YOUTH LEADERSHIP · GRADES 6–12

Climate Action Project

INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP

Choose a project that makes a real difference for the planet. Start with an idea, make a plan, and create something you can look back on and be proud of.

HOW THIS WORKS

Choose an environmental project that works for you, your group, or your school. Use these pages to turn your idea into a plan, gather what you need, take action, and see the difference you made.

STEP 1. CHOOSE YOUR PROJECT

Choose one of these ideas or create your own.

☐ CLEANUP

A park, a shoreline, creek, a schoolyard, a block of your neighbourhood.

☐ PLANT A TREE

Plant a tree at your school or in a community space where it can grow and thrive.

☐ COMMUNITY GARDEN

Create a garden at school or in a shared community space.

☐ POLLINATOR POT

Create a small pollinator garden in a pot to take home, share, or add to your school.

☐ WASTE REDUCTION

Set up recycling, composting, or a way to cut what your school throws out.

☐ RESTORATION

Help restore a natural space by removing invasive plants, planting native species, (this requires permission and approval) mulching, or helping care for a trail or green space.

OUR OWN PROJECT _____

STEP 2. DEFINE THE BASICS

Now turn your idea into a simple plan.

What we are doing

What are you going to do, and what do you hope it will look like when you're finished?

Who or what it benefits

Who or what will benefit from your project? Think about people, animals, plants, or the environment.

WHERE IT HAPPENS

The address, park name, or part of the grounds.

HOW BIG

Set a goal you can measure: bags collected, trees planted, garden beds created, pots planted, or area covered.

WHEN

The date, the start time, and a rain date.

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Materials and Permission

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Before you get started, figure out what you'll need and who can help make it happen. A little planning now will make your project easier, safer, and more successful.

STEP 3. WHAT THE SITE NEEDS FROM YOU

Take a closer look at where your project will happen.

SITE CONDITIONS

What should you know about the location? Think about weather, traffic, tides, uneven ground, litter, accessibility, or anything else that could affect your project.

WHERE THINGS END UP

Plan what will happen to any waste, recycling, compost, leftover soil, or materials when you're finished.

STEP 4. GET READY

Make sure you have the supplies and permission you need.

Always get permission from the person responsible for the space before you dig, plant, remove, or change anything.

MATERIALS WE NEED

What supplies will your project need? Think about gloves, bags, tools, buckets, soil, plants, water, first aid supplies, or anything specific to your project.

PERMISSION AND WHO TO ASK

Who needs to approve your project? This could be a teacher, school administrator, parks department, community organization, property owner, or someone else responsible for the space.

PLAN FOR SUCCESS

- Choose plants and materials that are right for your local environment.
- Make sure everyone knows where to meet, what to bring, and what they will be doing.
- Plan how you will leave the space clean and cared for when you're finished.

CHECK THE SITE

Visit the location before your project day if you can. Confirm where you'll be working, what you're allowed to do, what you'll need, and what should happen when the project is complete.

The Plan

INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP

Bring your project to life by turning the big idea into smaller tasks. Decide what needs to happen, who will take the lead on each task, and when it needs to be done.

STEP 5. TASKS AND TIMELINE List what needs to happen, who will take responsibility, and when it needs to be done.

BY WHEN	TASK	WHO'S RESPONSIBLE	DONE

Think about everything your project will need from start to finish: confirming the location and date, gathering supplies, communicating with your team, reviewing safety, completing the project, cleaning up, taking photos, and thanking the people who helped.

HAVE A BACKUP PLAN

What could change your plans? Think about weather, missing supplies, fewer volunteers than expected, or a location becoming unavailable. What could you do instead?

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Will your project need follow-up? Think about watering plants, checking the site, returning borrowed supplies, emptying bins, or planning another action.

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Your Impact

INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP

Take a moment to see what your project accomplished. Record your impact while the experience is still fresh, then add your results to your Giving & Impact Log.

STEP 6. MEASURE YOUR IMPACT Record what you accomplished. Use exact numbers when you can and estimate when you can't.

PEOPLE WHO TOOK PART	BAGS, POTS, BEDS OR TREES	HOURS ON SITE	AREA COVERED

What we did, in one sentence

Describe what you accomplished, where you did it, and the impact you created. You can use this later when describing your experience on an application or résumé.

STEP 7. LOOK BACK Think about what you experienced, learned, and would do differently next time.

What is different about the space now?

What could someone see or notice now that wasn't there before?

What did you learn from taking action?

What surprised you? What was easier or harder than expected? What did you learn about yourself or your team?

What would we do differently?

If you did this project again, what would you change about the timing, location, size, supplies, team, or plan?

SAY THANK YOU

Thank the people who helped make your project possible, including community partners, volunteers, people who provided supplies, or anyone who shared the space with you.

MAKE IT LAST

Take before-and-after photos to capture your impact. If your project needs ongoing care, decide who will check on it and when.