



**#Teach10Hours4Climate**

**A GUIDE FOR COMPLETING  
10 HOURS OF CLIMATE  
AND JUSTICE EDUCATION  
IN ONE SCHOOL YEAR**



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Table of Contents                        | 2 |
| About the #Teach10Hours4Climate Campaign | 2 |
| About the Organizers                     | 3 |
| How To Use The Guide                     | 3 |
| Using the Worksheet                      | 5 |
| Resources                                | 7 |
| Submit Your Resources                    | 9 |
| For Students                             | 9 |

## ABOUT THE #TEACH10HOURS4CLIMATE CAMPAIGN

Students in the U.S. spend just two hours per school year, on average, learning about the climate crisis. It is likely that there is even less climate change education in most other parts of the world. That is why the National Wildlife Federation and Bard College’s Graduate Programs in Sustainability launched #Teach10Hours4Climate in 2022: To increase the amount of time - five-fold - that students spend learning about this existential topic and gain the knowledge and skills they need to adapt to a rapidly changing world. Ten hours for climate education per school year sounds like a modest request – and it definitely is, given the scale of the crisis. But it’s an achievable start.

We invite teachers, students, schools, school districts, NGOs, program leaders, and education departments to pledge to commit 10 hours of the current academic year, and beyond, to education about climate change, climate solutions, and climate justice. The 10-hour pledge can include in-class lessons, homework, readings and films, and participation in the [Worldwide Teach-in on Climate and Justice](#), Earth Day activities, and beyond.

Participants will pledge themselves, their schools, or their organizations to meet this challenge.

The [#Teach10Hours4Climate challenge](#) will provide educators with the necessary tools, including curricular resources, professional development opportunities, and networking

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support, to foster a community of environmental advocates and inspire action on the climate crisis.

In this guide, we take organizers through planning out their own 10 hours of climate-focused education.

## ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS



The [National Wildlife Federation](#) (NWF) - the United States’ largest nonprofit conservation education and advocacy organization - is spearheading the K-12 #Teach10Hours4Climate campaign to call attention to the lack of climate education in K-12 schools in the U.S. and globally. NWF seeks to advance climate and resilience education through crucial areas including youth mentorship, environmental justice, policy and advocacy, teacher support, campaigns, and public events. NWF founded and co-leads the [Climate and Resilience Education Task Force](#) (CRETf) and its associated [Youth Steering Committee](#) (YSC) with WE ACT for Environmental Justice in New York City. NWF is committed to racial, social, economic, and environmental justice, and prioritizes youth and frontline communities as it strives to achieve its goals.



The [Worldwide Teach-In for Climate and Justice](#) is organized through the [Graduate Programs in Sustainability at Bard College](#), with support from the [Open Society University Network](#). The Worldwide Teach-in on Climate and Justice is creating a growing global network of thousands of educators who engage more than 250,000 people annually through in-person and on-line in learning about climate solutions and justice. The 2022 Worldwide Teach-in on Climate Justice, directly engaged over 50,000 students and community members through more than 330 teach-ins in more than 50 nations in learning about climate justice and energy democracy, and over 150,000 through social media. In 2023, we seek to expand the Worldwide Teach-in to more than 250,000 people in more than 70 nations, focusing on regions underrepresented in 2022.

## HOW TO USE THE GUIDE

The idea behind #Teach10Hours4Climate is simple: Let’s have as many people as possible spend at least 10 hours throughout the school year learning about and engaging with climate and justice issues. This guide is meant to be a starting point and, hopefully, a source of inspiration for new and innovative ideas around climate and justice education that can help participants create fruitful conversations. Importantly, it’s designed to be flexible – organizers should fill their 10 hours with whatever curricular or co-curricular activities work for them.



The [#Teach10Hours4Climate pledge](#) can be made by anyone: Educators in their individual classrooms throughout the year, whole schools, students passionate about furthering their own climate education, districts, state or national education departments – anyone and everyone that wants to commit 10 hours to bringing climate change education to their students and be part of preparing the next generation to be climate resilient.

