

#DECARBONIZE

GLOBAL CHILD CLIMATE MANIFESTO 2022



CGE
THE CENTRE FOR GLOBAL EDUCATION



TakingITGlobal
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#DECARBONIZE

From April to December 2022, #Decarbonize, a collaborative, school-based project, brought together primary and secondary students and educators from over 60 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 their 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 quantifying 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 with the support of the Trottier Foundation, Ocean Wise, GreenLearning and a number of other strategic partners.

The 2022 Youth Manifesto is a culmination of virtual collaborative work involving more than 100 global lead students across six continents. Throughout the 2022 Report youth 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.



The artwork featured throughout this manifesto was produced by children ages 5-18 as a part of the #Decarbonize program.

PRIORITY AREAS

In an effort to understand the ways in which our priorities around climate change and food production were similar, we undertook a global child survey.

The results below illustrate the global priorities for children.

1 Food Production & Security

Every child should be able to eat a healthy and sustainable meal

3 Waste Reduction

Every government should support the ban on the manufacture, import, and sale of single-use plastics.

5 New Technologies

Support the training and integration of new technologies by local farmers and food producers to help them become climate-resilient

7 Funding for Youth

Every child should have access to funding to help them undertake transformative climate change their communities

2 Green Energy

Every child should receive education about food, its impact on our planet, and our health

4 Skill Development

Every child should have access to skill development programs on climate-smart agriculture, organic farming, and urban farming

6 Food Education

Every child should receive education about food, its impact on our planet, and our health



This year, the world experienced incredibly destructive storms, extensive droughts, catastrophic floods, ravaging wildfires, and record-breaking temperatures. We also saw extensive hunger, for whom the most visible victims were children. Nearly 8% of the world's population have no access to healthy amounts of food and end their days hungry, despite the world producing enough food to feed everyone. Food insecurity is one of the most pressing issues of climate change, and unfortunately, we are not making the necessary progress to address it. Among those most affected by food insecurity caused by climate change are the world's children. With this, it is paramount that the voices of young people are involved in the conversations on how to move forward. People should stop taking the luxury of the present as an excuse to exploit the possibilities of the future. Our tendency towards nonchalance about climate change consequences needs to change to create a better future for us than what we see before our eyes right now. We should work together towards the goal of changing the mindsets of people about climate change consequences starting with our family, friends, and community.

This manifesto is a report written by high school students around the world. It is a message of hope, optimism, and aspiration that someday we can live in a world where there is no hunger, where children are healthy, and where the dangers we, ourselves, have caused to the planet do not threaten our lives. As the teachers, doctors, scientists, and leaders of the future, it is our great responsibility to assure and secure the generations after us that there is life for them. We can do so in many ways, but we start with this manifesto which encapsulates our passion, desire, and intent to save our planet.

INTRODUCTION

VISION FOR THE FUTURE & HOW TO GET THERE

Our Common Vision for a Better Future

Climate change is a fact. We know now that man-made emissions of greenhouse gasses (GHGs) have reached the highest in history. Climate change also impacts every aspect of food production. Without efforts to adapt, food insecurity will continue to increase. This will have a negative effect on food security, food supply, food quality, and food access for children around the world. Research says that the global food production system is a primary producer of GHGs, with fertilizer manufacturing, food packaging, and transportation all contributing to these emissions.

We believe that transformational change is possible. We have tried to identify what this change needs to include. Our first step was to envision our ideal future and then decide what needed to change to get there. This section covers those main themes.

FOOD PRODUCTION

Food production systems need to adapt to climate change. By growing our own crops and investing in urban agriculture, we can slow the current issue of food production.

Governments, schools, community groups, faith communities, and individuals must invest in urban agriculture, especially in schools, and help strengthen the understanding of and the ability to undertake local food production.



“We invest in urban agriculture and feed the world's population by getting people closer to their food and more involved.” Hawarit, Canada

“Mankind needs to be pushing the limits of sustainable farming. We need to start vertical farming, adopt agroforestry practices and fully utilize crop rotation.” Abdirahman, Kenya

Green Energy

An enormous amount of energy is required to produce our food. It is estimated that over 15% of all fossil fuel used (in developed nations) is consumed by the food production system. By switching power generation from fossil fuels to renewable energy, we will be able to help mitigate climate disasters and realize a world without air pollution.

Governments must engage in the switch from fossil fuels to renewable energy by supporting research into renewable energy solutions such as wind turbines, solar panels, hydroelectric plants, etc. and investing in their implementation.

