

THE CLIMATE AMBASSADOR EDUCATION

AN EDUCATION IN CLIMATE
AND ACTIVE CO-CITIZENSHIP



ENGAGING YOUTHS
FOR A SUSTAINABLE
FUTURE

EDUCATING A SUSTAINABLE GENERATION

Climate change affects the future of children and youth. When the climate changes – the world changes. We need to give children and youth the best preconditions for an ever changing world and a voice when decisions regarding the climate are being made.

The Climate Ambassador Education is a program for school children, aged 13-15, in Copenhagen and the City of Malmö. During the program the students meet outside of their regular classrooms to resolve assignments and work together on a common reality-based challenge within the climate debate. The climate ambassadors prepare a dialogue with decision makers. They also arrange activities in their respective schools or local communities.

AN AMBASSADOR CREATES A RIPPLE EFFECT

The program engages students in matters of climate change, in a course designed to create the best possible frames for learning and developing democratic competences. The students achieve great knowledge in climate change, in the fields of natural and social sciences, along with a better understanding and greater awareness on their opportunities as citizens in a democracy. Knowledge and engagement will provide the students with skills to act and motivate them to become active co-creators and mediators of a sustainable future.

By engaging the students in real climate issues the climate ambassadors contribute to community development – with new perspectives on the challenges we face, creative ideas, solutions from the perspective of a child, and a will-power to make a difference. The ambassadors themselves facilitate lectures of student-to-student teaching in their own schools, ensuring that the climate knowledge of the ambassadors reach even more students. As the students become engaged they grow into becoming ambassadors who represent a perspective of children and youths. This contributes to providing the climate debate with a face – for how can we talk about a sustainable future, without engaging the next generation?

“Climate Change does not affect everybody the same. The countries who have caused climate change are not the ones who will suffer the most.”

CLIMATE AMBASSADOR, 7TH GRADE

“We represent the future and as the leaders of tomorrow, we are the ones who will have to deal with the consequences long after you are gone”

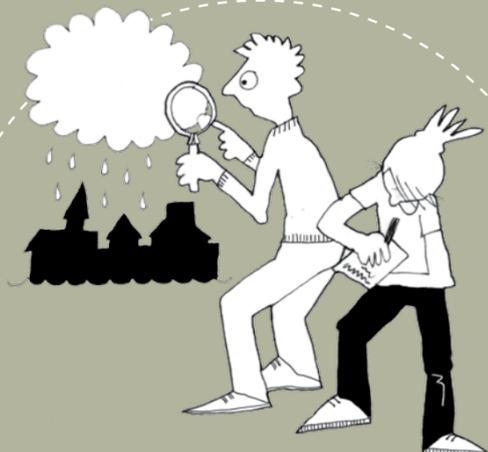
CLIMATE AMBASSADOR, 7TH GRADE



THE ENGAGEMENT METHOD

The Climate Ambassador Education is embedded in the Department of Sustainable Development in the Children- and Youth Administration of the City of Copenhagen and in the Environment and Cultural Departments of the City of Malmö. The collaboration between the two cities is conducted through Öresundsklassrummet, which aims to increase the use of society and nature in and around Malmö and Copenhagen as learning areas and develop methods within education for sustainable development. Between 2009 and 2015 approximately 300 Climate Ambassadors completed the program.

1



KNOWLEDGE OF CLIMATE

Students gain knowledge of climate and sustainability.

2



THE CLIMATE CHALLENGE

The ambassadors will be engaged in an assignment from the real world by politicians, municipal institutions or climate actors.

3



STUDENT-TO-STUDENT TEACHING IN OWN SCHOOL

Students learn to communicate their climate knowledge to others.

4



KNOWLEDGE COLLECTING FOR THE CLIMATE CHALLENGE

Students research new knowledge on climate and sustainability.



CLIMATE CAMP

Students work with solutions on climate challenges and dialog preparation.

5



PRESENTATION OF CLIMATE SOLUTIONS OR DIALOG

The engagement process ends with dialog or presentation of the ambassadors findings.

6

GLOBAL CLIMATE AMBASSADORS

Climate change is a global challenge which requires global solutions. In 2014 the "Global Climate Ambassador Education" was introduced. Selected educational initiatives for children on climate issues across the globe were connected. The aim was a concerted action to leverage the voice of the future generation, so that local projects transform to include a global dimension.

The output of the project was a collaborate report by more than 100 children aged 10-18 from India, Zambia, Belgium, Nigeria, Sweden, Ghana and Denmark, on best practices on engaging children and youths for a sustainable future. The collaborative process also resulted in an appreciated speech which was held by some of the children at the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Plenary Meeting, in Copenhagen October 2014.

INFLUENCING ALL FUTURE EUROPEAN GREEN CAPITALS

The climate ambassador education is about youth influencing decisions that concern them and the future of the planet. Every year, one city in Europe is appointed European Green Capital, an honorable title received for all the positive actions the city has taken towards a more sustainable future. The climate ambassadors in 2014 discovered that among the criteria for evaluating cities applying to become European Green Capital, youth involvement and education for sustainable development were not present.

After an intense dialogue between the climate ambassadors and mayors in Europe and the director of the Directorate-General for the Environment, the criteria for choosing European Green Capital were actually changed. Youth involvement was included in the criteria, which is a big success for the climate ambassadors as well as the future of the planet.

COLLABORATORS

CONCITO – DENMARK'S GREEN THINK TANK
DG ENVIRONMENT EU
IPCC – INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE
GREEN CAPITAL NETWORK
DANISH MINISTRY OF ENERGY, UTILITIES AND CLIMATE
SHARING COPENHAGEN 2014
THE EMBASSY OF THE ORESUND REGION
ÖRESUNDSKLASSRUMMET
MALMO UNIVERSITY
THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND, EU
THE CITY OF MALMÖ
THE CITY OF COPENHAGEN
UCCLE, THE EUROPEAN SCHOOL IN BRUSSELS
CREAGCC-NIGERIA
RCE – REGIONAL CENTRE OF EXPERTISE ON EDUCATION
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
WILDLIFE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION SOCIETY OF ZAMBIA
CONCERN HEALTH GHANA
UNICEF

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