We are a community of young activists, artists and musicians from across the globe stepping up as leaders to co-create the future we know is possible.
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WELCOME to the Protect Our Future Campaign!

Earth Guardian Crews around the globe are working together to create a series of collaborative, cross-cultural, community service and educational projects.

This campaign is providing an opportunity for young people around the world to learn about how environmental issues affect communities differently; but in the end, we are all connected.

We all share the same Earth, Water, Air and Climate, and it is time for us to stand together to protect our earth.

Thank you for joining us in this movement!
What is the Protect Our Future campaign?

The Protect Our Future campaign is unique because you get to choose what kind of project will best serve your community needs. We recognize that environmental issues are different in every community, and the people who live in the community know how to solve the problems. Although you have the freedom to decide what actions to take, Protect Our Future has a specific environmental focus for each season: Earth, Water, Air, and Climate. This helps keep our global network of young change-makers connected, as we work to protect our future, together.

You can choose to join this campaign as an individual, as part of a local Earth Guardians Crew, with your school, your family, or any other creative way you see fit. Feel free to join us every season in carrying out an action in your local area, or consider a more extensive year-long Protect Our Future campaign where you work on the same project all year long. Check out www.earthguardians.org, to see if there are any local Crews in your area to collaborate with.
Earth Guardians has organized international tree planting events, in over 40 countries. We want YOU to decide how to heal and protect the earth in your own community. Projects can be anything related to protecting the health and vitality of our planet. Create your project in an area you are passionate about and will be of the greatest benefit to the community that you live in.
Hands on Projects

1. Plant trees!
2. Soil Building projects
   - Check out the EG Boulder Crew’s project #SoilForLife at www.earthguardians.org/pof
3. Plant Climate Victory Gardens
   - www.earthguardiansny.wordpress.com/egny-projects/victory-garden
4. Create reclaimed wood art projects
5. Turn a lawn into a garden
6. See our partner www.ideasforus.org
7. Put together a composting workshop and build a compost bin in your backyard with your Crew, family or friends
8. Take a Permaculture or bio-intensive farming course
9. Forage and explore local food systems
10. Create a spring cleanup or community recycling day
11. If you are near a university or are attending one, find out what programs they have to protect the earth that you can collaborate with
12. Hold a “Mother’s Day” celebration to honor the earth with spoken word, dance, film and other art forms that connect people to their love for and dependence on the planet.
Water is vital to all life on this planet, yet there are people who continually waste precious clean water, industries that are constantly polluting our water sources, and areas where no clean water is available. Each summer, Earth Guardians come together to celebrate and protect the water in communities around the world.

What water issues do you face in your community? How can you work with your local and global community to ensure healthy waterways and clean drinking water for future generations?
Hands on Projects

1. Build water catchment systems
2. Build a local well for your community
3. Plan a festival to highlight solar energy and water-collecting projects in your community
4. Create a campaign to ban plastic bags and bottles, and to educate your community on why these are bad for you and the environment
5. Work with your local government to ban sources of water contamination in your area
6. Create a river or beach clean-up day
The Projects

FALL: Protect Our Air September 23rd - December 20th

Air pollution often increases during the fall and winter when people need to heat their homes. They also spend more time in the car, rather than walking or biking to avoid cold weather. Protect Our Future fall projects focus on air quality.

To protect the future of our air, we must think about how we can keep our carbon footprints small as the weather cools down.

How can we educate our communities about ways to keep the air clean? What are the biggest sources of air pollution in your community? How can you offset pollution, or minimize the pollutants that are going into the air? What are alternative energy sources you can advocate for that do not contaminate the air?
Hands on Projects

1. Have a workshop on how to make solar box cookers and rocket stoves. These are particularly beneficial in places with fewer resources. See: [www.iapstoves.blogspot.com/2008/01/rocket-stove-principles.html](http://www.iapstoves.blogspot.com/2008/01/rocket-stove-principles.html)

2. Organize a “Bike to Work” day

3. Work with local planners to establish dedicated bike lanes, preferably with some separation from auto traffic

4. Create a local rideshare program

5. Adopt a small radius in your community and find ways to make it more walkable, i.e., remove any barriers to walking and create something fun and educational to interact with along the way.

6. Create roof-top garden or garden-lined streets programs

7. Challenge the community to take action steps
   - use public transportation 2x a week
   - use less aerosols
   - what are your ideas?
Winter is a great time to reflect on the work you have done in your own community, as well as what our global community has achieved over the last year. By reflecting on what we have accomplished together, what we have learned, and how we have grown, we have an opportunity to increase our impact in the coming year.

We invite our Earth Guardian Crews around the world to host local Protect our Future Film Festivals each winter to educate ourselves and our communities about the state of our environment and to discuss ways we can help it improve.

