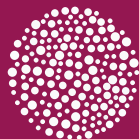


**#DECARBONIZE**

**GLOBAL  
YOUTH  
MANIFESTO  
2021**

**BY YOUTH LEADERS UNDER 18YRS**



**CGE**

THE CENTRE FOR GLOBAL EDUCATION

**#DECARBONIZE**

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YOUTH  
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TakingITGlobal (TIG) is a registered charity focusing on global issues by promoting awareness and engagement among global youth. TIG uses an online social network, aimed primarily at youth, to raise awareness and discussion on a number of global issues and encourages youth to take action that affects their local and global communities. TIG's main offerings include the multilingual online classroom platform, which guides youth to a deeper awareness of social, economic, and environmental issues through collaborative learning activities and advocacy training. By building a bridge between learning and action, the platform fosters mutual understanding across continents and languages. There are a number of tools that youth participants engage through, including participating in discussion boards, writing blogs, posting art to an online global gallery, creating project maps, and developing/managing projects through the Commit2Act app.

The Centre for Global Education (CGE) is an educational division of TakingITGlobal. CGE develops and delivers virtual, collaborative learning projects aimed at K-12 students (5-18yrs) that engage and empower youth as global citizens, through connecting them to the people, places, and issues they are learning about in their classrooms and encouraging them to take action that affects their local and global communities. Since 2008, CGE has facilitated educational programming for 100,000's of students, from over 600 schools, in more than 55 countries.

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# PROLOGUE

From April to December 2021, #Decarbonize: #Decolonize, a collaborative, school-based project, brought together K-12 students and educators from 54 countries to learn, challenge, and co-create climate conversations. Under a Talanoa framework - an Indigenous dialogue for building trust and advancing knowledge with empathy and understanding - students shared learning and lived-experiences via blog posts, discussion boards, a virtual art gallery, project mapping, video conferences, and other innovative and engaging virtual experiences. During #Decarbonize over 35,000 global participants (1) Increased their awareness of global impacts of climate resilience, climate justice, and climate mitigation, and (2) Enhanced their contributions to quantify the current progress of nations under the National Determined Contributions (NDCs), and (3) Improved skills and capacity-building for whole-school, local, and global climate action. #Decarbonize is developed and delivered annually by the Centre for Global Education and TakingITGlobal, under the moral patronage of CCUNESCO, and UNESCO (2019), and with the support of the Trottier Foundation, Ocean Wise, GreenLearning and a number of other strategic partners.

The **2021 Youth Manifesto** is a culmination of virtual collaborative work involving over 103 global lead students across six continents, based on the **2020 Global Youth Report** titled "What is 'Meaningful Youth Engagement?'" Which was a call for stakeholders to mobilize youth under 18yrs in meaningful ways. Through the 2020 Report youth called for countries to phase out investment and use of fossil fuels by reallocating that funding to greener energy sources, implement policies to protect communities and natural habitats, alongside highlighting youth and indigenous peoples' voices. The youth involved set forth a call for stakeholders to ensure that young people are meaningfully engaged and participate in the development and implementation of climate policies, programs, and processes that affect them. A process that moves beyond the recognition and identification of young people solely as beneficiaries, and towards engaging youth as equal and valuable partners in projects, research, programmes, and initiatives.

# GOAL 1: SECURE GLOBAL NET ZERO BY MID-CENTURY AND KEEP 1.5 DEGREES WITHIN REACH

**As youth, we demand that governments maintain a set schedule to report their progress towards their country's NDCs. They must set achievable milestones, as well as frequently chart their progress to remain accountable.**

*"It's important that the country's government takes concrete action towards completing what was already put into legislation such as the moratorium on new coal and the switch to renewable energy." Carolin, Germany*

*"There must be greater government participation and involvement, as they need to create actions that can be fulfilled according to their established goals, for which they must analyze the situations well and not simply turn a "blind eye" to the great impact of climate change." Andrea, Peru*

**As youth, we demand worldwide distribution of solar power technology, as well as development assistance towards renewable energy transitions for those countries that may need it. Solar energy is one of the most widely accessible renewable resources across the globe.**

*"Nowadays, taxes are one of the most significant obstacles when it comes to buying things in Brazil, and photovoltaic energy is one of those items. By reducing the taxes on photovoltaic energy, people would be able to purchase more sustainable energy sources, reducing the Brazilian carbon footprint on a national level. Also, it is fundamental that the government stimulates the people to buy solar panels, showing them how much money they would save and, most importantly, how much their carbon footprint would be reduced." Gabriel, Brazil*

