

UNESCO education events for COP21

Capacity-building session at the UNESCO Youth Forum on youth contribution in monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on **28 October at 11h**, at UNESCO

Booth at the UNESCO Youth Forum presenting publications and videos related to ESD and GCED for youth from **26 to 28 October**, at UNESCO

Training session at the UNFCCC Conference of Youth (COY) on ESD leadership on **26 November** at Le Bourget

For the **Thematic day on education**, the French Government is organizing a Ministerial side event with UNESCO's participation on **4 December at 9.30** at Le Bourget, Climate Generation space

UN side event: "Learning to live with climate change: Accelerating climate change education and awareness raising". Panel discussion with a focus on formal education on **4 December, 13.15-14.45** at Le Bourget, Blue zone

UN Alliance side event: "A call to action to support today's young generation in developing their knowledge and skills". Panel discussion with a focus on non-formal education, on **4 December, 18.30-20.00** at Le Bourget, Blue zone

ASPnet conference on ESD and climate change, a two-day conference to discuss good practice on ESD and climate change with a focus on the whole-school approach from 7 to 8 December at UNESCO

Thematic booth on education within the regular UN exhibition space from 1 to 13 December at Le Bourget, Blue zone

UNESCO exhibition space, short ESD-related panel discussions and interviews on 4 and 9 December at Le Bourget, Climate Generation Space

More information on the events can be found at:

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

The following key resources are also available at this link:

- *Not just hot air: Putting climate change education into practice*
- *Climate Change in the classroom: UNESCO course for Secondary Teachers*
- *UNESCO/UNEP YouthXchange Guidebook on Climate Change and Lifestyle*
- *Climate Change Starter's Guidebook: an issues guide for education planners and practitioners*
- *Towards a learning culture of safety and resilience: Technical guidance on Disaster Risk Reduction in school curricula*
- *Disaster risk reduction in school curricula: Case studies from thirty countries*
- *Video Clip: Learning to address climate change*

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United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

UNESCO, Climate Change Education and COP21



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 adaptation. 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.

COP21 represents a vital opportunity to highlight the crucial role of education in tackling the global challenge of climate change.

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:

- The **Sustainable Development Goals** on education (Goal 4) and climate change (Goal 13) both 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 the UN Climate Change Conference 2014 (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 (November 2014 in Aichi- Nagoya, 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 2014.

About 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 Roadmap for more information:

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002305/230514e.pdf>

UNESCO’s action:

- UNESCO coordinates and implements the Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD
- UNESCO fosters efforts to make education a more central part of the international response to climate change
- UNESCO facilitates dialogue and exchange of experiences on climate change education through international expert meetings
- UNESCO supports countries to integrate climate change education into their school systems through capacity building and a whole-school approach
- UNESCO develops technical guidance materials and teaching and learning resources, such as its 6-day online course ‘Climate Change in the classroom: UNESCO course for secondary teachers on climate change education for sustainable development’
- UNESCO offers free access to educational resources through its online clearinghouse
- UNESCO works 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 Climate Change Education, Training and Public Awareness. (See back cover for list of UNESCO-organized events at COP21)