Advancing Global Climate and Environmental Literacy

Tracey Ritchie, PhD
Director of Education
Today’s Agenda

1. History of Earth Day and EARTHDAY.ORG
2. Resources
3. Climate and Environmental Literacy Campaign
4. UNFCCC Sign on letter
5. Calls to action
6. Discussion
Senator Gaylord Nelson calls for a National Teach-In on the environment and rallies 20 million people to the streets.
Earth Day Schools

2,100 and counting...

Resources

- Toolkits, lesson plans, timelines and more
- Appropriate for virtual or in-person settings and students of all ages
- 2021 Theme: Restore Our Earth
Earth Day Live

A series of live webinars covering the timely topics of the environmental movement
Earth Challenge 2020- Citizen Science

In partnership with the US State Department and the Wilson Center we developed a citizen science app for smart phones.
Climate and Environmental Literacy Campaign

Every school in the world must have compulsory, assessed climate and environmental education with a strong civic engagement component.
Calls to action

Join the Campaign!

- **Sign the Letter** and share with your network of cross-sector nonprofit partners.
- Promote **Vote Earth** and emphasize the importance of turning out for local elections, especially school boards and state officials.

Build Grassroot Support:

- Promote the urgent need for Climate and Environmental Literacy at conferences and meetings.
- Provide interviews or send op-eds to local papers, magazines and other media outlets.
- Share research with friends, families and colleagues on the benefits of climate literacy on student well-being.
- Connect climate education with green jobs and opportunities for students to build a green economy.
Calls to action

Advocate for Equitable/Accessible Education:

● Promote local and state climate literacy and education equity initiatives at town halls, school board meetings, etc.
● Gather support in the form of petitions or letters to your local and state government officials.

Host Events and Trainings:

● [Host a teach-in](#) on the benefits of climate education; green jobs, capacity building, building sense of hope in students, etc.
● Partner with local colleges to provide climate education trainings for pre-service teachers.
● Embed and expand climate change and climate justice topics in pre-existing programs.