**As youth, we demand that governments and world leaders use their legislative power to enact concrete strategies for the preservation of nature, along with mitigation of the climate crisis. This includes eliminating subsidies for fossil fuels, implementing**

**strict regulations on animal agriculture, guarding the implementation of waste reduction policies, as well as respecting and protecting Indigenous lands.**

*“The citizens must have access to clean and affordable energy. In Japan the government is committed to the net zero GHG emission target in 2050, however new coal power plants are still planned to be built and they still invest in unsustainable resources. They must stop funding and investing in fossil fuels AND set up a specific date where this must be completed both domestically and overseas to mitigate climate change and meet the Paris agreement.” Nora, Japan*

*“Restore & maintain Indigenous rights to traditional territory in the development of conservation areas.” Denise, Canada*

*“Guarantee the protection by law of Indigenous communities protecting their land” Manca, Slovenia*

**As youth, we demand a transition to sustainable public transit that eliminates the need for fossil fuel powered vehicles. We further demand that governments actively support the switch to electric vehicles, including providing financial assistance where needed.**

*“Increasing the fleet of electric vehicles and its charging infrastructure in India will be key to improve air quality in cities, enhance energy security by reduced dependence on imported crude, and is also a key solution to fight climate change. India has one of the lowest motorization rates in the world.” Ashritha, India*

*“Transport transition - electric cars are not very affordable to the citizens of Kenya so more sustainable and innovative solutions should be endorsed such as the use of fuel from biomass.” Ian, Kenya*

**As youth, we are able to see that corruption undermines our progress on climate action. We demand integrity from our leaders, and that clearly defined social, environmental, and anti-corruption safeguards be utilized in climate project activities.**

*“Recently Brazil had its Environment Minister fired, because he was being investigated by the police to help a criminal group to deforest Amazon. This fact was very frustrating, because as Environment minister he has the job of protecting the environment not to destroy it.” Mathias, Brazil*

*“In the USA false promises are given out by our governments.. Our world leaders are not recognizing the severity of the issue. Those who are will not act on their statements, and they keep offsetting their problems while ignoring those who are actually advocating for a solution.” Piper, USA*

**As youth, we demand that countries invest in public educational systems to inform people about the severity of climate issues. It is essential that all citizens understand what they can do in order to help mitigate the effects of climate change. Finally, it is important that people understand more about the NDC’s of their country in order to contribute to them and help their country achieve their goals in fighting climate change.**

*“Create better education programs that reach the whole country as well as spreading more information about the current situation about our countries targets and how the population can help accomplish them in a more efficient way. Specify the domestic targets, because as of right now its really unclear of those targets as well as the solutions that are going to be implemented to try and accomplish those targets.” Lucia, Costa Rica*

*“Korea is currently highly insufficient in terms of meeting the Paris Agreement targets, and I think that the main reason is not many people are not feeling the severity of the issue, and thus I feel that there is not enough call for action to make this a pressing issue for the government to implement appropriate policies. One climate issue that is especially bad is air pollution, and a majority of the people identify the main reason of air pollution as something due to foreign influences, which is actually only 30-50% of the reason that causes air pollution. This leads to the dissatisfaction of the people toward governmental measures on air pollution. Therefore I think there must be increased education regarding climate change.” Seungyeon, Korea*



# GOAL 2: ADAPT TO PROTECT COMMUNITIES AND NATURAL HABITATS

**As youth, we recommend research and reconstruction of vulnerable environments that have been stricken with deforestation, excessive fishing, contamination, as well as other factors. Programs should be developed and implemented into our society in order to revive those negatively affected ecosystems.**

*“Reducing deforestation is one of the main solutions for most of our climate problems. To do so, it’s important that the government actually reproduce what is written in our Constitution and apply the law to everyone, mainly to the people behind the fires. During our President’s term, the deforestation problems increased because, for example, protecting the Amazon Forest was never one of his goals, so that’s a problem too.” Ellen, Brazil*

*“As Brazil is a huge country, we’ve got a lot of natural issues. Such as the legal and illegal deforestation, the fires - 87,6% of our Atlantic forest was destroyed, now there’s just 12,4% left!!! Many animals might have lost their habitats, and are at risk of extinction now - we also have the problem of the carbon emission because of the fires, the non-renewable sources of energy (in the industries and the fuels), the methane gas emissions due to the livestock, etc. And on the coast side the sea level is rising more and more, it might invade the cities soon! So in COP26 my country needs to create measures to fight against the deforestation, the illegal deforestation and the fires, search and invest for renewable energy sources, for reducing the carbon emission, maybe create a project of reforestation, and a project to protect the coastal cities from the rise in sea level.” Laís, Brazil*