The 10 hours isn't restricted to the classroom either – activities can be done through assigned readings or homework, through extracurricular events, or at home. The [Worldwide Teach-In for Climate and Justice](#) can be the centerpiece of this commitment. We encourage participants to think broadly when developing their 10-hour plan.

This guide contains four key sections designed to help organizers plan for their 10 hours:

- **10 Hours Worksheet** - The worksheet is designed to help organizers to develop a plan for their 10 hours, and is a good way to break down the time into manageable sections. This guide contains a link to the worksheet and an explanation of how to use it.
- **Resources** - Our collection of links to good climate-related curricula and events that could be incorporated into your 10 hours, or just provide some inspiration.
- **Resource Building Form** - If you have a good resource, lesson plan, or other content, we encourage you to share it.
- **For Students** - This section allows students to get involved in climate education and learning regardless of their school's commitment to teaching about climate change.



# USING THE WORKSHEET

The #Teach10Hours4Climate worksheet is meant to help organizers plan out their time and activities with their students. You can access the worksheet [here](#) – please make a copy of the document in order to use it.

## THE PLANNING SHEET

Vary how your students engage in climate education.

|              |                      |
|--------------|----------------------|
| Activity #1: | Activity type:       |
|              | Duration:            |
|              | Learning Objectives: |
|              | Source:              |

Track how long each activity takes. Make sure it adds up to 10!

This is a place for you to describe the lesson/activity-what will you be doing with your students?

What do you hope your students learn from this? This is also a place to align your activities with local education goals or standards.

Insert a link to where you found the lesson plan/activity so you can easily refer back to it or share it with others.





THE PROGRESS TRACKER

Use the progress tracker (on p. 2 of the worksheet) to see how far you’ve come in preparing for and planning your #10Hours4Climate.

Click on the date to change it to the date the task is planned for.

| Activity  | Status        | Date Completed | Notes & Links  |
|---|---------------|----------------|--|
| Pledge  | Not Completed |                |  |
| Completed the #Teach10Hours4Climate Planning Guide                | Not Completed |                |  |
| Attended a #Teach10Hours4Climate Professional Development Webinar | Not Completed |                | This is a space for you to keep all of your materials in one place. For example, this box might have a webinar link or notes on the webinar. |
| Organized a Worldwide Teach-In for Climate and Justice            | Not Completed |                | This box could be a link to a document where planned your Worldwide Teach-In.  |
| Accomplished my #Teach10Hours4Climate                             | Not Completed |                |  |

Use this tool to monitor your progress towards your 10 hours.



RESOURCES

[Subject To Climate](#)  
SubjectToClimate™ (StC) is a nonprofit online connector for K-12 leaders of all subjects to find credible, unbiased, and engaging materials on climate change at no cost. Their website includes an expansive resource hub with activities across academic disciplines and grades, and includes lesson plans as well as scientific papers, videos, art, and more. Their site allows educators to filter by learning standard, as well.

[CLEAN: Committed to Climate and Energy Education](#)  
CLEAN is the Climate Literacy and Energy Awareness Network. Their primary efforts are:

- To steward a reviewed collection of free, high-quality teaching materials for teaching climate and energy in K-12 through college.
- To support the [CLEAN Network](#), a community of professionals committed to improving climate and energy literacy.

[Climate Mental Health Network](#)  
The Climate Mental Health Network provides access to education, tools, programs, and support designed to help individuals and communities recognize the signs and manage the emotional impacts of climate change.

[National Wildlife Federation EcoSchools U.S.](#)  
The National Wildlife Federation’s EcoSchools U.S. program offers an extensive assortment of K-12 climate education resources for educators.

[Climate Fresk](#)  
A fun, interactive way to engage students in climate – organizers can be trained by Climate Fresk to lead students in a game that familiarizes them with the science of the latest IPCC reports.

[Climate Generation](#)  
Offers educators and students a multitude of climate education resources and also hosts an annual summer climate education institute for teachers.

[Project Drawdown/Climate Solutions 101](#)  
Offers a series of video-based course units for educators and students focused on climate solutions.

