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Helpdesk We are the ESA Climate Office, the focal point for the Agency's climate activities. Using satellite observations, we develop the global, long-term data records that evidence our changing climate and inform international action. News All News Highlights Our satellite data records provide the physical evidence to strengthen climate understanding, anticipate change and support progress towards the UNFCCC Paris Agreement goals. More Challenge Global temperatures are rising, altering the Earth system’s delicate balance. The international community can still stabilise our climate. Measurements from space help monitor our changing planet and inform decisions towards a sustainable future. More science Together with our community of leading European research teams we are developing a suite of global data records of key components of the climate system. More Explore explore 40 years of daofjwdofwioofeofij Explore Over forty years of climate data from satellites are available to explore via interactive globes and maps with ESA's Climate from Space web application. Explore How satisfied are you with the Climate Office website? How could the site be improved? Congo (Democratic Republic of) Saint Vincent and the Grenadines This article has multiple issues. Please help improve it or discuss these issues on the talk page. (Learn how and when to remove these messages) This article needs additional citations for verification. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed.Find sources: "List of climate change initiatives" – news · newspapers · books · scholar · JSTOR (May 2008) (Learn how and when to remove this message) This article needs to be updated. Please help update this article to reflect recent events or newly available information. (September 2019) (Learn how and when to remove this message) This is a list of climate change initiatives of international, national, regional, and local political initiatives to take action on climate change (global warming). A Climate Action Plan (CAP) is a set of strategies intended to guide efforts for climate change mitigation.[1] Climate target#Global climate targets United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Kyoto Protocol International Carbon Action Partnership Global Environment Facility Muslim Seven Year Action Plan on Climate Change Paris Agreement Plant-based action plan Conference of Parties Region Name of initiative Since European Space Agency Climate Change Initiative[2] 2010 European Union, plus Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein European Union Emissions Trading Scheme 2005 European Union European Climate Change Programme June 2000 Germany The International Climate Initiative (IKI) 2008 Germany European Climate Initiative (EUKI)[3] 2017 Region Name of initiative Since New England and Eastern Canadian provinces New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG-ECP) Climate Change Action Plan 2001 28 August 2001 Washington, Oregon, and California West Coast Governors' Global Warming Initiative November 2004 Western states of Arizona, California, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, and Québec of Canada, with various Indian nations, US and Mexican states, and Canadian provinces as interested observers WCI, the Western Climate Initiative (formerly Western Regional Climate Action Initiative) 24 April 2007 Mid-western states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Kansas, and the Canadian province of Manitoba; observers include Indiana, Ohio, South Dakota, and the Canadian province of Ontario Midwest Governors' Accord, the Midwestern Greenhouse Gas Reduction Accord 15 November 2007 Arizona and New Mexico Southwest Climate Change Initiative 2008 Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Massachusetts, Maryland, Rhode Island, and Virginia with other eastern states and Canadian provinces as observers Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative 2009 Open to all U.S. states, Canadian provinces, and Mexican states, but current participants are Arizona, British Columbia, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Maine, Manitoba, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ontario, Oregon, Québec, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington[4] North America 2050 2012 Country Name of initiative Australia Carbon pricing in Australia, also known as the Clean Energy Plan Canada Canada's Initiative Ireland Climate Action Plan[5] New Zealand New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme Nigeria Reduction from Business as Usual (BAU)[6] South Africa Buffelsdraai Landfill Site Community Reforestation Project United Kingdom United Kingdom Climate Change Programme United States President's 2002 Emission Intensity Reduction