We encourage you to choose films that highlight both global and local issues and invite community elders to host a discussion panel after viewing the films. This is also an amazing opportunity to highlight the creative work being done by Earth Guardians in your community!

Please feel free to organize a different kind of event. During this season some Crews have organized climate marches and divestment campaigns to help protect our atmosphere.
Protect Our Climate Event Ideas

Hands on Projects

1. Lead a Youth March for the Climate. These create a lot of press and they are a good idea anytime of year!

2. Soil building workshop: Better to do in the late winter, before planting
   - www.buildingsoil.org
   - www.esa.org

3. Plant Trees in late winter or when soil has thawed

4. Track your carbon use for the month. Get your friends or Crew involved!
   - https://www.earthguardians.org/action

5. Cook a vegan dinner and invite friends. Have a conversation about the relationship between the meat and dairy industry and climate change

6. Do an Environmental Audit on your home: Check www.earthguardians.org/audit, to find an audit

7. Advocate for a Climate Recovery Ordinance for your community
   - www.earthguardians.org/youthvgov

8. Put together a Protect our Future Film Festival: A night of watching films pertinent to the climate.
   - Build a panel of speakers
   - Invite filmmakers/writers/producers
   - Select films that are personal to your community

WINTER December 21st- March 20th
Protect Our Future Campaigns

In 2018, there will be two ways to get involved with the Protect Our Future campaign!

1. If you or your crew wants more continuity with the Protect Our Future campaign, we invite you to design a year-long project that incorporates the themes of protecting the Earth, Water, Air and Climate.

2. If you would like to do a smaller project, you can plan 1 to 4 projects per year, connected to the seasons.

Some tips for planning projects:

- Creative expression (art, music, dance etc.) is a valuable tool for environmental change. If you can, incorporate these into your projects!
- Design 3 action steps to carry forward after each event.
- If you choose to do a year-long project, we do require that you report how you will track the progress of your project.
- Promote your project on local media and social media.
- Start the planning process by assessing the issues and assets of your community-- try to be as resourceful, creative and impactful as possible!
- Start small!
- If you have a great project idea, we are happy to look at your proposal and provide feedback.
- Great Resources for ideas: www.wlrv.org
How to make your Action a Success

❖ Sign up!
First, start by filling out a POF participant form at www.earthguardians.org/pof/. This allows us to stay in touch with you throughout your campaign and promote the good work you are doing via our social media channels and website. This also helps us track the overall impact Earth Guardians is having globally!

❖ Get creative!
Earth Guardians believe that one of the best ways to spread change is to share your passion through creative expression. In Boulder, we love to invite live musicians to perform at our events and display art made by our Earth Guardian Crew. No matter what kind of art you create, we encourage you to incorporate art and music into your events, workshops, and projects.

❖ Get intergenerational!
Although Earth Guardians is a youth-led organization, it is so important to involve elders and community members in your Protect Our Future campaign projects. We encourage you to reach out to teachers, parents or mentors for advice about planning the event and to learn more about the history of your local issues. Adults in our lives are one of the best resources available to us, and having the opportunity to share their knowledge with younger generations can bring a lot of joy into their lives.
How to make your Action a Success

Involve your community!
Reach out to your local radio station, newspaper, and social media to let them know you are hosting an event, and extend an invitation to any other community members who may want to join. It is important to give specific details about the event, as well as letting them know that your event is being coordinated with other youth groups around the world.

Build partnerships!
Research organizations within your community who are working on similar issues and reach out. Partnerships help us do the best we can and they ensure that our work will have the greatest impact possible.

Funding your Project!
Fundraising is a great way to build community support for your campaign and we encourage Earth Guardians to get creative with the ways they raise money. You can do anything from hosting a community dinner to bake sales, to pledged community cleanup. You can ask local grocery stores or farmers to donate the food, charge an entrance fee, and use any money raised to support your Protect Our Future event.
How to make your Action a Success

♣ Give Thanks
Before, during and after your event, make sure to publicly acknowledge and thank all of your partners, community members, and everyone who helped make the event possible. Gratitude is contagious! Recognition helps inspire supporters to stay involved and committed to your cause.

♣ Report Back
It is very important that you keep the Earth Guardians team updated on what you are doing during and after your campaign! Send us photos, videos and updates from your project. We will post them to our Social media sites and to the website blog to highlight your work!

♣ Check out www.earthguardians.org/POF, to get ideas from former youth-lead POF campaigns that did a great job of tracking their progress and reporting back to us. Please take time to fill out the POF Participant feedback form when you are finished with your campaign, because this helps us to gauge our worldwide impact every season.

Have fun while being the change!
Thank you!

Again thank you for being the change you want to see in the world! It’s a critical moment in time and we need all hands on deck to protect our earth and all creatures. Remember, your individual actions can help turn the tides on our environmental and climate crises. There has never been a more exciting time to be alive! We’re all in this together!
Contact

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