**As youth, we demand the research, investment, and implementation of climate-smart agricultural design across all levels of production.**

*“Enhanced exchange of technology between developing and developed countries” Julian, Trinidad*



*“We need to think in innovative ways to create modern solutions to these problems (if possible). For example: the shortage of space in the world that promotes deforestation and desertification can be tackled by using modern farming techniques such as urban vertical farming and homes in high rise buildings.” Luuk, Netherlands*

**As youth, we demand that all areas affected by human activities be protected through the implementation of no fishing zones, as well as the act of working to balance the land covered by farms and the land covered by protected wild areas. Moreover, mandatory guidelines and better law enforcement should be implemented in order to protect natural habitats and Indigenous communities.**

*“In order to protect communities and natural habitats, Canada’s government needs to fulfill its promise of making ¼ of Canada’s territory conservation areas. They also need to fulfill their promise of providing drinkable water to all Indigenous reserves. The government needs to create laws in conjunction with Indigenous communities, so that Indigenous land will cease to be stolen and used in the oil and gas industry. The cooperation of the government with Indigenous communities will ensure that the environment will be granted much greater importance when laws and regulations are created. Once again, everyone needs to be informed of their impact, and made aware of simple ways to reduce their carbon footprint in their everyday lives. Additionally, we need to invest in alternative and eco-friendly infrastructure and energy sources.”*  
Océanne, Canada

**As youth, we demand the implementation of educational and vocational training in order to provide a stable transition into environmentally friendly careers.**

*“The country should also work on implementing a climate centred economy, giving importance to practices like ecotourism, providing green jobs, and the protection/preservation of the environment for human health and wellbeing.” Hari, Bhutam*

*“Create new nature-based projects to train children and youth, in order to help adapt to the effects of climate change.” Nikosi, Greece*

*“Job retraining in the energy sector” Claudia, Spain*

# GOAL 3: MOBILISE AT LEAST \$100BN IN CLIMATE FINANCE PER YEAR

**As youth, we demand that climate financing be subjected to frequent review by independent, multi-stakeholder bodies and be available to the general public. The data presented should be in a widely understandable format, suitable for all ages and backgrounds.**

*"In order to provide financial aid, the government should organize and prioritize environmental items aligned to our Paris Agreement goals. They have to question what they are doing nowadays. We are really trying to make a change!"* Andrea, Peru

*"Even though there will be transparency, the wordings in the documents should be understandable and suited for all ages targeted. There should be no jargon that people would not understand, along with difficult graphs and numerical data which is difficult to be interpreted. Climate finance reports should be accessible to all stakeholders presented in a way they can understand (in terms of language use and data)." Haru, Japan*

**As youth, we demand rapid and targeted decrease of subsidies and other forms of financial support to unsustainable industries (ie. oil and gas companies). Laws should be implemented to incorporate parameters which will work to further prevent multi-million dollar corporations from committing tax evasion and denying their accountability.**



*"There should be higher tax placed on objects that require materials made from carbon emitters or that produce carbon themselves, which will not only reduce the amount of carbon use, but also allow for more funds for the reduction of said carbon."*  
Taylor, Canada

# GOAL 4: WORK TOGETHER TO DELIVER

**As youth, we demand that governments manifest their roles and responsibility as climate leaders. They must implement serious changes, set strong mandates, and work to inspire their citizens to act.**

*“The country and other world leaders should also lead by action, showing communities and individuals that they have the support of their governments.” Irene, Philippines*

*“If our world leaders can show us that they are willing to hear us and then continue to act alongside us it will instill a unity. It needs to go both ways. Propel our voices. Inspire young people. Invest in our planet.” Ellen, Australia*

**As youth, we demand that world leaders work alongside youth, Indigenous people, and people on the frontlines of the climate crisis through investment in and implementation of climate solutions, with the use of subsidies and other forms of financial support.**

*“LISTEN to indigenous, youth, POC and other underrepresented voices. Understand that this is a crisis and has to be treated like one. Solutions will not immediately solve everything. We need to be in it for the long haul- and to act after listening. More developed countries need to use decolonization and ASK what they can do to support others.” Nyla, USA*