Goal Presidential Climate Action Plan Main article: Regional climate change initiatives in the United States State Name of initiative California Global Warming Solutions Act Connecticut Connecticut's Initiative City or county Name of initiative ICLEI campaigns for cities in Australia, Canada, Europe, Japan, Latin America, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and the United States CCP, Cities for Climate Protection Baltimore Baltimore Climate Action Plan[7] Boulder, Colorado Boulder Climate Action Plan Chicago Chicago Climate Action Plan Cincinnati Green Cincinnati Plan[7] Cleveland Cleveland Climate Action Plan[7] Detroit Detroit Climate Action Collaborative[7] 2019 Sustainability Action Agenda [8] Kalamazoo Kalamazoo Climate Action Plan[9][10] City of Los Angeles, California L.A.'s Green New Deal Sustainability Plan 2019[11] County of Los Angeles, California Our County Regional Sustainability Plan[12] New York City New York City Panel on Climate Change Oakland, California City of Oakland Energy and Climate Action Plan Pittsburgh Pittsburgh Climate Initiative[7] San Diego San Diego Climate Action Plan San Francisco San Francisco Climate Action Plan Seattle Seattle Climate Action Plan On the municipal and regional level, many cities have created climate action plans. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities coordinates local climate action through a program called Partners for Climate Protection.[13] One of the more recent climate action plans is the 2019 Sustainability Action Agenda is a climate strategy plan created by the city of Detroit that emerged from gradual 12-year planning process of multiple efforts moving towards a more sustainable city. The action plan focuses on 4 main categories: Transitioning to clean energy through a 3-year target to reach 50% solar power to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Icreasing sustainable mobility geared towards improving public transportation, transition to electric vehicles, and creating more pedestrian and cyclist pathways. Accelerating energy efficiency and reducing waste by benchmarking emissions, electrification programs, and reducing food waste.  And lastly, prioritizing vulnerable residents from floods, heat, and bad air quality through resilience hubs, recovery guides, and new prevention infrastructure that will reduce the impact of climate change and natural disasters. [8] Detroit’s sustainability plan talks extensively about economic growth and sustainability. The proposition has the main objective of decreasing waste and air pollution to help vulnerable and marginalized communities adapt better to the negative implications of climate change. Actions associated with this initiative include lowering utility billing, establishing cleaner indoor air – which will be done by upgrading and repairing homes and appliances – and increasing inclusivity and access to sustainable wages. In doing all of this, the city hopes to improve the overall welfare of Detroit residents; they are the primary focus of this plan. Subsequently, for these policy goals to be achieved the city of Detroit has the intention to increase job opportunity access as well as reduce operation cost – because 63% of Detroit’s greenhouse gas emissions comes from buildings – to increase economy mobility and savings. [8] Province Name of initiative Ontario A Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan[14] British Columbia CleanBC[15] Sascatchewen Prairie Resilience[16] City or region Name of initiative Toronto TransformTO Ottawa Climate Change Master Plan[17] Region of Waterloo TransformWR[18] Hamilton Hamilton Climate Action Strategy[19] Greater Sudbury Community Energy and Emissions Plan[20] Québec City Plan de transition et d'action climatique[21] Montréal Climate Plan[22] Vancouver Climate Emergency Action Plan[23] Winnipeg Winnipeg Climate Action Plan[24] Calgary Calgary Climate Strategy[25] Edmonton Climate Resilient Edmonton[26] Saskatoon Saskatoon Climate Action Plan[27] Regina Renewable Regina[28] Halifax HalifACT[29] Saint John Municipal Energy Efficiency Program[30] Fredericton Climate Change Adaptation Plan[31] Charlottetown Charlottetown Climate Action Plan[32] Mississauga Climate Change Action Plan[33] Climate target List of environmental agreements Nationally determined contributions (NDC) Regional climate change initiatives in the United States Portals:  Ecology Environment  Energy ^ Bierbaum, Rosina; Stults, Missy (2013). "Adaptation to Climate Change: Context Matters". Michigan Journal of Sustainability. 1 (Fall 2013). doi:10.3998/mjs.12333712.0001.004. hdl:2027/spo.12333712.0001.004. ^ Holmann R. (2013) The ESA Climate Change Initiative: Satellite Data Records for Essential Climate Variables. BAMS. ^ "Home". ^ "Participants". NA2050.org. 2012. Archived from the original on 2013-04-15. ^ "Climate Action Plan" (PDF). Government of Ireland. 