

MAKING THE CASE FOR CLIMATE EDUCATION POLICY



BACKGROUND

Climate change is an international issue that calls for immediate attention within our education systems, as highlighted by [Article 12 of the Paris Agreement](#). As one of the dominant forces shaping their lives, students have a right to a solid climate change education. To effectively address this challenge, robust international collaboration among scientific organizations, non-governmental organizations, and educational institutions is essential. Combined efforts are needed to educate current and future generations on climate change, providing them with the knowledge and tools necessary to combat climate change while preparing them to thrive in our evolving world.

HIGH LEVEL TALKING POINTS

In this section, we have developed a concise set of talking points that can serve as the foundation for making the case for climate education policy.

- Climate education fosters **interdisciplinary skills**, helping students connect science, policy, economics, civics, and ethics to address complex problems.
- Investing in climate education can stimulate **green job growth and economic resilience**, reducing vulnerability to climate related impacts.
- The rising costs of climate-related impacts pose a significant threat to our **economy and national security**. A well-rounded climate education system can address these systemic impacts, helping communities become more resilient and less susceptible to the increasingly destructive consequences of climate change.
- Climate education is essential for preparing students for **college and career pathways** that are already undergoing a "green/climate" shift. The K-12 sector lags behind other sectors by at least a decade, creating an urgent need to catch up and equip students for the evolving job market.
- As there is a growing **demand for green jobs**, climate education aligns with market trends. It not only responds to this demand but also makes these career pathways appealing to students who may not initially be focused on climate change, thus broadening their options.
- Climate education promotes **social equity and justice** by highlighting the disproportionate impact of climate change on marginalized communities.
- Climate change is an engaging topic that can **improve overall attention and learning**. It motivates students to pay closer attention in the classroom, fostering a deeper understanding of science, policy, and societal issues.

MAKING THE CASE FOR CLIMATE EDUCATION POLICY



HIGH LEVEL TALKING POINTS CONT.

- Climate education encourages **place-based learning and citizen science projects**. This encourages students to explore local environmental challenges, collect data, and voice their concerns, fostering a sense of responsibility for their communities and the planet.
- Climate education plays a critical role in building **ecological resilience** by educating students about the importance of preserving and restoring ecosystems.
- Supporting students to take action for the climate crisis can be beneficial for **student mental health**.

RESEARCH & RESOURCES

In this section, we have curated a list of resources that could help you advocate for climate education policy. Our aim here is to provide a wealth of information and perspectives, enabling you to find resources that best resonate with your community's values.

- **Social Justice and Equity:**
 - [Case Making for CA County Office of Education \(COE\) Environmental and Climate Action Initiatives](#)
- **Mitigation and Sustainability:**
 - [The role of climate change education on individual lifetime carbon emissions](#)
 - [StC Impact Case Study](#)
- **Resilience and Adaptation:**
 - [How an Increase in Climate Education and Career Development will Accelerate US Efforts to Meet Its Paris Climate Goals](#), National Wildlife Federation
 - [Education and climate change: The critical role of adaptation investments](#), The World Bank
- **Civic/Citizenship Education or Global Citizenship Education**
 - [StC Impact Case Study](#)

If you are in a climate skeptic states, consider these resources and research.

- **Workforce and Career Development/ College and Career Readiness:**
 - [Case Making for CA County Office of Education \(COE\) Environmental and Climate Action Initiatives](#)
 - [Green Economy Overview for K-12 Educators](#)
 - [Seven Reasons Conservative Legislators Should Support Climate Education](#)