



**DEVI
SANSTHAN**
Dignity Education
Vision International

Leave no one behind

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LITERACY FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

Low Carbon Learning For All & Climate Action



“Ours is the **last generation** which can take steps to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. **Future generations** will judge us harshly if we fail to uphold our moral responsibilities.”

Ban Ki Moon, Former UN Secretary General



“Key barriers to adaptation are limited resources, lack of private sector and citizen engagement, insufficient mobilization of finance, **low climate literacy**...

Increasing education including capacity building, **climate literacy**, and information provided through community approaches can accelerate behavioural changes.”

*Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC),
Assessment Report 6, 2023*



Foreword: A Tale of Two Crises

Climate change and illiteracy. These twin evils threaten the future of hundreds of millions of children around the world.

A shocking 70% of 10-year-olds in low- and-middle-income countries cannot read, putting their future in peril. Meanwhile the climate crisis is accelerating, driving disasters, from ferocious floods to horrific heatwaves. How will a person who can't read understand the reality of a changing climate, and be able to adapt to it?

One of the striking similarities the climate and illiteracy crises is that we have long ignored them both. They seem to be unfolding gradually, in far off places, meaning that leaders and policymakers have long failed to take action. The result is disturbing: global carbon emissions have doubled over the last 30 years, even as scientists have sounded the alarm bells repeatedly. Meanwhile, some 770 million adults still can't read – the same as the number of illiterate people in 1950!

It is time to finally treat climate change and illiteracy as emergencies, for that is what they are.

Warm regards,



Sunita Gandhi

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(World's largest school)
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This report showcases many encouraging stories from around the world of what schools and students are doing to take action on the climate crisis – including two of the world's best education systems, Finland and Singapore. We share a 10-point action plan for schools, and link to some of the world's best educational resources on climate change.

We are also pleased to present a new methodology for tackling these twin crises of climate change and illiteracy. The Accelerating Learning for All program enables children and adults alike to learn foundational literacy and numeracy in as little as 45 days. The thin booklets and free mobile app save paper and thus carbon emissions. Best of all, the program uses short stories and role plays to educate about climate change and empower learners with ways they can help solve it.

Let's work together towards an education that is itself low-carbon, and also teaches how to live a low-carbon life. Let's safeguard the future of every child by ensuring literacy and climate justice for all.



Executive Summary

→ Achieving universal literacy is a key issue of climate justice: people who can't read have done the least to cause the problem yet are suffering the worst consequences.

Read more on page 6

→ Accelerating Learning for All (ALfA) is a green education, saving paper waste through thin booklets, paired learning and online materials.

Read more on page 7

→ ALfA teaches basic climate literacy through engaging short stories and role plays accompanied by prompts for discussion and action.

Read more on pages 8–9

→ ALfA uses peer learning to teach literacy swiftly, while building communication and collaboration – skills which are crucial for climate action.

Read more on pages 10–11

→ Schools around the world are increasingly taking climate action, while some leading countries are thoroughly incorporating a climate change agenda into their education systems.

Read more on pages 12–17

→ From micro-scale plastic cleanups to massive scale strikes and activism, student action for climate carries moral weight. Children are our collective future, and their demands for climate justice for all will not be silenced.

Read more on pages 18–23

Policy Recommendations

1. **Prioritize climate action and achieving universal literacy.**

- Invest heavily in education systems and renewable energy
- Lead mass literacy campaigns to build climate resilience
- Think long-term, act short-term

2. **Incorporate climate change education throughout the curriculum**

- Teach basic climate science from a young age
- Integrate climate education across different subjects
- Prompt student reflection, discussion and climate action

3. **Minimise the carbon footprint of the education system**

- Install solar panels on schools
- Revamp curricula to reduce paper wastage
- Plant school gardens & encourage sustainable food choices

Literacy and Climate Justice

People who can't read face severe disadvantage in many realms of life, and are also likely to be disproportionately impacted by climate change, even though they did the least to cause it. It's a matter of climate justice that everyone should be empowered with the key skill of literacy, which enables people to better adapt to climate change.

Climate change causes more frequent and severe natural disasters, including floods, droughts and heatwaves. In 2022 alone, the world suffered from 29 'billion dollar' disasters. From terrible floods in Pakistan and India to drought-induced famine in East Africa, these disasters take a heavy toll of both lives and livelihoods. Further, climate change-fuelled calamities are severely disrupting education systems, making it even harder for disadvantaged children to become literate.