2019. ^ Documents/Nigeria/1/Approved Nigeria's INDC 271115.pdf ^ a b c d e Sampson, Natalie; Knott, Kimberly Hill; Smith, Dominic; Mekia, Leila; Heeres, Joel Howrani; Sagovac, Simone (Fall 2014). "Planning for Climate Change in Legacy Cities: The Case of Detroit, Michigan". Michigan Journal of Sustainability. 2 (Fall 2014). doi:10.3998/mjs.12333712.0002.004. hdl:2027/spo.12333712.0002.004. ^ a b c "Detroit Climate Strategy — Building on Sustainability Efforts". Detroit Climate Strategy. 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SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2011 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change US Clean Energy States - an alliance of US states working together to promote renewable energy Cities for Climate Protection - reductions in local greenhouse gas emissions, improvements in air quality, and enhanced urban livability Official list of local Climate Action Plans in California for 2019 Kirsten Engel and Barak Orbach, Micro-Motives for State and Local Climate Change Initiatives Harvard Law & Policy Review, Vol. 2, pp. 119–137, 2008 Nigeria climate action plan ^ Cite error: The named reference :0 was invoked but never defined (see the help page). Retrieved from " Accelerating Renewable Energy Transition in SIDS: Thirty-six small island developing States and their partners have come together to share strategies and galvanize momentum in the transition to renewable and resilient energy systems. Climate Action for Jobs: This initiative has developed a roadmap and regional strategies for climate action that puts people’s jobs and well-being at the heart of the transition to a green economy. Cool Coalition: See how the world is coming together to deliver efficient, climate-friendly cooling for all, including through enhanced national climate plans. The coalition highlights promising innovations such as “cooling paper” that keeps temperatures down in buildings. The Energy Efficiency Alliance: Three Percent Club: A coalition of government, corporate and non-governmental leaders, the alliance champions accelerated energy efficiency, helping individual countries prepare roadmaps to boost efficiency. The Three Percent Club sets a target of an annual 3 per cent improvement in energy efficiency. Powering Past Coal Alliance: Countries, investors, utilities and cities are among those working on early retirement – from coal as an energy source. The alliance helps drive new political and industry consensus on phasing out finance for coal and the use of coal as a power source. Action towards Climate-Friendly Transport: Over 100 organizations have forged the largest coalition ever dedicated to shifting all forms of transport to zero emissions. It researches issues like rural access and making the economics of decarbonization work. An online course helps urban leaders develop sustainable urban mobility solutions. Decarbonizing Shipping: Getting to Zero Coalition: A powerful alliance of more than 150 maritime, energy, infrastructure and finance companies, the coalition has a moonshot ambition: commercially viable, deep sea zero-emission vessels operating by 2030. The Sea Cargo Charter defines benchmarks to decarbonize the transport of bulk shipping containers. Under the Poseidon Principles, 15 banks have disclosed how well shipping industry loan portfolios align with climate goals. Leadership Group for Industry Transition: Aimed at net-zero carbon emissions from industry by 2050, the initiative has established industry groups and developed road maps for heavy industries where carbon emissions are difficult to abate. A transition tracker profiles industries in various countries. Business Ambition for 1.5°C: This coalition of business and industry leaders calls on companies to set ambitious and science-based emissions reduction targets, aiming for net zero in line with a 1.5°C future. Over 700 companies with more than $13 trillion in market capitalization have signed on so far. Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action: Fiscal and economic policymakers from over 60 countries generating around 40 per cent of global emissions are calling for urgent climate action and investment, and a just transition built on the creation of millions of new jobs. Six Helsinki Principles guide measures such as effective carbon pricing and the integration of climate change into macroeconomic and fiscal policy, among other issues. Net-Zero Asset Owner Alliance: An international group of over 40 institutional investors with over $6.6 trillion in assets has made a bold commitment to transition investment portfolios to net-zero emissions by 2050. Members aim to align portfolios with a global temperature rise of