"Global communities would have adapted more environmentally responsible ways of responding to their daily needs, with the aid of large corporations who withdraw from polluting activities." Irene, Philippines

"In Hyderabad, India, many people have started switching over to electric vehicles and many buildings are now solar-powered. In Ladakh, the crown of our nation, almost every single hotel is run by solar power, and therefore, I feel that switching over completely to more eco-friendly sources of power may not be a far-fetched idea."
Nitya, India

WASTE REDUCTION [PLASTICS]

Single-use plastic food packaging is a major contributor to the global solid waste problem. Through policy and regulations, we can ban the manufacture, import, and sale of single-use plastics. But, addressing global environmental threats of single-use plastics requires more than just government regulation - we need business innovation and individual behavior changes for environmental benefits. The world needs policymakers and leadership to take strong action to reduce plastic pollution, protect biodiversity, and promote a healthy environment at home and around the world.

Through policy and regulations, there must be a worldwide ban the manufacture, import, and sale of single use plastics.

"We invest in urban agriculture and feed the world's population by getting people closer to their food and more involved."

Hawarit, Canada

"Mankind is pushing the limits of sustainable farming with vertical farming, adopting agroforestry practices and fully utilizing crop rotation." **Abdirahman, Kenya**



TRANSPORTATION

A tremendous amount of energy is also used to transport our food. As a result of the development of centralized industrial agricultural operations and the corresponding disappearance of local family farms, food is now shipped extraordinarily long distances before it reaches your dinner plate. We need to switch to electric vehicles (cars, buses, vans, and heavy trucks), which will greatly reduce the carbon footprint of vehicles on the road compared to traditional gasoline-powered vehicles.

Governments must introduce policies to promote the switch to electric vehicles and introduce subsidies for their purchase at both personal and commercial levels.

"Electrical cars will hopefully be more affordable when I'm able to drive." Alleah, Canada

***"I believe we will fully or make strides to completely eradicate fuel-based cars."
Abdirahman, Kenya***

GENDER & THE OTHER SDGs

Our future progress depends on achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 'new normal' of climate change – rising sea levels, floods/ droughts, super storms, and intense winds – pose a real risk to meeting many of the goals.

"Women need to be supported to take on greater leadership roles in agricultural communities. In my country, it is women that do most of the farming, cooking, and household responsibilities. They are the most impacted. They should have the largest say." Gloria, Madagascar

***"Scenarios of how climate change affects developed and underdeveloped countries will fade. And underdeveloped countries will get adequate help from other countries in integrating adaptation responses into development planning."
Noha, Bangladesh***



AGRICULTURE & EDUCATION, MENTORSHIP, & SKILL DEVELOPMENT

HOME/COMMUNITY AGRICULTURE

Community-based agriculture reduces the environmental costs of transportation and leads to more environmentally-conscious forms of farming and food production. Education about farming as a profession and a personal endeavor allow for a shift towards improving the sustainability of existing agricultural practices in a way that is beneficial for both the environment and the economy. In addition to this, children get to know the importance of farmers when they themselves go through the process of nurturing a plant.

- Adopt methods such as hydroponics to grow plants in smaller spaces
- Include students in agricultural activities in schools or in the community
- Start or lengthen the vegetable patches in backyards or terraces of schools

"Start up herbal gardens or vegetable patches (specifically toga and herbs) for students to take care of to teach them to take good care of the environment. Healthy living and the importance of a greener and cleaner environment will be the outcomes of such activities." Syakira, Indonesia

"Schools should start encouraging students to take part in agricultural activities. This may start with growing vegetable patches in the school's backyards." Elifnaz, Turkey



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ENVIRONMENTAL & AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Teaching about the environment, energy, food production, the importance of locally sourced foods, and Indigenous practices of sustainability, both in our homes and schools are the first steps leading to action. We need to influence change within communities by teaching about and addressing the issue of climate change.

- **Support local communities to consume locally produced foods.**
- **Create a space that can generate awareness towards more sustainable food consumption and production.**
- **Influence the conversation around sustainable food and where the world is with it today is the first step to change.**

"Embed food education into curriculums at school; Include healthy cooking classes into school curriculums, that teaches not only how to manage food, but also its origins and how to cultivate it" Nasreen, Japan

"Develop aquaponics systems at schools, which consist of fish that live in tanks of water. Use this water to nurture the vegetable garden. Then, these vegetables will be used in the preparation of lunch and other meals at schools. Jaxon, USA



SKILL DEVELOPMENT & CAPACITY BUILDING

Skill development and mentorship are essential vectors for social and cultural transformation. The basis of all kinds of change comes from equipping young people with the competencies they need to succeed in an ever changing world. Young people will take the skills they develop into their futures. They will also be able to spread the acquired knowledge into their communities (neighborhoods, schools, and homes).