People need access to information which will help them adapt to climate change. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a 2023 report, which decried the lack of climate literacy as one of the factors limiting adaptation. In many ways, conventional literacy is a prerequisite to climate literacy. Learning to read is a crucial step which enables people to read newspapers, weather reports, and engage with agencies that can help them adapt.

Yet 770 million adults remain illiterate. In Low-and-Middle-Income Countries, 70% of 10-year-olds can't read with comprehension. We urgently need programs like ALfA which help children and adults alike learn to read swiftly. It is a matter of climate justice that those who have done the least to cause climate change should be empowered with the vital skills which will help them adapt to it.

Dr. Gandhi's work on the intersection of literacy and climate change was showcased at COP26 in Glasgow. Additionally, her paper on illiteracy inequality and climate change, published in Glasgow University's Journal of New Economics, has contributed to the conversation on climate change and education of non-literate adults and children.



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- Yale Climate Connections. 2022. World Rocked by 29 billion dollar weather disasters in 2022. <https://yaleclimateconnections.org/2022/10/world-rocked-by-29-billion-dollar-weather-disasters-in-2022/>
- World Bank: The State of Global Learning Poverty 2022 Update <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/education/publication/state-of-global-learning-poverty>
- UNESCO Institute for Statistics: Literacy <http://uis.unesco.org/en/topic/literacy>

How ALfA saves paper

The Accelerating Learning for All program minimises its environmental footprint by saving paper in many ways.

Thin Booklets: The ALfA booklets are thin: just 12 to 32 pages each for reading, writing and arithmetic. Compare this to conventional textbooks and workbooks, which generally are thick and bulky, numbering in the hundreds of pages.

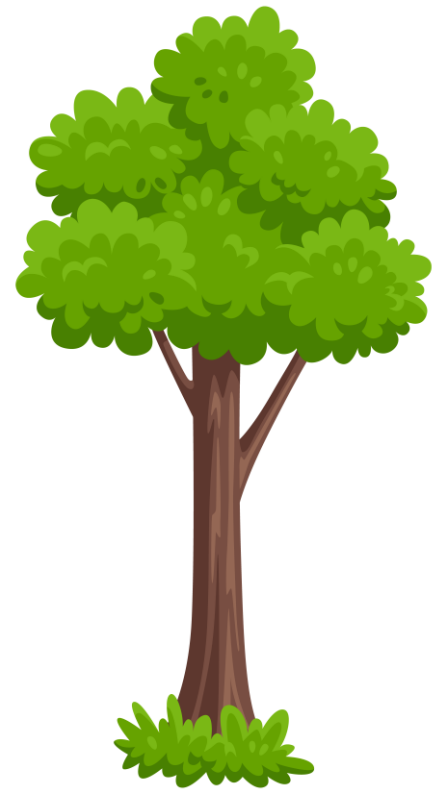
Paired learning: ALfA booklets are a shared resource between a pair of children, halving the number of books required, and thus also the amount of paper.

Reusable: The ALfA booklets may be shared across the classes and used over multiple years. They remain a property of the school rather than children taking them home.

e-Books: Where projectors are available inside the classroom, the teachers can use the ALfA e-Books to eliminate paper use entirely. The Literacy Now App also enables children to practice at home.

ALfA also uses locally available, reusable and biodegradable materials for hands-on activities. This includes ice-cream sticks, beans, buttons – or anything else kids can bring from home – as counters.

Children in Shamli, Uttar Pradesh use locally available counters including ice-cream sticks, coloured pencils, toothpicks and marbles to do arithmetic.



Did You Know?

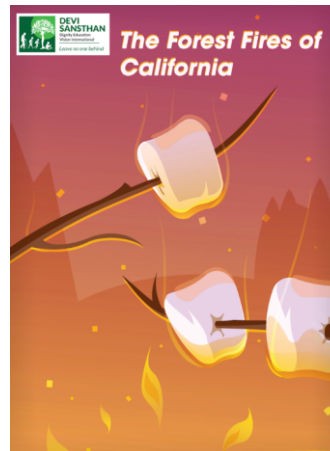
Globally, the paper industry releases 190 million tonnes of carbon dioxide each year. The world loses 10 million hectares of forest each year. That's the equivalent of 10 football fields per minute!

References International Energy Agency <https://www.iea.org/reports/pulp-and-paper>
Our World in Data: Deforestation <https://ourworldindata.org/deforestation>

Climate Education for All: Short Stories

ALfA is not just a low-carbon education, it also educates children about climate change and empowers them with the skills to live a low-carbon life and promote climate justice. It brings complex topics to life through stories.

ALfA integrates a climate education into literacy not as an add-on, but rather as a key part of the materials which students learn to read with. The program fosters environmental concern through short stories written from the perspective of Tara, a young girl. Each story is followed by comprehension questions as well as prompts for discussion and action.