no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius. The alliance has set targets for as soon as 2025 and called for ambitious national climate plans. A Call for Action: Raising Ambition for Climate Adaptation and Resilience: The call sets a higher bar for ambition on adaptation and resilience, with endorsement by 130 countries and 86 organizations. It urges reaching the vulnerable, rapidly scaling up finance and integrating climate risk into imagining our future. Learn more. Coalition for Climate Resilient Investment: This initiative mobilizes the global private financial industry, in partnership with key private and public institutions, to integrate climate risks in investment decision-making. It now has 65 members with nearly $10 trillion in assets and has helped develop tools for modelling risk-informed cash flow and infrastructure priorities. Coalition for Disaster-Resilient Infrastructure: Governments, UN organizations, multilateral banks, businesses and knowledge institutions are collaborating to build resilience to climate and disaster risks into infrastructure systems. A fellowship programme promotes research and innovation. InsuResilience Group Partnership Vision 2025: The partnership helps strengthen the resilience of developing countries and protect the lives and livelihoods of poor and vulnerable people from disasters. In 2020, 218 projects in 101 countries provided financial protection against climate-related risks for more than 130 million people. It also tracks noteworthy gender-smart climate solutions through a centre of excellence. LDC Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience: The group works for a climate-resilient future in the least developed countries. It has made strides in devising standards for climate adaptation in local communities along with a financing mechanism. Risk-Informed Early Action Partnership: A coalition from the climate, humanitarian and development communities leverages knowledge, the exchange of solutions and new partnerships to reduce disaster risks, aiming to make 1 billion people safer by 2025. Campaign for Nature: This growing coalition of more than 100 conservation organizations calls on policymakers to commit to a science-driven, ambitious new deal for nature. It hinges on protecting at least 30 per cent of the planet by 2030, backed by sufficient financial resources and the full realization of indigenous leadership and rights. Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance: ORRAA connects governments, financial institutions, the insurance industry, environmental organizations and actors from the Global South to build resilience to ocean risk. It pioneers finance and insurance products aimed at incentivizing $500 million in investment in nature-based solutions by 2030. Leadership for Urban Climate Investment: A coalition of governments, financial institutions, climate funds, city networks and think tanks has developed the LUCI framework to help 2,000 cities prepare and finance climate projects, realizing 20 per cent of this target so far. A City Climate Finance Gap Fund supports the process, drawing on collaboration with multilateral development banks and bilateral donors. These climate change programs and initiatives have attracted support from countries all around the world and are among the most important ways in which the issue of climate change can be addressed. Each of these initiatives is intended to be binding on the countries that have signed on to their provisions and regulations.The United Nations (UN) Framework Convention on Climate Change adopted the Kyoto Protocol in December 1997. It did not go into effect, however, until February 16, 2005. The 192 nations that have signed on to the Kyoto Protocol have agreed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to transition to more environmentally responsible fuel sources. The Kyoto Protocol includes targets that would reduce emissions by about 5 percent compared with the levels measured in 1990. A report released in 2016 and published in Science News indicates that the 36 countries that committed to the Kyoto Protocol reached their goals of reducing greenhouse gases. The United States and Canada, however, were not among these nations.The Paris Agreement went into effect on November 4, 2016, and was designed to replace the Kyoto Protocol. This legally binding treaty requires industrialized countries and those with economies in transition to work toward reducing their greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible. This is necessary to limit global warming to less than 2 degrees Celsius compared with the levels measured before industrial activity became common around the world, which is the expressed goal of the Paris Agreement. Additionally, the Paris Agreement offers a framework under which more