change is real. All around the world where the patterns are changing and affecting people, animals and the environment. To tackle this growing crisis we have to take action. We have to change mindsets.”

Dr. Jane Goodall
Supporter Climate Action Project

We conclude our project with “Climate Action Day”, an online event in November where experts, world leaders and students meet each other.

In order to bring substantial change on national levels, we work with Ministries of Education and Environment in Austria, Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Germany, India, Ireland, Malawi, Moldova, Philippines, South Africa, UK, Venezuela and the European Parliament. In the past few years, the project was covered by media across 45 countries, including BBC, CNN, and National Geographic.

Our partners:



GENERAL AIMS OF THE CLIMATE ACTION PROJECT

The aims of the project are to:

- institutionalize climate change and environmental action as part of national curriculum across the globe
- establish and support international movement and behavior change in terms of climate action
- create positive environmental impact based on actions of students internationally
- distribute curriculum to schools globally and support participation across all countries
- alignment to individual country's cultural, financial, and technological contexts through collaborations with Ministries of Education and national teacher organizations

7 REASONS WHY CLIMATE EDUCATION MATTERS

- **Direct Impact**
Climate education has a direct impact and can lead to a win-win: offering important skills to young people which they'll need for future jobs, and young global citizens able to reverse climate change (Timmers, 2018).
- **Most Teachers Don't Teach Climate Change; 4 In 5 Parents Wish Teach Did**
86% of teachers and 80% of parents in UK and USA are open to climate literacy (Kamenetz, 2019).
- **Change through parents**
Children can foster climate change concern among their parents. This way they can bring change in society (Lawson, 2019).
- **Students can't explain climate change**
Only 1 in 5 students can explain climate change (OECD, 2006).
- **Educate girls**
There would be 60% less casualties by floodings, draughts, fires if 70% more girls (132 million girls) would receive education by 2050 as there would be 85 gigaton less emissions (Kwauk, 2021)
- **Lifestyle & consumption**
Climate Education has a direct impact on students' lifestyle and consumption. 78% of students admits already taking small actions at home (Schleicher, 2020).
- **Big impact**
Education has more impact that installing wind turbines (47 gigaton) of solar panels (19 gigaton) (Kwauk, 2021).

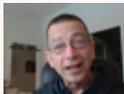
“Education is crucial for climate action because it has the exceptional power to make evolve mindsets and behaviours in the long run. Because education can change minds, it can change the world.”

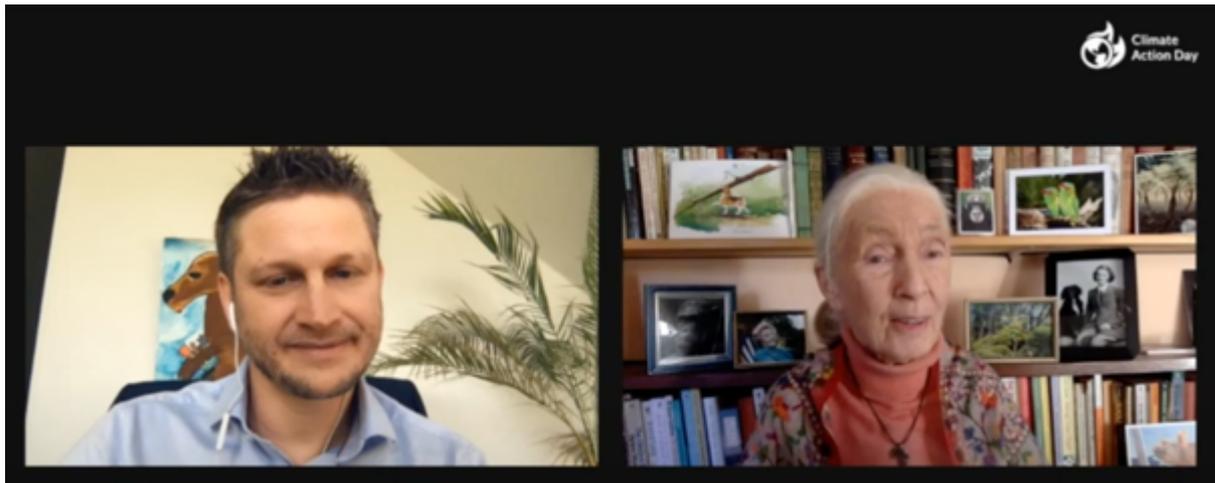
Audrey Azoulay
Director-General UNESCO

CLIMATE ACTION DAY

In 2020 we launched our first Climate Action Day, a webinar with an audience of 250,000 attendees. Speakers include climate experts, world-leaders, activists and students. Students and world-renowned experts met each other and brainstormed on potential solutions and meaningful actions.