Scan the QR to read more climate change short stories



Extract from 'Gorillas of Congo' short story

Tara planned to explore the rainforests of Congo, which play a key role in absorbing carbon dioxide. Lowland gorillas are an essential part of these forests: they feed on fruits, and when they throw away the seeds, new trees grow. However, over the past two decades, poaching has halved their population. Tara realized that something needs to be done to prevent the extinction of gorillas.

Discuss with your partner

1. How are gorillas useful in maintaining the forests?
2. What is causing the gorilla population to decrease?
3. How can you help spread awareness about poaching?



Did You Know?

A substantial proportion of young people say they want to learn more about climate change in school. Many teens experience climate anxiety – empowering them with information and ways forward can help mental health and wellbeing.

Reference Education Week: Teens Know Climate Change is Real, They Want Schools to Teach More About It. <https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/teens-know-climate-change-is-real-they-want-schools-to-teach-more-about-it/2022/11>

Building Climate Literacy: Role Plays

In the ALfA program, children learn the basics of climate science and understand what we can do to help through a set of role plays. In pairs, they read one part each, and ask each other questions about the text.

Raju: Have you noticed how hot it is this summer?

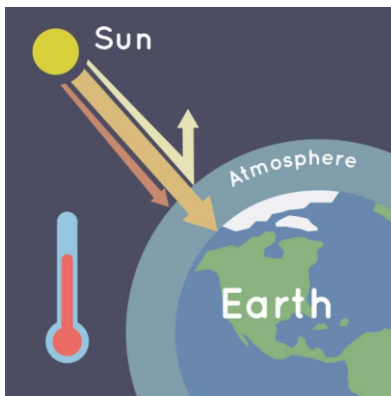
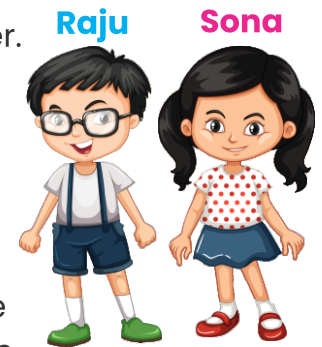
Sona: I saw on the TV yesterday that the whole world is getting hotter.

Raju: Really? How is that happening?

Sona: It is because of carbon pollution. There is more and more carbon dioxide in the air.

Raju: What is carbon dioxide?

Sona: Carbon dioxide is an invisible gas. Humans are releasing more and more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, by burning fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas. This is making the world get hotter.



Raju: How does that work?

Sona: It is a bit like a blanket keeps us warm at night by trapping our warmth. The carbon dioxide traps the sun's warmth, heating the earth.

Raju: Can an invisible gas really do that?

Sona: Yes. The whole world is 1 degree warmer than it was two hundred years ago. Scientists say that unless we act quickly, the world could be hotter by 3-5 degrees.

Raju: Only a few degrees? I don't think there is anything to worry about.

Sona: Even a few degrees can make a big difference. When you have a fever, your body is just one or two degrees hotter than normal.

Raju: Yes, but even that feels terrible.

Sona: Exactly. Now the earth is having a fever.



Prompts

One of you read Raju's part, the other read Sona's. Then ask each other some questions about the above passage.

- Why is the world getting warmer?
- How do you feel about the world getting warmer?
- Have you ever had a fever? How does it feel?

Ask each other more questions too from anything related to this passage.

Peer Learning Builds Climate Skills

At the heart of the ALfA process is peer learning – children working together in pairs. This is highly effective not just to teach literacy and numeracy, but also to foster skills that will be crucial in the struggle against climate change.

Working in pairs allows students to share their ideas and opinions, ask questions, and engage in discussions. This helps build important social skills and allows students to learn from each other's perspectives, creating a richer and more diverse learning experience. Additionally, paired learning can help build trust and foster a sense of accountability among students, as they work together to achieve a common goal.



In paired learning, students **work together** and take turns teaching each other about climate change and sustainability concepts. They can **collaborate** on projects, conduct experiments, and work together to take climate action.



Students can work together in pairs to research and brainstorm ideas for **reducing their carbon footprint**, creating sustainable practices, and promoting environmental awareness in their schools and communities.



Paired learning can also promote **empathy** and understanding among students from different backgrounds and perspectives, as they learn to listen to each other's ideas and perspectives. This is crucial to build resilience: how societies respond to climate-induced disasters hinges on their level of empathy.