[SDG Academy](#)  
The SDGAcademy creates and curates free massive open online courses and educational materials on sustainable development and the Sustainable Development Goals. The Academy offers virtual courses that correspond to the UN SDGs enabling educators to develop expertise in sustainable solutions and practices



[Climate change education | UNESCO](#)

This UNESCO page regularly updates with useful climate education news and resources that substantiate the global need for climate education.

[A New Green Learning Agenda: Approaches to Quality Education for Climate Action](#)

This paper provides climate and education decision makers with 1) a framework for conceptualizing the green skills needed to catalyze both technical and social transformation and 2) a tool for considering three approaches to quality education for climate action.

[Centering Youth in Green Workforce Development](#)

A set of resources to help organizations design inclusive, green programming and prepare young people for the transitioning workforce.

**NEW YORK BASED RESOURCES**

[Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation](#)

The Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation provides training, resources, and case studies that emphasize project- and [inquiry-based learning](#), place-based education and experiential learning to promote an understanding of the interconnectedness of the environment, the economy, and society, and to connect that knowledge to inquiry and action.

[EcoRise Introduction to Environmental Justice](#)

EcoRise offers a range of curricula and programs for students, teachers, school districts, and partners, designed to advance environmental literacy. Their Introduction to Environmental Justice lessons create a foundation for students' understanding of environmental justice (EJ) history and concepts.

[Resilient Schools Consortium \(RiSC\) Curriculum](#)

The RiSC curriculum, written and tested by teachers, enables students to understand the fundamentals of climate science, climate impacts and climate justice as well as explore and engage in local solutions. The accompanying RiSC Vulnerability Assessment helps students to assess their schools and neighborhoods' vulnerability to climate risks.

[City Atlas Energetic: The Board Game](#)

A board game to teach students about the complexity of real-world decision-making needed to enable New York City to reach its carbon reduction targets by 2030.

[NYC DEP Climate Ed Module](#)

NYC provides multidisciplinary lessons and activities to introduce students and educators to climate and justice issues with a NYC focus.

[Billion Oyster Project](#)

The Billion Oyster Project engages students in restoring oyster reefs to New York Harbor.

[The Wild Center](#)

Located in the Adirondacks, the Center opened a new Center for Climate Solutions in August 2022 and also hosts annual Youth Climate Summits.

**SUBMIT YOUR RESOURCES**

Help other organizers assemble their 10 hours by submitting any resources you may have to share! Use the following [form](#) to input your sources.

We'd love to expand our climate education resources for other parts of the United States. Region-specific resources are welcome!

**FOR STUDENTS**

There are plenty of ways for students to engage in climate change education. The following are ways for students to participate in #Teach10Hours4Climate:

1. Dedicate yourself to climate and environmental justice this year. Regardless of your school's commitment to teaching about climate, you can still spend time learning about climate change and environmental justice. This [reading list](#) may be a good place to start.



2. Ask your teacher, principal, or school district to sign the [#Teach10Hours4Climate](#) pledge. New York City high school students can sit on their School Leadership Team and influence the Comprehensive Education Plan. This is a great way to get your school to include an annual 10 hour minimum for teaching about climate.
3. Hold a Worldwide Teach-In at your school. Use [this resource](#) to help you plan your student-led event.
4. Amplify the #Teach10Hours4Climate campaign on all your social media channels.
5. Join or start a climate education club at your school and promote improved access to climate education within your school community.
6. Join a youth-led environmental organization that advocates for climate change education. Some good organizations include [Kids Fight Climate Change](#), [Schools for Climate Action](#), [Sustainable and Just Future](#), and [CRETF Youth Steering Committee](#). Follow [this link](#) for a more complete list.
7. Work on a local campaign for a political candidate who supports expanding access to climate education or has existing climate education legislation. This is a great hands-on way to help create change in your community. Use this tool to review candidates running for office near you.
8. Attend a school board meeting or lobby day (with parental permission!)
9. Share what you are learning about climate education and justice with your family and friends.

*\* Educators may photocopy these materials for the noncommercial purpose of educational enhancement*

Go to [www.teach10hours4climate.org](http://www.teach10hours4climate.org)



**National  
Wildlife  
Federation**



THANK YOU