2020 speakers:

	Dr. Jane Goodall 	Sir David Attenborough 	
	HRM Princess Esmeralda of Belgium	Vanessa Nakate Climate justice activist	
	Fernanda De Carvalho & Matt Larsen-Daw WWF International	Richard Davis Assistant Director for Science and Exploration, NASA	
	Sandrine Dixson-Declève Club of Rome	Céline Cousteau Adventurer and Explorer	
	Dan Shepard UN climate change director	Richard E. Hyman former diver captain Cousteau	
	Sam Barratt UN Environment Programme	Kumi Naidoo Former Director Greenpeace & Amnesty International	
	Sharan Burrow General Secretary ITUC	Paul Polman former CEO Unilever	
	President Stevo Pendarovski President North Macedonia	Helena Gualinga Environmental activist	
	Victor Negrescu European Parliament	Dr. Shashi Tharoor Indian Parliament	
	Hailemariam Desalegn Former Prime Minister of Ethiopia	Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr Mayor Freetown	
	Pedro Henrique Neschling Actor & Writer	Florika Fink Hoojer European Commission	
	H.E. President Juan Manuel Santos Former President of Colombia & Nobel Prize winner	Leonor Briones Secretary of the Department of Education Philippines	
	Barbara Creecy Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries South Africa	Prof. Coleen Vogel Nobel Prize winner	
	Marie Rumsby Global Citizen	Roman Krznaric Public Philosopher	
	Thomas Anthony Jones Actor Grey's Anatomy	Bhumi Pednekar Bollywood Actor	



Attended by 250,000 people live and the recording was sent to all CAP participants (2.6 million). Find the recording here: www.climateactionday.net

2021 speakers (confirmed):

- HH Pope Francis (60% probability)
- Former President James Alix Michel (Seychelles)
- Former President Laura Chinchilla (Costa Rica)
- Princess Esmeralda of Belgium
- Princess Lalla Hasnaa of Morocco
- Stefania Giannini (Assistant Director-General for Education - UNESCO)
- Gidon Bromberg, EcoPeace
- Arizona Muse, famous Environmentalist
- Youth activists Kaosarra Sani (Togo) and Martina Fjallberg (Sweden)
- Member of council of Prince William's EarthShot Prize (to be announced)
- Matt Larsen-Daw, WWF
- Richard Davis, NASA
- Kent Page, UNICEF
- Juan Pablo Celis Garcia, youth leader UN Environment Programme, USA
- Nompumelelo Ngomane, granddaughter Desmond Tutu, South Africa
- Georgina Stevens, youth author climate
- Many more

Our event will be streamed live at COP26, Glasgow

INSTRUCTIONAL AIMS OF CLIMATE ACTION PROJECT & DAY

The instructional aims of the project are to:

- bring the Sustainable Development Goals to classrooms globally
- promote global collaboration between teachers and students
- offer teacher professional development opportunities and guide teachers to use technology to become part of a global network
- shift to alternative learning systems while addressing important global issues, such as climate change, gender inequality, and poverty
- target important skills like collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving, and empathy
- provide free, high-quality resources and experiences including curricula, webinars, virtual exchange, and support in multiple languages
- present governments with manifesto signed by our students, teachers, parents, partners and organizations

IMPACT CLIMATE ACTION PROJECT 2020

Over the past years, the Climate Action Project has made an impact at multiple levels from school to home to local community and in some locations at the societal level. Some examples include:

