

Youth Climate Activism

By: Syeda Parvin

Summary: about 70% of young people are worried about climate change. they get involved in Youth climate Activism which is about actively campaigning against climate change. Youth climate activists address issues related to climate change, such as global warming and sea-level rise, and try to encourage others to do the same. They participate in protests, attend events, and awareness campaigns to educate others about climate change and how it's destroying the earth. Youth climate activists also do community projects such as planting trees and reducing plastic pollution. Through the use of social media, they get more people involved in fighting against climate change. More and more young people from around the world come together to take action for the planet's future.



Key Terms

Climate Emergency: It's a situation where urgent actions need to be taken to address the Climate Change threat. Climate change is affecting the world every day in different ways. The rising temperatures are fueling environmental degradation, natural disasters, weather extremes, food and water insecurity, economic disruption, conflict, and terrorism.

Sea levels are rising, the Arctic is melting, coral reefs are dying, oceans are acidifying, and forests are burning. All these things affect the lives of the people, and action needs to be taken before it's too late. If action is not taken, they will become severe and will affect the future. It would affect the economy, ecosystems, public health, and the younger generations who would have to live in an unstable climate.

Diversity: including people from different social and ethnic backgrounds and of different genders, etc.

Activist: a person who advocates and takes action to bring political and social change.

Divestment: to deprive or take away money and power from someone.

Climate Education: teaching young people about Climate Change and its impact on the earth so it can encourage them to take action.

Case Studies

Thousands of people around the world on September 15 protested in a March to end Fossil Fuels, which continued throughout the weekend. These strikes were primarily led by youth and global climate groups and organizations. Due to fossil fuels, there are weather changes and high temperatures. Several thousand people marched in Vienna holding up signs demanding higher taxes for carbon emissions and to end meat consumption. In Quezon City in the Philippines, activists were demanding that the usage of fossil fuels such as coal and natural gas should end. Another march took place in New York City on the same day as the U.N. Climate Summit. People were calling on President Biden to stop new fossil fuel projects and fossil fuel drilling on public lands and waters, declare a climate emergency, and provide a transition to a renewable energy future. People were holding different signs and artworks to spread their message.



On March 13, 2020, 16 young people from across the state of Montana filed their constitutional climate lawsuit against the state of Montana known as Held V. State of Montana, asserting that, by supporting a fossil fuel-driven energy system, which is contributing to the climate crisis, Montana is violating their constitutional rights to a clean and healthful environment. The youth plaintiffs also argue that the state's fossil fuel energy system is degrading and depleting Montana's constitutionally protected public trust resources, including the atmosphere, rivers and lakes, and fish and wildlife. On August 14, in a historic first, Judge Kathy Seeley in the First Judicial District Court of Montana ruled wholly in favor of the 16 youth plaintiffs in the Held V. State of Montana case, Declaring that the state of Montana violated the youth's constitutional rights, including their rights to equal protection, dignity, liberty, health and safety, and public trust, which are all predicated on their right to a clean and healthful environment. The court invalidated as unconstitutional and enjoined Montana laws that promoted fossil fuels and required turning a blind eye to climate change. The court ruled that the youth plaintiffs had proven their standing to bring the case by showing significant injuries, the government's substantial role in causing them, and that a judgment in their favor would change the government's conduct.



Young Activists



Greta Thunberg

She is a Swedish environmental activist who is known for challenging world leaders to take action for climate change. She was born on January 3, 2003, in Stockholm, Sweden. Her climate activism began when she encouraged her parents to make lifestyle changes that reduce carbon. She began skipping school at age 15 in order to influence the national Swedish election outcome. She protested outside of the Swedish Parliament, holding signs calling for politicians to take stronger action on climate change. She continued school striking for the climate every Friday until Sweden was in Compliance with the 2015 Paris Agreement. After her first climate protest, other students also participated in protests in their communities. She founded Fridays for Future, an international movement of school students who skip school every Friday to participate in the climate strike. She attended the UN climate change Conference in 2018 and 2019. with rising fame, she became a leader in the climate activists community. In 2023, after graduating high school, she continued to protest and criticize politicians, corporations, and organizations that failed to take action for the climate crisis. Even though her tactics led her to be arrested and convicted, she continued fighting for the change.