Some examples of climate action that students can take (see a full list on p22):



Sustainable Food Choices



Energy Conservation



Active Transport



Planting Trees

In a paired learning setting, students can collaborate to research and plan these actions together, using their combined knowledge and skills to develop effective and impactful solutions for reducing their carbon footprint and addressing climate change.

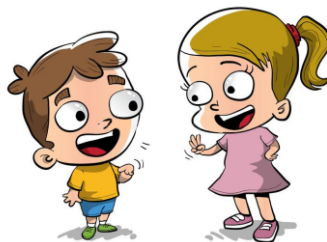
Collaboration is key to solving world problems, including climate change. Working in pairs for climate change action can be more effective than group work or whole-class teacher-led activities for several reasons:

Increased Participation



In a paired learning setting, students are more likely to actively participate and contribute to the discussion. When students work in pairs, they are more able to share their ideas and thoughts without fear of judgment or criticism from their peers, leading to a richer and more diverse range of ideas.

Individual Attention



When students work in pairs, they can receive individual attention from their partner, which can help them understand the concepts better. This can be especially helpful for students who may struggle to keep up with the pace of a whole-class teacher-led activity or who may feel intimidated to speak up in a larger group.

Personal Accountability



In paired learning, each student is accountable to their partner, which can help promote personal responsibility and motivation to complete tasks. This can be helpful in climate change action, where individual actions can have a collective impact.

Overall, paired learning is an effective way to engage students in climate change action by promoting participation, individual attention, collaboration, and personal accountability.

Denmark: Eco-Schools

This national certification program felicitates schools for implementing eco-friendly practices such as reducing energy consumption, waste reduction and recycling, and using sustainable transportation. The program has been successful in reducing the carbon footprint of schools across the country.

UK: The Plastic-Free Schools Campaign

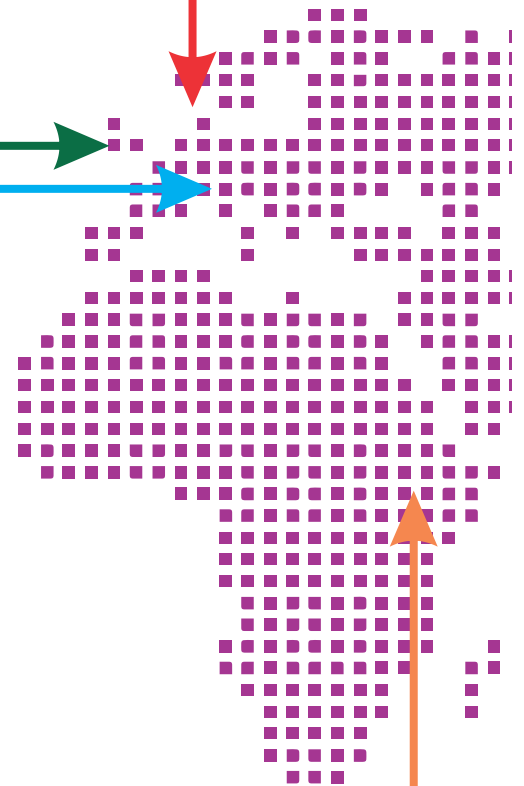
encourages schools to reduce their use of single-use plastics and promote reusable alternatives. It provides resources such as lesson plans, activities, and toolkits to help schools reduce their carbon footprint and promote sustainable practices.

Germany: Schools for Climate Protection

encourages schools to reduce their carbon footprint, through initiatives such as energy-saving measures, waste reduction, and sustainable transportation options like cycling and walking.

Kenya: The Green Schools Program

teaches students about environmental conservation and sustainability, including the installation of renewable energy systems, rainwater harvesting, and the establishment of school gardens to promote sustainable agriculture. Meanwhile, the Solar Youth Empowerment Network in Kenya trains young people to install and maintain solar panels, bringing clean energy to rural communities.



Case Study: Finland

In 2020, Finland became the first country in the world to introduce a comprehensive climate change education curriculum for primary and secondary schools.



The comprehensive climate change curriculum is integrated into various subjects. For instance, students learn about:

Biology

the impact of climate change on ecosystems, biodiversity, and human health.

Geography

causes & consequences of climate change; ways in which different regions of the world are affected.

Physics and Chemistry

science of climate change: the greenhouse effect, carbon cycle, fossil fuels & green energy.

Mathematics

use of data and statistical models to analyse trends and make predictions on climate change.

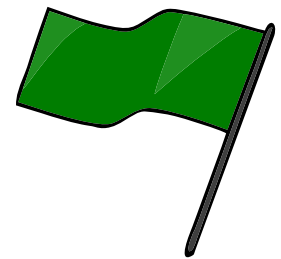
Humanities

the role of government and policy in addressing climate change, both in Finland and globally.