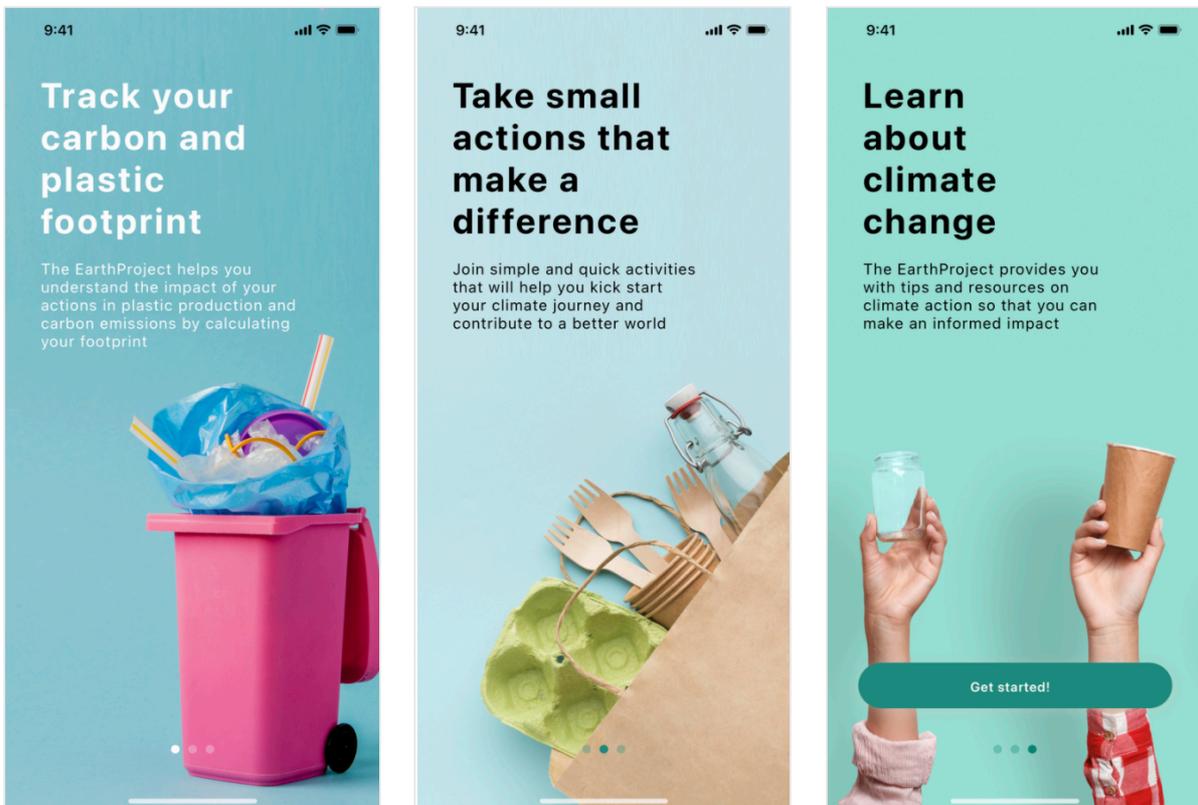
- National change in Ireland with the Green Dot Movement
- 60 million trees planted in Malawi
- American students inventing a new solar suitcase. It was shipped to Kenya where it now offers free electricity to 1 school. Indian students made a solar driven cart. Norwegian students made sure that their school bought solar panels
- Indonesian students creating eco-bricks
- Swedish, Greek and Irish students visited their governments with their manifesto
- Nigerian students developed biomass plants and brought those to their communities
- Argentinian, Romanian, Canadian and Indian students created bioplastic, water bubbles and shared their recipes? They also used mealworms to break down polystyrene. Students in UAE did beach clean-ups
- Belgian students started a repair cafe repairing broken devices
- American students developed a technique to use aquaponics to grow plants with 80% less water. It is now used in Malawi and presented at Oxford university
- Canadian students 3D-printed coral reefs
- In Sierra Leone where sadly 2 students died due to mud flows, they made a very emotional video to share their story
- Indonesian students developed eco-bricks
- Tunisian students created a video game
- Tanzanian students created a water heater with plastic bottles

- Students in Peru did a march and rewarded students by coming to school by bike. They celebrated via a festival
- Students across 50 countries designed an eco-friendly world in Minecraft.

IMPACT CLIMATE ACTION DAY 2020

- Victor Negrescu from European Parliament promised to work with us on an optional class on climate education in Romania (phase 1)
- First Lady Tammy Murphy agreed on working on climate education in the state of New Jersey
- Department of Education in Philippines will work with us on Climate Education. TAG will develop curriculum for junior and senior highschool and will train teachers
- Secretary of Education in Portugal promised to work with us on compulsory climate education
- 2 mayors of capitals (Sierra Leone and Moldova) made the pledge for our manifesto for a better climate www.climate-action.info/pledge