developed countries can provide financial and technological support for countries with fewer resources and at a less-developed stage of their economies. While results are still mixed for this treaty, it has shown some progress in reducing emissions and slowing the progress of global warming. The United States was initially a participant in the Paris Agreement. President Donald Trump, however, withdrew the United States from the initiative on November 4, 2020. The Biden administration reinstated their commitment upon taking office.The Coalition for Rainforest Nations consists of more than 50 countries around the world that have banded together to protect the rainforests within their borders from deforestation. To date, the organization estimates that it has reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation by the equivalent of about 8.63 billion tons of carbon dioxide.The International Carbon Action Partnership (ICAP)is a climate change initiative designed to facilitate the exchange of information and assistance in reducing carbon emissions and implementing emissions trading systems. The overall goal of ICAP is to limit emissions of greenhouse gases by instituting a policy that allows industry to exchange carbon credits effectively in the international marketplace. With the exception of ICAP, these initiatives are designed specifically to reduce emissions on a fairly level playing field. ICAP focuses primarily on the exchange of credits for carbon emissions that can allow some companies and countries to continue to pollute to some degree while they work toward lowering greenhouse gas emissions on a global scale. While warmer temperatures, rising seas, and shifting ecosystems are all familiar climate changes in the Earth’s natural glaciation cycle, today’s warming has a different cause and is happening at a much faster rate. As we continue burning fossil fuels and adding greenhouse gases (GHGs) to the atmosphere, we are experiencing more intense heatwaves and more heavy rainfall events, which cause suffering and devastation across the world.My Climate Future, an interactive online tool that analyses inter-generational exposure to climate extremes globally, shows how many more wildfires, river floods, crop failures, tropical cyclones, droughts, and heatwaves you can expect to experience during your lifetime in the region where you live, should we fail to reduce emissions and achieve Net Zero. The figures are frightening, and give an indication of just how hard our younger and future generations may be hit. As Robert Swan once said: “The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it.” Fortunately, there are millions of amazing people around the world who are stepping up to the plate and doing what they can within their sphere of influence to advance environmental causes and sustainability goals.Climate action campaigns moving the needleClimate action campaigns are organised efforts aimed at raising awareness of and addressing both mitigation and adaptation strategies to combat the impacts of climate change on a micro (individual), mezzo (community), and macro (societal) level. They bring together various stakeholders to create widespread awareness, promote behavioural shifts, influence policies and practices, and mobilise change.  In order for a climate action campaign to be successful, it needs to go beyond mere rhetoric. Below, we highlight 10 of the best initiatives we’ve come across to date. We hope you’ll find these efforts as inspiring as we do, and encourage you to get involved wherever you can, whether that’s through self-directed learning, donating, volunteering, voting, signing petitions, or participating in protests. Every effort counts.1. Show Your StripesThe ‘warming stripes’ graphics, developed by Professor Ed Hawkins (University of Reading), are free for public use. They have been creatively reimagined and incorporated in a myriad ways, even featuring on the cover of ‘The Climate Book’ by Greta Thunberg. Here, we've applied the 'Dublin stripes' to our own EnergyElephant logo.Every year on the 21st June, to coincide with the Summer Solstice in the Northern Hemisphere, climate advocates and activists across the globe join the call to share a powerful message about our changing climate on Show Your Stripes Day.The concept behind the ‘warming stripes’ graphics, around which the awareness campaign is centred, is the brainchild of UK climate scientist Professor Ed Hawkins. He swapped out numerical data points for colours that we intuitively understand – shades of red for warm, and shades of blue for cool – showing global temperature change from 1850 onwards. Each stripe represents one year, with red stripes representing an increase and blue stripes representing a decrease when measured against the average annual