AMERICAN CLIMATE LEADERSHIP AWARDS

How-To Guide 2024

Addressing Community Climate Threats: The Climate Initiative

ecoAmerica's How to Guide is a resource for US leaders and their stakeholders to address climate challenges wherever they are living and working.

OVERVIEW

The Climate Initiative's guide outlines the most looming climate change induced threats to your community and how to address them, including how to educate, organize, program plan, identify resources, pilot projects and conduct measurement and evaluation.

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

1. Determine the most looming climate change induced threats to your community that you would like to teach about;

2. Scan for already available resources that you can use to educate students on these topics. We recommend our own Learning Lab modules as a foundational piece, but encourage all educators to make the new resources their own with localized context, including stories and situations that allow youth to connect deeply with the material and their sense of place;

3. Solicit knowledge from a variety of diverse sources and lived experiences related to the chosen climate change topic. If possible, resource the contributor as their time is valuable.

4. Ensure materials are using non-partisan language and a model like our three lenses to ensure that all viewpoints are covered. Identify if there are local youth voices who can lend their passion, time and interest in bringing these materials to life.

5. Determine what kind of action projects make sense for your students and the community.

6. Once you have piloted your resource and climate action projects, we encourage you to hold a professional development opportunity within your school system to share the resource with other educators.

7. Hold a community facing opportunity that engages the wider local community. Check out our community conversation resource for a guide on how to do this.

8. Identify like-minded donors who will support this programming and provide funds for action projects. This could be a local business, fellow non-profit organization wanting to partner or a connected donor who wants to see more programming like this in a place they are already invested in.

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6. **Develop resources.** Bring together subject matter experts, healthcare providers, and other stakeholders to develop your resources, which should be tailored to address the specific needs and priorities identified during the needs assessment.

7. **Conduct pilot implementation.** Test the resources at a small scale with a set of participants who can provide feedback on opportunities for improvement and what works well. This process can help ensure that a potentially harmful or ineffective resource does not get scaled, and can demonstrate the usefulness of a helpful resource.

8. **Sustain, Scale, and Disseminate Broadly.** Outreach and communication efforts can proceed at larger scale as confidence in the usefulness and appropriateness of a given intervention grows. We continue to reach frontline clinics, healthcare organizations, and other stakeholders via various channels, such as conferences, workshops, webinars, and social media, to promote awareness and adoption of the project and to gather ongoing feedback for improvement. Develop sustainability plans to ensure the long-term viability and impact of the project, including opportunities for ongoing funding, partnerships, and collaboration to support project sustainability.

9. **Monitor, Evaluate, and Continuously Improve.** Monitor and evaluate to assess the project's impact, outcomes, and effectiveness. Collect quantitative and qualitative data on key performance indicators. Iteratively adjust based on results.

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