Acterra Presents the
Fall 2022 Lecture Series
Youth Advocates Speak: Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action

October 13, 2022
Event Overview

• Intro to Acterra & our work
  - You(th) Be the Change
  - Acterra’s upcoming events
• Intro to The Forum at Rancho San Antonio
• ASAP (Acterra’s Student Ambassadors Program)
• Presentation by Cupertino Youth Climate Action Team
• Audience questions / discussion
Acterra: Local Solutions for a Healthy Planet

- 50+ year environmental nonprofit
- Bringing people together
- Individual action + policy advocacy

acterra.org
How We Are Combating Climate Change

• Beneficial Electrification
• Healthy Plate, Healthy Planet
• Education and Youth
• Workplace Sustainability
Education Pillar

• You(th) Be the Change (Lily)
• Public Lecture Series
• Acterra’s Student Ambassadors Program
Upcoming Events

17
Palo Alto Adult School
Sustainability 101 Class

19
Palo Alto Adult School
Plant-based Cooking Class

20
Induction Cooking Class: Pumpkin
Ravioli w. Pecan Brown Butter

27
Goodbye Gas: Hello EVs!

27
Just Eat It: A Food Waste Story
Screening (with San Jose State)

See acterra.org/events
Upcoming Lectures

**Nov 16** - Supervisor Joe Simitian will share “13 Tips for Successful Advocacy” at The Foster in Palo Alto (and on Zoom)

**Dec 7** - Workplace Sustainability panel, co-hosted by Green team Network

See [acterra.org/lectures](http://acterra.org/lectures)

Sign up for updates at [acterra.org/subscribe](http://acterra.org/subscribe)
Climate Action Now App

Use your mobile phone to sign petitions, contact your legislators, and make pledges!

Join Acterra:
Code = 24

acterra.org/take-action
Power Saver Rewards

Earn rewards when you conserve energy during a Flex Alert (typically from 4-9 pm)!

Sign up for free at PowerSaverRewards.org
THANK YOU

to our

Series Underwriters

Mary & Clinton Gilliland

Armand & Eliane Neukermans
We appreciate community support to help keep our events free.

acterra.org/donate-now
Questions? We will open the discussion right after the student presentation.

*In-person:* Use the index cards to write your question. We will come around to collect them.

*Over Zoom:* Use the chat to ask your question. These will be relayed to the moderator.
Introduction to The Forum (Eliane Neukermans)

Watch at: https://youtu.be/MvWXtG4mbaM

theforum-seniorliving.com
Acterra’s Student Ambassadors Program

• High school & community college students taking action: City Council meetings, public comments (main issues: Reach Codes & EV Ready Charging/SB 1482)

Scan to join!

acterra.org/asap
Climate Urgency
Impacts

- 2022’s events
- Floods, heatwaves, wildfires, and more
- Loss of biodiversity: extinction rates are up
- Pollution
What is SVYCA About?

Watch at: https://youtu.be/ceFDHx9O2fl
Why We Care
Elise

- Since 8th grade **climate change curriculum**
- Always been curious about **coastal environments**
- Joined SVYCA sophomore year to try policy side of issue
- **Research** in marine bio
Nicole

- I knew what climate change was, but felt that I could do nothing about it
- After taking Environmental Science last year I gained an interest in climate action
- Since then I’ve done a variety of climate-forward work
I felt confused about such an important aspect of our lives – I wanted to learn more.

Science has always been my favorite topic.

I wanted to be more involved with my city.
Xinpei

- I noticed **lack of action** on climate change
- I saw and dealt with the **consequences** of the lack of action
- To combat climate change, I got involved and started to **interact with my community more**
Purva

▪ “Accidental” environmentalist
  ▫ Raised as a vegetarian
  ▫ Bike/walk EVERYWHERE

▪ Have done some advocacy/community work
  ▫ Regnart Creek Trail
  ▫ Bike Fest

▪ Joined SVYCA to amplify my impact and connect with others
Sarah

- I wanted to be more involved in climate action!
- Being in SVYCA has given me a community where I am able to share my interests in climate change topics
SVYCA
Background &
Accomplishments
Background

- Founded in 2019
- 50+ youth leaders, hundreds of active youth across:
  - 8 City Action Teams
    - Cupertino, Sunnyvale, Los Altos, San Jose, Morgan Hill, Saratoga, Santa Clara County
  - 3 advocacy teams
    - Transit, county, and state policy
  - Marketing and tech team
  - 5 Initiative Teams
SVYCA has worked with all of the major climate action groups in Silicon Valley and with several prominent local elected officials:

- Senator Dave Cortese
- Senator Josh Becker
- U.S. Congressman Ro Khanna
- Assemblymember Ash Kalra
- Assemblymember Marc Berman
- Santa Clara County Supervisor Otto Lee, Supervisor Susan Ellenberg
- Silicon Valley Clean Energy, funder and partner
- Cities of Sunnyvale, Cupertino, Los Altos, San Jose, Morgan Hill, Santa Clara
- Fossil Fuel Free Building Coalition (made up of over 50 groups)
- Sierra Club CA
- Environment CA
- Fremont Union High School District teachers and staff
- High school and college environmental clubs
Impacts

- Drafted a Sustainability Plan
  - One of the most progressive in the U.S.A.
  - $118 million towards sustainable transportation initiatives in the future!
- Advocate for climate policy and actions at the state legislation level
- Aggressive climate action plans
Impacts

Board of Supervisors moved forward with our recommendations:

1) **Investment in resources towards sustainability dept.**
2) Establishment of **Sustainability Commission**
3) Partnership with Santa Clara County Office Of education for climate literacy
Recent Events

▪ **Speaker Series/Workshops** featuring CEOs, policy advocates, elected officials such as Congressman Ro Khanna, on climate education and advocacy

▪ **Candidate Forums** hosted in election season to highlight local climate policy/stance of local representatives for each city

▪ **Green Bus Tours** gave young people the opportunity to explore sustainability careers in Silicon Valley through guided walking tours of leading companies

▪ **Youth Leadership Summit** hosted with green companies, city officials, and advocates from SVYCA
Curriculum

- Reached 8000+ high schoolers
  - Causes
  - Impacts
  - Youth advocacy
  - Solutions
  - Sustainable careers
  - Personal actions
- Empowered kids to take climate action
- Provided educational resources
- Positive feedback: 3000 comments
Our City Team
Accomplishments:

- Reach Codes
- Collaboration with City
  - Earth Day
  - Climate Action Plan 2.0 Update
  - Earth & Arbor Day Fair
- Awarded CREST Award for “Sustainability Champion”
- Single Use Plastics Ordinance
  - Opportunity for collaboration between city and district
Future Events

- Earth and Arbor Day Festival in April
- More advocacy for CAP future versions!
- Continued collaboration with school board (e.g. FUHSD)
- Continued city council advocacy
Challenges

- Speaking in front of the public
- Meeting with people in power
  - Climate change and youth both not considered seriously
- Facing disagreements in public comment
Next Steps
How You Can Help

- Researching candidates’ environmental opinions
  - Vote for climate-forward candidates
- Public comments to your local city council (online/in person)
- Restoration volunteer work
- Take personal action to be more environmentally friendly
  - Native plant gardens
  - Reducing water/electricity use
  - Alternative energy sources
  - Green transport (bike/walk)
Youth Activism

- Central **theme** of SVYCA!
- **Youth** have the most impact on local advocacy
- **Most impacted** by climate change
- Members are proactive and take activism **very seriously**
Join SVYCA!

svyouthclimateaction.org
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Thank you!

Questions?