UNESCO

UNESCO at COP23

Climate Change Education

Education
2030

Tackling climate change through Education for Sustainable Development

Education is a key vector to prepare societies for global changes. It plays a critical role in achieving sustainable development goals and putting into practice a global agreement on climate change.

Education plays a paramount role in raising awareness and promoting behavioural change for climate change mitigation and adaption. It helps increase the climate change mitigation and adaptation capacity of communities by enabling individuals to make informed decisions.

The heads of UNESCO and UNFCCC agree that "education provides the skills people need to thrive in the new sustainable economy, working in areas such as renewable energy, smart agriculture, forest rehabilitation, the design of resource-efficient cities, and sound management of healthy ecosystems. Perhaps most important, education can bring about a fundamental shift in how we think, act, and discharge our responsibilities toward one another and the planet."

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is increasingly recognized around the world as an effective enabler for a more sustainable future. Building climate change awareness and building capacities for adaptation and mitigation are critical dimensions of ESD.

The critical role of education in climate change responses was clearly recognized at the Paris Climate Conference (COP21) in December 2015. COP22 in Marrakesh and COP23 in Bonn reiterate the importance of climate change education in achieving the global agendas (see box below).

Education for Sustainable Development is about shaping a better tomorrow for all – and it must start today.

An enabling international policy environment

- The important role of education in addressing climate change and sustainable development has been confirmed by several international agreements:

- Article 12 of the **Paris Agreement, the outcome document of COP21**, stresses that: "Parties shall cooperate in taking measures... to enhance climate change education, training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information..."

- The **Sustainable Development Goals** on education (Goal 4) and climate change (Goal 13) recognize the importance of ESD and education's role in climate change responses. Target 4.7 urges that "by 2030 all learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development..." Target 13.3 calls to "improve education, awareness raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change..."

- **The Lima Ministerial Declaration on Education and Awareness-raising**, adopted at COP20, calls for including climate change in school curricula and development plans.

- **The Aichi-Nagoya Declaration on ESD** was adopted at the UNESCO World Conference on ESD (2014 in Japan) and reaffirms ESD as a vital means of implementation for sustainable development.

- **Article 6** of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change is dedicated to education, training, public awareness and access to information related to climate change.

What is UNESCO's role?

UNESCO promotes climate change education through ESD. It helps learners understand the causes and consequences of climate change, prepares them to live with its impacts, and empowers them to adopt more sustainable lifestyles.

Climate change is a critical thematic focus across all five Priority Action Areas of the **Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD**, the official follow-up to the UN Decade of ESD. UNESCO launched the GAP at the World Conference on ESD in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, in November 2014.

About the GAP: Accelerating progress towards a sustainable future

The Global Action Programme aims "*to generate and scale up action in all levels and areas of education and learning to accelerate progress towards sustainable development*". It focuses on five priorities, considered key leverage points to advance the ESD agenda including climate change education.

These five Action Areas are:

- advancing policy support for mainstreaming ESD into both education and sustainable development policies;
- transforming learning and training environments through whole-institution approaches;
- building capacities of teachers, educators and trainers;
- empowering and mobilizing youth;
- accelerating sustainable solutions at local level in communities.

See GAP Information Folder for further information:

http://en.unesco.org/gap

UNESCO's action

➤ coordinate and implement the Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD

➤ foster efforts to make education a more central part of the international response to climate change

➤ facilitate dialogue and exchange of experiences on climate change education through international expert meetings

➤ support countries to integrate climate change education into their school systems through capacity building and a whole-school approach

➤ mobilize schools for climate action through its Associated Schools Network (ASPnet)

➤ develop technical guidance materials and teaching and learning resources, such as its 6-day online course for secondary teachers 'Climate Change in the classroom'

➤ offer free access to educational resources through its online clearinghouse

➤ raise awareness and promote good practices through its GAP Clearinghouse, the UNESCO-Japan Prize on ESD and the UNESCO Green Citizens project

➤ work with 13 UN agencies to promote climate change education at high-level events such as the annual UN Climate Change Conferences (COPs) through the UN Alliance on Action for Climate Empowerment

UNESCO education events for COP23 on Thursday, 16 November 2017 (Education Day):

10:00 - 10:45	Discussion round **"Climate Education – how far are we?"** co-organzied with the Foundation for Environmental Education	UNESCO Pavilion
11:00 - 11:45	Discussion round: **"Greening skills: a non-negotiable agenda for successful climate action",** co-organized with UNEVOC	UNESCO Pavilion
11:30 - 13:00	High-level side-event: "**Uniting for Climate Education – Further, Faster, Together through Partnerships",** co-organized with UNFCCC and the COP Presidency	Bonn Zone, Room 6
12.45 - 13:30	Presentation of the project **"Today for tomorrow: facing climate change"** by the UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet)	UNESCO Pavilion
13:15 - 14:45	Panel discussion: **"Partnerships as key to changing minds and actions in order to scale-up adaptation and mitigation",** organized by the UN Alliance on Action for Climate Empowerment	Bonn Zone, Room 6
13:30 - 14:30	Interactive session: **"Mitigating Climate Change Through Education: A Review of Research and Implications for Policy and Evaluation"** co-organized with the Sustainability and Education Policy Network (SEPN)	UNESCO Pavilion
15:45 - 16:30	Interactive lesson: **"Climate Classroom on Climate Empowerment",** co-organized with UN CC:Learn	UNESCO Pavilion
16:30 - 17:15	Discussion round: **"Catalyzing Trans4ormation with Education 4 Social Change",** co-organized with UNFCCC and GIZ	UNESCO Pavilion
17:15 - 18:00	Discussion round: **"Education and science – an important contribution to fight extreme weather events"**	UNESCO Pavilion
All day	**Thematic booth on Quality Education** (SDG 4), co-organized with UNEP and UNITAR	UN Exhibit

More information on the events can be found at:

http://en.unesco.org/events/thematic-day-education-unfccc-climate-conference-parties-cop-23

The following key resources are available at: http://en.unesco.org/esd-repo

➤ Action for Climate Empowerment: Guidelines for accelerating solutions through education, training and public awareness

➤ Getting Climate-Ready - a guide for schools on climate action

➤ Education for Sustainable Development Goals: Learning Objectives

➤ Climate Change in the classroom: UNESCO course for Secondary Teachers

➤ Not just hot air: Putting climate change education into practice

➤ YouthXchange Guidebooks on Climate Change, on Biodiversity and on Green Skills

➤ Climate Change Starter's Guidebook: an issues guide for education planners and practitioners

➤ Technical guidance on Disaster Risk Reduction in school curricula

➤ Video clip: Learning to address climate change