In addition to subject-specific education, Finnish schools also organize climate-themed projects and activities that involve students in real-world problem-solving related to climate change. For example, students might work on projects related to reducing energy consumption in their school or community, designing sustainable transportation systems, or raising awareness about the importance of reducing carbon emissions.

Finland's climate change education curriculum for primary and secondary schools includes topics and activities that are tailored to different age groups, including pre-primary and primary aged children. For instance, primary children get the chance to grow their own vegetables, nurturing a connection with nature.

To further encourage school-based environmentalism, the government offers schools a 'Green Flag' for implementing eco-friendly practices such as reducing energy consumption and waste, promoting sustainable transportation, and using renewable energy sources.



Overall, Finland's climate change education curriculum aims to develop children's environmental awareness by integrating hands-on experiential learning in different subjects, while empowering them to take action towards a more sustainable future.

References

World Economic Forum, "Finland becomes the first country in the world to introduce a comprehensive climate change education for primary and secondary schools," August 2020

School Climate Initiatives

ASIA & OCEANIA

Japan: Education for Sustainable Development

aims to make education more relevant to the current environmental and social issues that the world faces today. This includes training for teachers, development of teaching materials, and educational activities for students.

Japan: Cool Schools & Cool Biz

promotes energy efficiency in schools. The program includes measures such as installing energy-efficient lighting, implementing renewable energy sources like solar power, and using low-emission transportation for school trips. Meanwhile the "Cool Biz" campaign encourages students to dress lightly in the summer to reduce energy consumption from air conditioning.

India: National Programme on Climate Change and Human Health

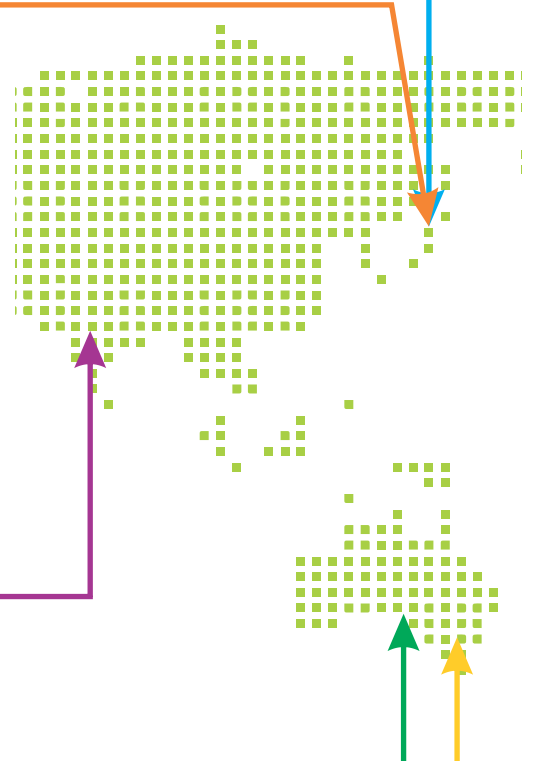
aims to increase awareness about climate change and its impact on health. Many schools have implemented initiatives like waste reduction, tree planting, and using renewable energy sources. For example, Delhi Public School has installed solar panels and has a rainwater harvesting system to reduce dependence on municipal water.

Australia: National Solar Schools Program

provides funding for schools to install solar panels and other energy-saving technologies. The program has helped over 3,000 schools across the country to reduce their carbon footprint and save money on energy bills.

Australia: Cool Australia program

provides teachers with resources and lesson plans to educate students about climate change and encourage them to take action to reduce their carbon footprint. The program covers topics such as renewable energy, waste reduction, and sustainable food choices. Many schools across the country have implemented initiatives like composting, gardening, and using rainwater for irrigation.



Case Study: Singapore



Singapore's education system, one of the most advanced in the world, is putting climate and sustainability at the heart of the educational agenda.

The flagship Eco Stewardship Programme seeks to make all schools – and all students – sustainability leaders. The program works wholistically through the '4Cs':

Curriculum

Enhance teaching and learning of sustainability, and integrate campus sustainability features into learning resources to make learning more authentic.

Campus

Enhance school campuses with sustainability features like solar panels, LED lights and energy-efficient fans and appliances. Plant school gardens and create green spaces.

Culture

Practise daily habits like reducing food waste and energy use, and encourage students to champion sound sustainability practices amongst peers.

Community

Leverage community partnerships to offer students more environment-related learning opportunities, and better understanding of future "green jobs".