temperature, in a specific location, over the period 1961–2010.If you visit the ShowYourStripes website, you’ll find a huge set of interactive graphics based on the change in annual temperatures across regions, countries, and cities over the past 100+ years. In virtually every graphic, you’ll notice the blue lines fading away, then red and deep burgundy lines beginning to appear, illustrating the true universality of global warming, and the stark reality that no-one is immune to the threat of climate extremes down the road.Hawkins wants people to use the graphics to help start a conversation about climate change with friends, family, or colleagues, and talk about the risks we face, the choices we can make, and the solutions we can adopt.2. Fridays for Future Initiated by Greta Thunberg’s solo protest and school strike, #FridaysForFuture has evolved into a global movement, showcasing how one person’s demand for urgent climate action can inspire collective action worldwide.The 'Fridays for Future' movement, which began with Greta Thunberg's solo protest in August 2018, has evolved into a formidable global force. At just 15, she sat outside the Swedish Parliament with a sign reading ‘Skolstrejk för Klimatet’ (‘School Strike for Climate’). Her commitment, combined with her impactful social media presence, sparked a worldwide student strike movement. Also known as ‘Youth for Climate’, this initiative calls on political leaders to act on scientific evidence and uphold international climate agreements. By March 2019, it had mobilised over a million participants in 2,200 events across 125 countries, demonstrating its vast reach and influence.‘Fridays for Future’ transcends being merely a protest; it represents a crucial global call to action fuelled by the youth, exemplifying the power of the internet to unite and mobilise young people worldwide. Backed by a broad coalition of parents, scientists, and activists, this movement advocates for transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy, showcasing the transformative impact of youth-led activism in shaping a sustainable future.3. Earth Hour ‘Earth Hour’ embraces the symbolism of a single hour to inspire a collective commitment to making every hour count for our planet.‘Earth Hour’, initiated by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) in partnership with The Sydney Morning Herald, launched in Sydney, Australia in 2007. The event began as a grassroots effort to raise awareness about climate change and energy conservation by having participants turn off their lights for one hour. During its first year, the initiative led to a notable 10.2% reduction in Sydney's energy use, with around 2.2 million people taking part. Its success quickly garnered global attention, and by the following year, famous landmarks like Rome's Colosseum and Venice's city hall had joined the movement.The primary goal of ‘Earth Hour’ is to highlight the importance of climate action through this symbolic act. Participants turning off their lights from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. local time contribute to reducing carbon emissions and light pollution whilst advocating for more sustainable energy practices. 'Earth Hour' usually takes place in March each year. But remember, you can make an even bigger impact by switching off your lights for a single hour over the other 364 nights of the year. 4. We Are Still In ‘We Are Still In’ unites over 3,900 leaders, from healthcare executives to tribal chiefs, committed to advancing climate action despite the withdrawal of the US from the Paris Agreement.Following the United States’ withdrawal from the global Paris Agreement in 2017, a coalition called ‘We Are Still In’ emerged, uniting over 3,900 leaders from various sectors across America, including CEOs, mayors, governors, tribal chiefs, college presidents, faith leaders, and healthcare executives. It shows that, despite federal decisions, environmental leadership and a unified commitment to climate action remains strong.The coalition organises US participation in annual UN Climate Negotiations and promotes collaboration at key events like the Global Climate Action Summit. Its platform, ‘We Are Taking Action’, helps institutions set and meet concrete climate goals. By partnering with organisations ranging from McDonald’s to New Belgium Brewing, the coalition supports local climate initiatives and fosters essential cross-sector relationships.Administered by the WWF, Climate Nexus, and Ceres, ‘We Are Still In’ exemplifies effective co-ordination in advancing climate action and sustaining US efforts. This coalition highlights how collaborative campaigns can drive meaningful environmental progress and unite diverse actors in achieving climate goals.5. RE100Over 400 global companies have signed up to