



## How can I make a difference?

Today's children and young people will bear the brunt of future climate change impacts. Young people have a very important role to play in demanding action and creating positive change. **We are the future and climate change IS part of our future.**

Young people's capabilities must be strengthened; we must be given the opportunity to engage leaders to develop skills that will have a positive impact not only on the rest of our lives but also on the survival of the global environment.

*Identify your passions. Where would you like to have the greatest impact?*

*Mobilize your peers.*

*Lead and get others involved.*

*Influence and discover the power of your team.*

*Get connected, identify your networks, track them, and unite.*

*Know your resources.*

*Plan, set a goal and move.*

*Act on the basis of success and sustainability.*

*Believe that no matter how little your action is, together, you can make a difference!*

Examples of successful youth engagement include:

- Greenpeace Solar Generation (Philippines) – Greenpeace's youth component, Solar Generation in Manila has initiated active public awareness and education campaigns that include bike rallies; 'solar bars' and 'solar concerts' featuring concerts generated through the use of solar panels; as well as climate change talks in high schools and colleges, which include challenging students to monitor and decrease their energy consumption at home.
- African Sustainable Campuses – In cooperation with the Canadian Sierra Youth Coalition, this initiative educates children and young people on climate change issues; encourages them to develop their skills in participation; and translates scientific and/or indigenous knowledge into concrete actions such as advocating renewable energy, which can also be linked to microfinance activities.
- Bet Campaign (EU) – This campaign encouraged European youth to 'bet' their national governments that they could reduce their personal emissions by Kyoto levels faster than the governments. Through shared experiences, lessons learned and best practice methods exchanged at COP 6 (The Hague), this campaign was replicated in Canada and culminated in 30 young people cycling across the country to raise awareness about climate change encouraging Canadians to take the bet.
- Campus Climate Challenge (US) – This campaign was launched in May 2005 to organize students around developing 100% clean energy policies in 1,000 campuses over three years. In the first year, more than 550 universities, tribal colleges, high schools and community colleges joined the campaign.



Photos courtesy of the International Institute for Sustainable Development/Earth Negotiations Bulletin: [www.iisd.ca](http://www.iisd.ca)

## **Climate Change Youth Organizations**

**African Youth Initiative on Climate Change**

[www.ayicc.org/](http://www.ayicc.org/)

**Australian Youth Climate Coalition**

[www.youthclimatecoalition.org/](http://www.youthclimatecoalition.org/)

**Bet Campaign**

[www.thebet.de](http://www.thebet.de), [www.inforse.dk/europe/schools/program\\_Bet.htm](http://www.inforse.dk/europe/schools/program_Bet.htm)

**Canadian Climate Change Youth Coalition**

[www.ourclimate.ca/main/](http://www.ourclimate.ca/main/)

**Energy Action Coalition**

[www.energyaction.net/main/](http://www.energyaction.net/main/)

**Global Youth Action Network**

[www.youthlink.org/gyanv5/index.htm](http://www.youthlink.org/gyanv5/index.htm)

**Greenpeace Solar Generation**

[www.greenpeace.org/international/news/the-solar-generation](http://www.greenpeace.org/international/news/the-solar-generation)

**Sierra Youth Coalition – Sierra Club of Canada**

[www.syc-cjs.org](http://www.syc-cjs.org)

**It's Getting Hot in Here**

<http://itsgettinghotinhere.org/>

**Tunza**

[www.unep.org/Tunza/](http://www.unep.org/Tunza/)

**U.S. Youth Network for Sustainable Development/SustainUS**

[www.sustainus.org/](http://www.sustainus.org/)

**Youth Against Climate Change**

<http://youthagainstclimatechange.org/>

## **Taking Action Guides and Web Sites**

### **Unite for Climate**

This Web site is the portal for youth action on climate change. Young people can learn about climate change, share what they are doing and join in campaigns from around the world.

[www.uniteforchange.org](http://www.uniteforchange.org)

### **1 Minute to Save the World**

This short film competition on climate change is inviting entrants and viewers from around the world.

[www.1minutetosavetheworld.com](http://www.1minutetosavetheworld.com)

### **Climate Change: Youth guide to action**

This comprehensive guide by Taking It Global leads young people through the steps toward effective action against climate change.

[http://tig.phpwebhosting.com/guidetoaction/Climate\\_Guide\\_to\\_Action\\_en.pdf](http://tig.phpwebhosting.com/guidetoaction/Climate_Guide_to_Action_en.pdf)

### **GreenStreet Youth Action Centre: How to guides**

This Web site has a number of guides for download on how to take action on environmental issues.

[www.youthactioncentre.ca/English/actionresources/guides.htm](http://www.youthactioncentre.ca/English/actionresources/guides.htm)

### **Heat Up Over Climate Change**

This guide helps young people get thinking about and taking action on climate change.

[www.tagd.org.uk/Document.ashx?ID=343](http://www.tagd.org.uk/Document.ashx?ID=343)

### **Sierra Youth Coalition Group Kit**

This kit provides ideas on forming and maintaining a group and organizing and implementing a campaign.

[www.tigweb.org/resources/toolkits/view.html?ToolkitID=1243](http://www.tigweb.org/resources/toolkits/view.html?ToolkitID=1243)

### **The Student Activist Guide**

This guide offers youth various ways to take action on environmental issues.

<http://greenst.tigweb.org/en/library.html>

### **UN Seal the Deal Worldwide Campaign on Climate Change**

This campaign aims to galvanize political will and public support for a comprehensive climate change agreement to be reached at the Conference of the Parties No. 15. Go online to learn more about how you can support this campaign.

[www.sealthedeal2009.org](http://www.sealthedeal2009.org)

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