Primary school children participate in a program called "Young ChangeMakers," which encourages them to develop projects that address social and environmental issues. Through this program, children have created initiatives like a recycling program, a community garden, and a campaign to reduce plastic waste.

The Green Schools Programme aims to help schools reduce their carbon footprint and educate students about sustainability. Schools are given a checklist of environmentally-friendly practices to implement, and are recognized for their efforts through a certification program.

References

Eco-Business, "How Singapore's schools are going green," September 2020

Ministry of Education, Singapore. Nurturing Environmental Stewards.

<https://www.moe.gov.sg/microsites/cos2021/nurturing-environmental-stewards.html>

UNESCO, Education for Sustainable Development in Japan

<https://en.unesco.org/themes/education-sustainable-development/japan>

Cool Australia Program. <https://www.coolaustralia.org/>

School Climate Initiatives

AMERICAS

Canada: Indigenous Climate Education

The Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation in British Columbia has developed a climate change adaptation plan that incorporates traditional knowledge and practices, and has created educational resources to teach their community about climate change. Similarly, the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami organization has developed a climate change education program that integrates Inuit knowledge and practices.

Canada: Youth Climate Report

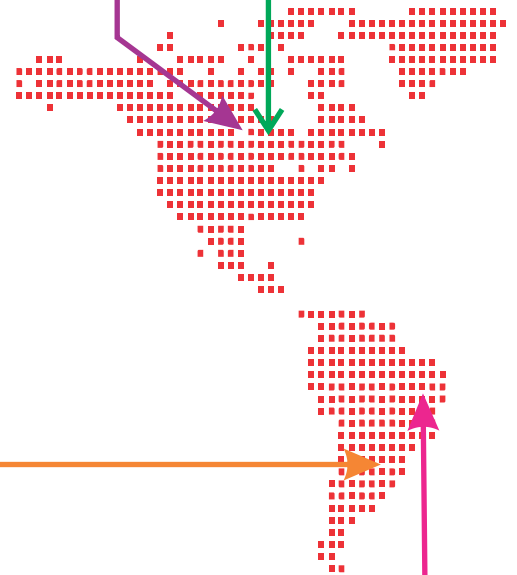
This initiative, started by Canadian youth to educate and raise awareness on climate change. It involves youth from around the world producing videos on climate change, which are then compiled and presented to delegates at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Uruguay: The Self-Sufficient School

In the quiet Uruguayan town of Jaureguiberry, there stands a remarkable school built from used tyres, bottles and other recycled materials. It generates all its energy from its rooftop solar panels and captures rainwater from the roof. Some of this water is used in the school gardens, which children use to grow all kinds of fruits and vegetables. The school is thoroughly green not just in its architecture but also its curriculum – teachers undertake a special training on how to integrate sustainability across different subjects.

Brazil: The Green Exchange

The Brazilian city of Curitiba has implemented a program called "The Green Exchange," which encourages citizens to recycle and compost by offering them food in exchange for their waste. Schools in Curitiba also teach environmental education as a mandatory subject, and the city has implemented a public transportation system that reduces the number of cars on the road.



Case Study: USA



The USA is responsible for over a fifth of the world's historic emissions, and has been a roadblock to global efforts to tackle climate change. Thankfully, young people in the US are more likely to support climate action.

Many American schools and programs are working to become more sustainable and empower students with the knowledge and skills they need to tackle the climate crisis.

Green Schools Alliance

is a non-profit organization that supports schools in becoming more sustainable and reducing their carbon footprint. It offers various programs, resources and curriculum to help students, teachers and schools measure and reduce their carbon emissions.

State of California

is leading the way in climate education. The Climate Kids program provides resources and training for educators to teach climate change to young children in an engaging and interactive way. Meanwhile the California Environmental Literacy Initiative is working to integrate environmental literacy into K-12 education.

The Climate Education Initiative

by Columbia University provides online resources for K-12 educators to incorporate climate change education into their curricula. The initiative includes lesson plans, activities, and videos on climate change and its impacts, as well as resources for teaching about climate solutions and activism.

The U.S. Department of Education has launched the Green Ribbon Schools program, which recognizes schools that prioritize environmental sustainability and education. Winning schools have implemented initiatives such as energy-efficient buildings, waste reduction, and sustainable transportation options. One example is the Sustainability Academy in Burlington, Vermont, which has a school-wide composting program and a focus on environmental education in all subjects.