the ‘RE100’ initiative, publicly committing to powering their operations with 100% renewable electricity by 2050.Recognising the potential of the business community to make a significant contribution towards accelerating the transition to zero-carbon grids at scale, ‘RE100’ was launched at the ‘Climate Week NYC’ charity event in 2014.A global initiative, led by non-profit Climate Group in partnership with CDP (formerly the Carbon Disclosure Project), RE100 has since brought together more than 400 of the world’s most influential companies, each of which has made a public commitment to powering their operations with 100% renewable electricity by 2050, and disclosing their environmental data through CPD. The initiative offers members valuable resources, including peer learning, policy support, and market insights.Combined, these 400+ member companies currently consume more electricity annually than the whole of France. In order to achieve renewable electricity interim targets of 60% by 2030 and 90% by 2040, their demand for increased renewable electricity sources continues to intensify. RE100 helps the collective body present a unified front, to send a powerful signal to governments about corporate demand for renewable electricity, and government’s duty to support businesses in achieving their targets.6. Champions of the EarthThe ‘Champions of the Earth’ awards celebrate pioneers in policy, inspiration, innovation, and science. The ‘Young Champions Initiative’ is centred on empowering and funding the next generation to bring their innovative climate solutions to life.The UN Environment Programme’s ‘Champions of the Earth’ awards shine a spotlight on individuals and organisations pivotal in reshaping economies, advancing political reforms, and driving sustainable innovations to foster a healthier planet. An important aspect of this UNEP campaign is the Young Champions of the Earth initiative which empowers emerging environmental leaders. Annually, young innovators from six global regions are awarded mentorship, capacity-building workshops, and $20,000 in seed funding. This initiative provides a vital platform for fresh, impactful ideas to thrive and gain global recognition. Among the 2020 winners, Lefteris Arapakis and Nzambi Matee are tackling the issue of plastic waste from distinct approaches shaped by their local challenges.Arapakis, co-founder of Enaleia in Greece, focusses on restoring Mediterranean fish stocks by mobilising fishermen to remove plastic waste into the circular economy, removing over 1.5 tonnes of plastic and 10 tonnes of discarded fishing gear annually. This helps fishermen contribute to the recovery of fish stocks and marine ecosystems whilst generating income from the plastic they collect and bring ashore. He also established Greece’s first fishing school and has been named UNEP-MAP’s Ambassador for the Mediterranean Coast.Matee, from Kenya, tackles plastic pollution and housing shortages through Gjenge Makers Ltd. Her company converts recycled plastic and sand into affordable, eco-friendly pavers. By partnering with manufacturers and waste collectors, Matee’s innovation addresses pressing environmental and housing issues with a sustainable solution. 7. C40 CitiesC40 unites nearly 100 city mayors globally, focussing on collaborative efforts to halve emissions by 2030 and build equitable, resilient communities.C40 is a global network of almost 100 city mayors dedicated to tackling the climate crisis. By employing science-based and collaborative methods, C40 cities aim to cut emissions by 50% by 2030, and limit global warming to 1.5°C. Their efforts are geared towards creating healthy, equitable communities.The network drives climate action through strategic initiatives such as 1.5°C climate action plans and innovative high-impact accelerators. These efforts are supported by regional programmes and international advocacy, ensuring a broad and effective approach to scaling up climate solutions. C40’s membership is performance-based. Cities are required to meet strict standards that involve adopting and regularly updating climate action plans aligned with the Paris Agreement, using financial and regulatory tools to support equitable climate goals, and demonstrating global climate leadership.Since its founding in 2005, C40 has championed climate action and environmental justice on both local and international stages. Initiatives like ‘Women4Climate’ and the ‘Global Green New Deal’ underscore C40's commitment to diverse leadership and ambitious climate goals, aiding cities in transitioning to zero-carbon futures and advocating for sustainable investment.8. Plant a Billion TreesThe Nature Conservancy’s ‘Plant a Billion Trees campaign is a global effort to restore forests, combat climate change, and support biodiversity.The Nature