*“Providing subsidies and grants to fuel the initiatives from communities. Collaborating with citizens on climate solutions will also inspire communities and individuals to continue taking part.” Maja, Poland*

*“As more and more people begin to care for the earth on which they stand on, their nurturing nature begins to snowball into the horizon, growing bigger and bigger until it encases the majority of humanity.” Jia, Scotland*

**As youth, we demand that our governments tackle the lack of climate awareness by investing in nature-based community projects, embedding climate change as a mandatory component**

**of all school curriculum, and supporting ongoing youth-led initiatives such as youth networks, clubs, and programs.**

*“The government of Ecuador has to invest more on education not only for children but also for adults (because most of the adults especially from rural areas don't know how to read and how to write) for making them know about climate change. We can also explain to them, especially farmers, that global warming is affecting every aspect of our lives, so we have to be worried and start to take action and the government can support them.” Carla, Ecuador*

*“Empower strong youth networks, clubs, and student groups, to exchange project ideas, support ongoing youth-led initiatives, share best practices and information towards achieving environmental sustainability in their schools and communities.” Brooke, Australia*

**As youth, we demand that governments and corporations across all sectors be held accountable for their part in continuing the climate crisis through the use of mandatory transparency on emissions, as well as establishing requirements to develop corporate social responsibility policies. It should not be profitable to run companies which rely on unsustainable practices.**

*“We can't change the world unless we change ourselves. We should first convince ourselves that our planet is in real danger because of these environmental problems. This is due to the lifestyle we have adopted as we have turned into consumer societies. A lot of trash is produced because of our ignorance and selfishness. We just want to be happy at the moment without caring about the consequences of our actions. We take everything from nature without giving back anything. We are never satisfied with what we have, we always want more.” Amina, Morocco*



# PARTICIPANTS THOUGHTS

*"#Decarbonize has given me a community, an insanely large collective of youth." - Nyla, USA*

*"It means commitment, it means dedication, discipline and action. #Decarbonize is youth talking power, calling the government for real action for our only home: our planet." Andrea, Peru*

**#Decarbonize is an opportunity for us to be involved in decisions that affect our futures. Through this program, we have found a community young people who are fighting for the same goal: the survival of our planet. Programs like #Decarbonize are very important, because they empower and inspire us to become leaders in our communities. Through these programs, we are given a voice, one which will be heard and listened to all over the globe.**

*"Inspired me to do more research upon this big issue myself and it simply makes me grateful that an opportunity like this gathering youth around the world exists." 賴靖閔, Taiwan*

*"#Decarbonize is one family." Maryem, Morocco*

*"I was really happy when I discovered this project because I could see actions, instead of just words." Jimena, Colombia*

*"It has opened up a new world for me, one full of inspiring and hard working youth from all over the world, that I am honoured to work with" Océanne, Canada.*

**#Decarbonize unites engaged youth from all around the world to discuss several climate change issues, but more than that, #Decarbonize unites knowledge and inspiration from different countries, cultures and perspectives. Through projects like this, young people learn that they can act in their community, using their voice and leadership to make significant changes.**

*"It has taught me that wherever you are, you can make a change." Denzel, Philippines*

*"The program leads young people to improve their leadership and it helps me to improve myself in many areas." Rosita, Peru*

*"#Decarbonize has taught me that young people are so important to the fights that we want to win. But, much more than that, I've learned that it is important for me as a young person to participate meaningfully in every place I can. It has taught me to use my voice, talents, and platform to steer others into a place of better awareness and participation." Irene, Philippines*

*"In #Decarbonize my voice matters, our voice is both collectively heard and individually valued. I have learnt that youth truly do have the power to instigate change, and that we are resilient enough to keep fighting." Nyla, USA*

*"Decarbonize taught me that age is just a matter of perception. Even though we are teenagers we can change something, we do not need to wait until we are adults" Brooke, Australia*

**All people need to change, in order to save the planet. In our opinion, #Decarbonize is a prime example of what every single person in the world should be doing. Discussion and learning is what sustains our project, as more people learn and hear what we have to say, the greater our legacy will be.**

*"Decarbonize unites humanity and brings out the best in our collaborative skills as well as exposes our mind to our different worlds. To me, #Decarbonize means hope, for our environment and our civilization." Tiia, Estonia*

*"The global leaders must turn their head and ears to us and pay attention to what we have to say." Preisianne, Malaysia*



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