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- EdSource, 2021, California schools slowly take up climate change in curriculum Green Schools Alliance. <https://www.greenschoolsalliance.org/>
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- Cather, A. 2016. The Green Exchange Program, Curitiba: Urban Food Policy Snapshot. <https://www.nycfoodpolicy.org/green-exchange-program-curitiba-urban-food-policy-snapshot/>

Around the World: Student Action Can Multiply Policy Impact

Children represent our collective future. While school students may not be able to vote, nor have much consumer power, their creativity and courage in speaking up for the climate makes many adults listen. Whether through protest on the streets or conversations around the dinner table; student action is making a difference around the world.

Youth-Led Clean Energy Projects

Young people are taking an active role in promoting clean energy by starting their own projects. For example, a group of high school students in Colorado started a solar energy project to power their school, while a group of teenagers in India built a wind turbine to provide electricity to their village.

Youth Climate Summits

Youth-led climate summits have been organized in different parts of the world, where young people come together to discuss solutions and take action on climate change. These events provide a platform for young people to voice their concerns and ideas and collaborate on projects to reduce carbon footprint.

Planting Trees

In many countries, children have started initiatives to plant more trees and create green spaces. For example, the "One Child, One Tree" campaign in India encourages every child to plant and take care of one tree. In Uganda, a group of schoolchildren started a tree planting project to combat deforestation and climate change.



Recycling Programs

Children are leading the way in promoting recycling and reducing waste. In Japan, a group of schoolchildren started a "No More Plastic Bags" campaign to encourage people to bring their own reusable bags to the store. In the UK, a group of primary school children started a recycling program at their school that has now been implemented in over 100 schools across the country.

Energy Conservation

Children are also promoting energy conservation in their schools and communities. In the Netherlands, a group of children started a project to encourage people to switch off lights when they leave a room. In the US, a group of high school students in California started a campaign to install solar panels on their school's roof.

Sustainable Transportation

Children are also promoting sustainable transportation by walking or biking to school instead of driving. In Denmark, a group of schoolchildren started a "Green Footprints" campaign to encourage more students to walk or bike to school. In Mexico, a group of children started a bike-sharing program to promote sustainable transportation.

Kids vs. Global Warming

Kids vs. Global Warming is a youth-led organization that was founded by then 16-year-old Alec Looz in 2008. The group is dedicated to educating young people about climate change and empowering them to take action to reduce carbon emissions. Kids vs. Global Warming has organized events such as the iMatter March, which involved young people across the world marching for climate action.

Youth-led Clean-up Initiatives

Many young people are taking action in their own communities to reduce litter and pollution. For example, the Plastic Free Kovalam campaign in India was started by a group of young surfers who were concerned about the amount of plastic in the ocean. They organize regular beach clean-ups and work to promote plastic-free alternatives.

Around the World: Meet the Activists

Climate action is taken not just for young people – increasingly it is being taken by youth themselves. While politicians often have short time horizons, children have a long future ahead of them, and are increasingly vocal to protect it. Age is no barrier, as children speak truth to power.

Greta Thunberg began striking outside the Swedish parliament on 20 August 2018, when she was just 15. That first day, she was alone. But since then, the movement she helped found – School Strikes for Climate – has mobilised millions of young people around the world. Greta's simple, hard-hitting words have touched many hearts while challenging politicians leaders. Greta, who has aspergers, is an inspiration for those who seek to build an inclusive society.



When Ridhima Pandey was just five years old, her home state of Uttarakhand, India was devastated by climate-change-fueled floods, which killed over a thousand people. Since then, Ridhima (now 15) has become a prominent climate activist, having filed a lawsuit against the government for its lack of climate action, led climate strikes, and petitioned to save forests and ban plastics.

Lilly Platt began picking up plastic litter when she was seven (she's 14 now). Inspired by her grandparents, she has over the years picked up over 100,000 pieces of plastic herself. But more than that, she has inspired and mobilised thousands of others to take part in cleanups and to reduce plastics consumption.



Timoci Naulusala was 11 when Fiji was ravaged by Cyclone Winston in 2016. Next year he delivered a moving speech at COP23, describing the calamity that befell his nation: "My home, my school, my source of food, water, money was totally destroyed. My life was in chaos." He has become one of many powerful voices from the Pacific Islands, which face an urgent, existential risk from climate-change.

Around the World: Climate Education Organisations



GYCP



www.globalyouthclimatepact.org

Global Youth Climate Pact was launched by the UN Secretary-General in 2021 to engage and empower young people to take climate action. It includes a range of resources for educators to teach about climate change and inspire youth to get involved in the fight against climate change.

Project Drawdown has identified and modelled the 100 most substantive, existing solutions to address climate change. They have also developed educational resources for K-12 and higher education to inspire students to take action.