Conservancy's ‘Plant a Billion Trees’ campaign is a leading reforestation initiative designed to combat climate change and biodiversity loss through global forest restoration. Launched in 2008, the campaign began with a focus on Brazil's Atlantic Forest and has since expanded to include projects worldwide. By planting trees in degraded areas, the campaign aims to reduce carbon emissions, bolster biodiversity, and ensure access to clean air and water.Forests are vital to life on Earth. They filter water, purify air, and provide habitats for countless species. Restoring forests mitigates climate change and preserves biodiversity, contributing to a healthier and more resilient planet. The ambitious goal of planting a billion trees is achievable through global collaboration and support.The Nature Conservancy's network of over 400 scientists ensures that reforestation efforts are both scientifically robust and effective. Donations fund not only tree planting but also ongoing maintenance, research, and stewardship to ensure the long-term health of restored forests. By partnering with various organisations, The Nature Conservancy maximises its expertise and resources to drive meaningful reforestation results.9. Save the ArcticGreenpeace’s 'Save the Arctic' campaign battles to shield the Arctic’s delicate ecosystem from oil drilling and industrial threats, rallying global action to avert irreversible damage.Greenpeace’s ‘Save the Arctic’ campaign is a pivotal effort dedicated to protecting the Arctic's fragile environment from the encroachment of oil drilling and industrial activities. Since its launch in 2012, this global initiative has been working to establish a vast sanctuary around the North Pole to halt further ecological damage.The campaign underscores the urgent issue of melting polar ice, which is not only accelerating climate change but also endangering wildlife and indigenous communities – all of which are masterfully integrated in the unique ‘Save the Arctic’ font created by Jamie Wieck. Incorporating no less than 300 illustrations, symbols, letters, and diacritics, the font forms part of an open-source campaign identity and communications strategy, designed to unify hundreds of Greenpeace protests across the globe with visual assets that articulate a cohesive environmental ambition. It provides activists with an on-demand tool to generate all kinds of campaign materials – everything from banners to T-shirts – on the fly.Greenpeace effectively connects everyday actions – like the energy used to open a fridge – with their broader impact on the Arctic, aiming to instil a personal sense of urgency and responsibility. By mobilising millions globally and garnering substantial support, the ‘Save the Arctic’ campaign advocates for a strong Global Ocean Treaty to create protected zones in the Arctic Ocean. Utilising a dynamic mix of grassroots activism, high-profile endorsements, and strategic protests, Greenpeace drives the push for crucial change. Their efforts emphasise the need for immediate action to preserve the Arctic’s unique ecosystems, ensuring that this vital region remains intact for future generations and contributes to global climate stability.10. TED Countdown Central to the ‘TED Countdown’ initiative is the concept of ‘counting down’ to 2030, a pivotal year for achieving critical climate targets.‘TED Countdown’ is a groundbreaking initiative launched by TED in 2020 to drive urgent climate action through a blend of innovation, storytelling, and collaboration. The campaign is dedicated to mobilising a broad spectrum of voices, including thought leaders, scientists, activists, and entrepreneurs, to tackle the climate crisis head-on. The mission of ‘TED Countdown’ is to accelerate the adoption of climate solutions and catalyse change on a global scale.The initiative engages audiences through a series of compelling talks, interactive events, and digital content that highlight pioneering solutions and practical strategies for mitigating climate change. By showcasing cutting-edge research and inspiring action, ‘TED Countdown’ aims to generate momentum towards achieving critical climate targets.Central to ‘TED Countdown’ is the concept of ‘counting down’ to 2030, a pivotal year for global climate commitments. The campaign emphasises actionable steps and fosters a sense of urgency, encouraging individuals, organisations, and governments to take meaningful action. Through its dynamic platform, ‘TED Countdown’ seeks to turn ideas into impact, making it an essential resource for those committed to creating a sustainable and resilient future.Guest post by Catherine Grehan – Customer Success Intern at EnergyElephant, Geography and Political Science Student at Trinity College Dublin (TCD)


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