



Climate Justice:
Youth Engagement
and Taking Action



Today, we will begin our Action Project by starting to plan out our interviews with local organizations!

But first, we must first understand why it is so important for us youth to engage in climate action.

Our Goals

- Interview local climate organizations to get a better understanding of climate change and climate justice in Maine.
- To design an action project that will build community understanding.
- To inform the design of your action project, reflect on your interviews, your class discussions.
- Have fun and start real conversations and change throughout your community!

Overview of Youth Activism

The world is home to over 1 billion young people between the ages of 10 to 24 — the largest generation of youth in history! Young people have become increasingly aware of the challenges and risks presented by climate change. Our youth are now victims of climate change, but they have also proved to be valuable agents of climate action. Through their efforts and use of their skills, young people have shown that they are a massive power and can hold decision-makers accountable ([United Nations, n.d.](#)).

Why is it important to engage youth in climate justice efforts?

- Youth have unique perspectives & new ideas!
- These are issues that directly impact young people
- Youth have extensive social connections
- Can lead to improved social-emotional well-being by connecting with other youth leaders
- Neglecting and excluding youth perpetuates injustice

Now It's YOUR TURN!

- To understand more about climate justice in your local community, you will explore the importance of youth engagement.
- You will learn about Maine youth climate organizations.
- You will learn about the Dakota Access Pipeline and the Indigenous youth who helped shut it down.
- Then you will analyze different engagement strategies that use tools such as social media, petitions, and strikes.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qJZ1-LAFOTo>

Organizations We Can Reach Out To:

- **JustME for JustUS (via zoom)**
- **Climate Action Net**
- **Blue Hill Heritage Trust**
- **Island Heritage Trust**
- **Peninsula Tomorrow**
- **Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries**

Example Questions to Ask

- Has our community been impacted by environmental pollutants/ harms (air pollution, water pollution, fires), etc.?
- How do these environmental harms impact our day-to-day life?
- Do you feel that climate change is impacting our community?
- What do you feel are some barriers for our community to get adequate access to a cleaner and safer environment?
- How can other young people and I take action to support your efforts to address environmental injustice in our area?

A Heads Up Before You Get Started: Climate Anxiety

Climate change is a very tough and emotional topic to discuss. It is important for you all to know that you might get upset with some of the information you find out, and that's completely normal! Climate change is scary, and the deeper you get involved the more scary it gets.

But remember, you are making a change! This project, although it may seem small, will be **HUGELY** impactful!

Planning Our Action Project ->

Action Project

We will embark on a new project to **BRING OUT** what we know already about climate justice in Maine.

What is an Action Project?

- It involves sharing and communicating the information YOU know.
- It brings the information to the local level, tells a story, and inspires conversation.
- YOU, the students, create it.
- It is community-based.

Class Activity: Round Robin

- Let's name issues that intersect with Climate Justice.
- Select a few that are relevant to our community and are important to you!
(think back to our interviews!)
- Is there general awareness or action being done about these issues already?

Select a Strategy:

Now that you have selected your issue, the next step is to *choose your strategy*. There are a number of ways to take action but here are a few that can be completed in one week:

- Create a Petition
- Produce a Community Art Project
- Write an article
- Create a podcast
- Write Letters to the Editor
- Share/post on Social Media: Tik Tok, Instagram, Facebook
- Make Student Presentations to Community Members
- Print media like flyers, posters and brochures
- Make videos, commercials or movies

- **WHY:** *Determine the purpose of your action project.*
- **WHO:** *Determine your audience and who is involved.*
- **WHAT:** *What is your key message?*
- **HOW:** *How will you deliver your message? List the resources you will need. Supplies, location, permissions, dates and times.*