EARTHPROJECT: OUR APP TO MEASURE IMPACT



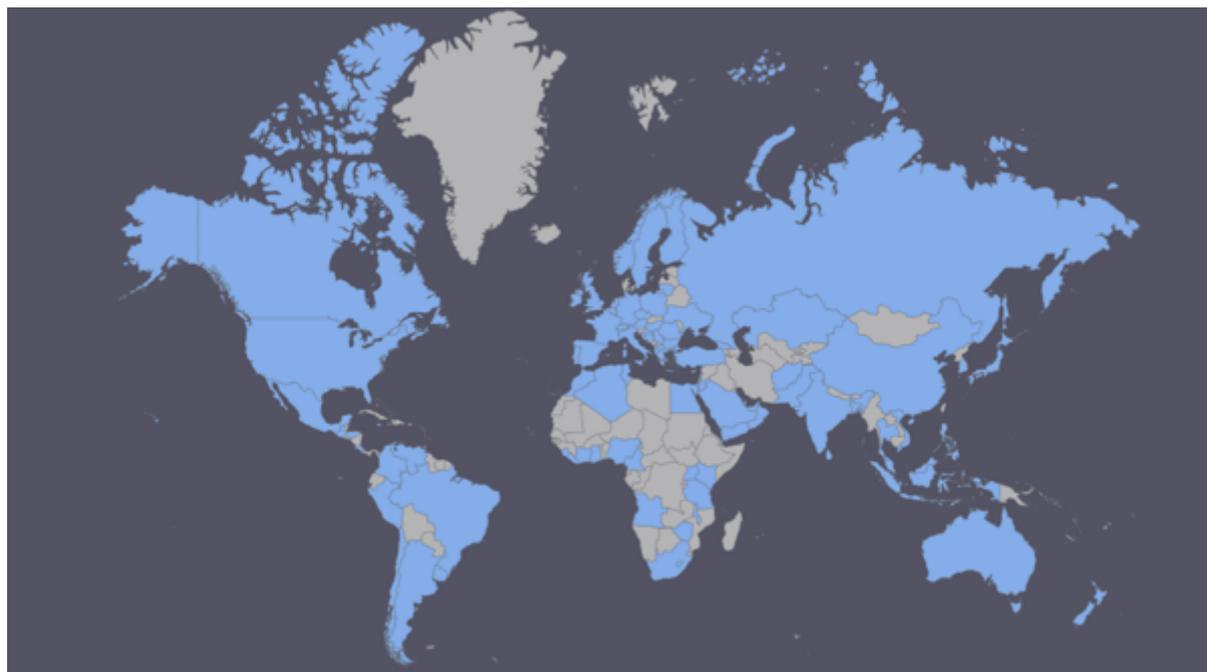
Free – available for iOS & Android

COVERED BY



And other national media across 45 countries. [See list.](#)

A GLOBAL APPROACH



The Climate Action Project welcomes participating teachers from 142 countries per year. For 2020, here are the top 15 participating countries:

- | | |
|-------------|------------------|
| 1. USA | 8. Romania |
| 2. India | 9. Turkey |
| 3. Colombia | 10. Mexico |
| 4. Brazil | 11. Vietnam |
| 5. Canada | 12. Portugal |
| 6. UAE | 13. South Africa |
| 7. UK | 14. Ukraine |

CLIMATE ACTION PROJECT CURRICULUM

A comprehensive curriculum is provided to all participating classrooms. Lessons and resources offer context and background about climate change and environmental issues and encourage inquiry, hands-on learning, and collaboration. The curriculum is co-authored and endorsed by WWF International.

The curriculum contains:

- context about climate change: definition, causes, effects, and potential solutions
- instructional guides on how to teach about climate change and the environment with connection to other learning approaches
- best practices in instructional design and lesson planning
- suggested activities and collaboration opportunities

The curriculum supports multiple learning environments resulting from COVID-19, including face-to-face instruction and distance learning, and is available in 15 languages.

<https://www.climate-action.info/download-curriculum-2020>

Initiatives part of Climate Action Project:

#plantED



Global tree planting launched in 2019, resulting in 1.2 million trees planted in 65 countries during two single weeks. www.plant-ed.net

Students in Malawi started to plant 60 million trees in 2019.

#Message2Space



Students sent their message of hope and solution to space (IIS) in March 2021.

www.messagespace.org

#InTheAir



We send Micro:bit kits with new sensors to schools across 50 to 100 countries allowing students to measure air quality and collect data at our platform. Students will be able to access data about air pollution about all countries involved, will find solutions and take action. Comes with STEM lesson plans.

BY TEACHERS FOR TEACHERS

Leads: Dr. Jennifer Williams and Koen Timmers

Both teaching for +20 years, authors and researchers

- Koen was announced to be one of the 10 top teachers in the world by Bill Gates in 2018. www.koentimmers.com

- Jennifer founded #TeachSDGs, a network of 60,000 teachers focusing on the UN Sustainable Development Goals. www.jenwilliamsedu.com

Ambassadors: 80 teachers in 75 countries coordinating in their country – making connections with Ministries of Education, partners and teacher networks

Facilitators: 160 teachers personally guiding new participants in groups of 50-200 teachers in 15 different languages

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Climate Action Project website: www.climate-action.info

Contact: Koen Timmers, koen@takeactionglobal.org

Organized and coordinated by TAG, a non-profit based in USA (501(c)3)
www.takeactionglobal.org

Please find the project's timeline at <https://www.climate-action.info/about>