PROJECT
DRAWDOWN.



www.drawdown.org

CLIMATE
INTERACTIVE
tools for a thriving future



www.climateinteractive.org

Climate Interactive has developed a range of simulations that teach about climate change and inspire action. Their tools are designed for a range of audiences, including students, policymakers, and community groups.

SDG Academy is a global online platform offering free education on sustainable development topics, including climate change. The Academy is used by a wide audience, including policymakers, educators, and students.

SDGacademy



www.sdgacademy.org



EARTHDAY.ORG



www.earthday.org

Earth Day has been celebrated for over 50 years on 22 April: communities switch electrical appliances off, plant trees, and clean up a patch of nature. Earthday.org encourages people to keep up these actions throughout the year, and promotes climate literacy 'for every learner in every school around the world.'

A Call to Action

Students of all ages can make a difference in the struggle against climate change through action as individuals and collectively. Here are some ideas for young people to try out:

PRE-PRIMARY (AGE 3-6)

1. Plant and care for trees and plants in their local area.
2. Turn off lights and electronics when not in use; remind parents and siblings to do the same.
3. Go on nature walks to connect with the environment and appreciate its beauty.
4. Choose toys made from sustainable and/or recycled materials, such as bamboo, cardboard, paper rolls, egg cartons.

PRIMARY (7-11)

1. Encourage family and friends to take climate-friendly actions, for instance, ask parents to invest in energy-efficient appliances and light bulbs.
2. Reduce water usage by taking shorter baths and turning off taps when not in use.
3. Learn about the impact of plastic on the environment and encourage their family to reduce plastic use. Participate in beach clean-ups or litter pick-ups in their local park or neighborhood.
4. Sort and recycle waste correctly.

MIDDLE SCHOOL (12-14)

1. Use reusable water bottles and food containers instead of single-use plastic ones and encourage friends to do likewise.
2. Use natural light instead of electric lights during the day.
3. Help parents with meal planning and reduce food waste by only taking what they can eat.
4. Write letters to local officials or community leaders, asking them to take action to protect the environment.

HIGH SCHOOL/ SECONDARY (15-17)

1. Participate in tree-planting events to help sequester carbon. Get involved in restoration & wildlife protection projects.
2. Use public transportation, walk, or cycle instead of being driven in a car & encourage family to do likewise.
3. Participate in campaigns such as Earth Day or Climate Strikes, to advocate for environmental protection.
4. Advocate for environmentalist policies such as renewable energy incentives or carbon pricing.

A Call to Action

TOP 5 IDEAS TO MAKE YOUR SCHOOL GREENER

- 1 Reduce waste:** Encourage students and teachers to use reusable bags, bottles, and containers instead of disposable ones. Use locally available, biodegradable or recyclable learning materials.



- 2 Reduce energy consumption:** Switch off lights, fans, and electronic devices when not in use. Switch from incandescent bulbs to LEDs, and use energy-efficient appliances.

- 3 Promote sustainable transportation:** Encourage walking, cycling, or public transportation to reduce carbon emissions from commuting to school.



- 4 Inspire climate activism:** Provide spaces for students to raise their voices, encourage them to raise climate change issues with leaders.

- 5 Sign the Petition:** Scan the QR code to the right to sign a letter calling global leaders to make climate change and literacy a top priority. Spread the word to your friends and colleagues too!



TOP 5 IDEAS FOR SYSTEM-WIDE POLICY CHANGES



- 1 Foster sustainable food practices:** Review school feeding programs to promote healthy and sustainable choices, reduce food waste, and promote diets with minimal animal products.

- 2 Promote water conservation:** Fix leaks, install low-flow toilets & taps, and install rainwater harvesting in schools throughout the geography.



- 3 Use renewable energy:** Install solar panels on schools throughout the district/state. This will reduce dependence on fossil fuels and lead to long-term cost reductions.

- 4 Integrate climate education:** Incorporate climate change and sustainability into the curriculum and provide students with the knowledge and skills to address these global challenges.



- 5 Promote paperless learning:** Encourage digital textbooks and apps. When using physical books, choose a curriculum with thin books (like ALfA). Scan the QR code to get in touch and try our free 45-day literacy challenge!



**DEVI
SANSTHAN**
Dignity Education
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Leave no one behind

SDG 4
**disruptive
FLN at scale**
Foundational Literacy & Numeracy



LITERACY FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

DEVI Sansthan (Dignity Education Vision International) is a small NGO with a big vision: to help India and the world achieve universal Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN). DEVI is pioneering transformative pedagogies, empowering teachers, and leveraging policy change to enable rapid gains towards literacy for all.



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