Xiye Bastida

She is a 21-year-old climate Justice activist from the Otomo-Toltec indigenous community in Central Mexico. She was born on 18 April 2002 in Atlacomulco, Mexico. She is also an author, organizer, speaker, and student who wants to bring diversity and inclusion to the climate Justice movement. Xiye grew up in a small town called San Pedro Tultepec. She

first saw the impact of the climate crisis when her hometown flooded in 2015, which made her want to take action. She moved to New York City in 2015 and became heavily involved with the existing climate movement. She is the organizer of Fridays for Future and co-founded Re-Earth Initiative, an international youth-led organization that focuses on highlighting the intersectionality of the climate crisis. She attended the first UN climate Conference in 2017. the biggest strike she organized brought together 300,000 people in New York City. She gave her first TED Talk in 2020 and is on the TED Youth Advisory Council. She was invited as the only speaker at the Biden climate Summit in 2021, where she spoke to 40 heads of state. She is the opening essayist in the anthology *All We Can Save* and has written numerous op-eds. Her work and dedication toward climate change led her to win many awards.



Xiuhtezcatl Martinez

He is a Hip-Hop artist and environmental activist. He was born on May 9, 2000, in Boulder, Colorado. He is also the former director of Earth Guardians, an organization for young people fighting climate change which was founded by his mother. From the age of six, he began advocating for the environment. He was raised in the Aztec tradition and feels deeply connected to nature. At the age of 9, he took action in his local community by delivering speeches about pesticides and how to ban them in the parks. In 2015, he filed a lawsuit against the U.S. government for failing to act on climate change in which he was one of the 21 plaintiffs involved. He gave speeches at the UN on multiple occasions. In June 2015, he spoke in English, Spanish, and Nahuatl at the UN to address climate change. He feels that education and young people are Key elements in the movement for climate change. Through his music, he shows his connection to nature. he also uses social media to raise awareness about climate change.

Action Steps

- **Meet people and educate others about climate change** - you can educate others through social media. You can also join <https://acespace.org>. They educate, inspire, and

support young people to lead the fight for their future. Many young people join this and take action against climate change.

- **Join protests, events, and climate change organizations** - some organizations you can join are [Climate Action Network](#), <https://350.org>, and [United Nations](#)
- **support sustainable practices** - you can do that by ditching plastic and switching to reuse. When shopping, look for materials made from lower-impact materials with minimal packaging. Eat more plant-based foods and reduce meat consumption. Choose organic products that help reduce the impact on wildlife and the planet. Save water and energy at home. Drive less and switch to environment-friendly transportation.
- **Volunteer in community projects** - you can find volunteering opportunities at [Volunteer Match](#). You can also volunteer at [Citygreen](#).
- **Use different methods of transportation** - use environmentally friendly transportation such as bicycles, taking the bus, electric vehicles, carpooling, and walking.
- **Raise awareness** - there are many ways to raise awareness about climate change. You can share news on social media and online, mention scientific research and evidence, make awareness posters and art about climate change, sign a petition for climate change, volunteer, and donate.
- **Reduce food waste** - ways to reduce food waste are buying only necessities, creating a meal plan, saving and eating leftovers safely, storing food appropriately, and composting.
- **Save energy at home** - you can do that by turning off lights and electronics when you are not using them. Use natural light by opening the curtains and letting the sunlight in. Replace traditional light bulbs with LEDs. Get a smart thermostat. Ensure that your home is properly insulated. Identify and unplug appliances or electronics that continue to draw power even when they are not being used. Reduce appliance use and use less hot water.

Resources

<https://apnews.com/article/world-climate-protests-fossil-fuels-3b9b3a3bcc1f67d88d2cc142e2e8a471>

<https://www.ourchildrenstrust.org/xiuhtezcatl>

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Greta-Thunberg>

<https://www.xiyebeara.com>

https://www.earthisland.org/journal/index.php/magazine/entry/xiuhtezcatl_martinez/

<https://www.bloomberg.org/speaker/xiye-bastida/>

<https://earth.org/young-climate-activists-leading-the-way-on-global-climate->

[action/](#)

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/10/chart-shows-global-youth-perspectives-on-climate-change/>

<https://www.un.org/en/un75/climate-crisis-race-we-can-win#:~:text=Rising%20temperatures%20are%20fueling%20environmental,acidifying%2C%20and%20forests%20are%20burning.>