- **Increase experiential activities related to sustainability.**
- **Encourage and support intergenerational environmental activities inside communities.**

"Teach students about the future of solar energy and the great impact of non-renewable energy on the environment. Keep predominantly using green energy for electricity and mentoring students into future green careers" Undonsi, Nigeria

AGRICULTURE & NEW TECHNOLOGY

COLLECTIVES & COMMUNITY

Online platforms that provide informative agricultural courses, create communities of food producers, and provide space for farmers to share ideas, experiences, and seek any advice are powerful examples of the roles that new technology can play in this traditional field. These platforms could be run by youth in the community as ambassadors of technology and communication, who outreach to local food producers and farmers and make sure they are all connected.

- In consultation with local farmers/food producers, develop online courses to generate new ideas and develop skills.
- In consultation with local farmers/food producers, organize regional online spaces for farmers to share what they are experiencing and how they made changes.
- Make a link that people can use to ask for help

“Technology is the single most powerful tool we have to improve our way of farming the food we consume.” Abirahman, Kenya

Technology will be one of the strongest tools to educate the masses and call out for action. Social media like Instagram, Twitter, etc. play an instrumental role in bringing about awareness among citizens. Technology in the agricultural field can be a game-changer” Nitya, India





My world of art, Avishja, 15, Sri Lanka



Burn or Drown, Selali, 15, Nigeria



Burn, Billie, 16, Australia

GOVERNMENT-FUNDED TECHNOLOGIES

Governments should encourage various forms of farming, such as urban farming, by giving grants to communities, schools, faith groups, and individuals promoting vertical farming technologies inside community spaces and homes.

Governments must give grants to and subsidize farmers who farm with more sustainable technologies on their farms. These may include farms that use renewable transport and vertical and urban farms.

Governments must help fund locally manufactured technologies by investing in local industries.

"We can take initiative to start programs like pot plating and rooftop farming in educational institutions. Social media can be used to promote this type of program." Noha, Bangladesh

"Grants for communities and schools to start urban farming." Ben, Canada

As Youth of the world, we are committed to making the world a better place. Humans share the common goal of survival, and in order to achieve this goal, we need to accept a mission to prevent the destruction of our planet. We may be on the verge of failing this mission.

Our words are not only promises written on paper. We are committed. We are here to show that our voice - apart from just being heard - is resulting in action, identifying solutions, and improving our environment.

We know that the power to bring about change in the world rests in our hands. We will do all that we can to combat climate change. From raising awareness to coming up with ideas and innovations, to taking action against climate change, we will put our best forward.

"As the next generation, let us not wait for destruction, take action now! We must be the change everyone is waiting for." Jasmine, Philippines

With our voices, we will create change

By spreading awareness, creating a consciousness in people from all over the world to take action against the climate crisis, encouraging the youth, using social media as a platform to spread the message, creating educational programs, starting and leading campaigns and using art along with music as mediums to express our thoughts and actions.

As the voice of the future, we will take action

By implementing our ideas in places such as our homes, schools, faith communities, and social networks to combat climate change. We are not just talking. It does not matter how small an action is, for even the smallest actions have the largest of impacts! If we bring about awareness among people regarding the disastrous changes in the environment and encourage them to take further action, we are changing the world! Let us take action and see these individual steps and save the lives of thousands of people who die due to the consequences of climate change.

We will make the world a better place

By taking action in order to mitigate the climate crisis, we show that we are not giving up on the current goals. We are putting in a conscious effort towards being the change we need to see in the world. We will not give up on the possibilities of a future where every child can live a climate-smart life.

What about you? Will You be part of the change?

THE CENTRE FOR GLOBAL EDUCATION & TAKINGITGLOBAL YOUTH ASSOCIATION

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.

We thank our program partners and sponsors for their continued support, allowing us to educate, inspire, and empower children around the world to address the most critical issues facing our time.

Join our global, project-based learning journey with your students today!

#Decarbonize Global Child Climate Program

The Centre for Global Education

+1-780-860-7870

www.decarbonize.me

sarah@takingitglobal.org

[@cgeducation_](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS