

Advancing Climate Change Education and Youth Empowerment: Preparing Our Communities with the Skills, Knowledge, and Passion to Push for and Develop Innovative Solutions

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Introduction

Today's youth are the first generation to come of age amid rapid climate change, and they have the most at stake in how society responds to it. Climate change will bring economic and environmental challenges as well as opportunities, and citizens who understand the issues at stake will be better prepared to respond. Climate education is a necessary foundation for them to understand and help tackle the complex issue of climate change. Many will become leaders with the skills, knowledge, and passion to push for and develop innovative solutions.

This poster discusses the new youth and educator engagement partnerships that developed to help lift up and raise the profile of effective programs that enable transdisciplinary solutions to societal issues.

Expansion of Climate Youth Engagement in the United States

As part of the White House Climate Education and Literacy Initiative (CELI), launched in December 2014 to connect students and citizens with the best-available, science-based information about climate change new collaborations were formed focused on youth engagement on climate change.

The #Youth4Climate social media campaign is an effort led by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the U.S. Department of Energy, the Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC), the CLEAN Network, The Wild Center, the World Bank Group's global partnership program Connect4Climate, Climate Generation: A Will Steger Legacy, Alliance for Climate Education, Climate Interactive, Earth Day Network, National Wildlife Federation and others have come together to form the #Youth4Climate - Road to COP21 initiative. Together, the partners are raising and empowering youth voices as part of the climate deliberations, while increasing their knowledge and commitments.

Climate Youth Engagement in the United States have significantly increased since the President Obama White House, U.S. Federal agencies and wider community expanded the number and diversity of climate and energy education programs



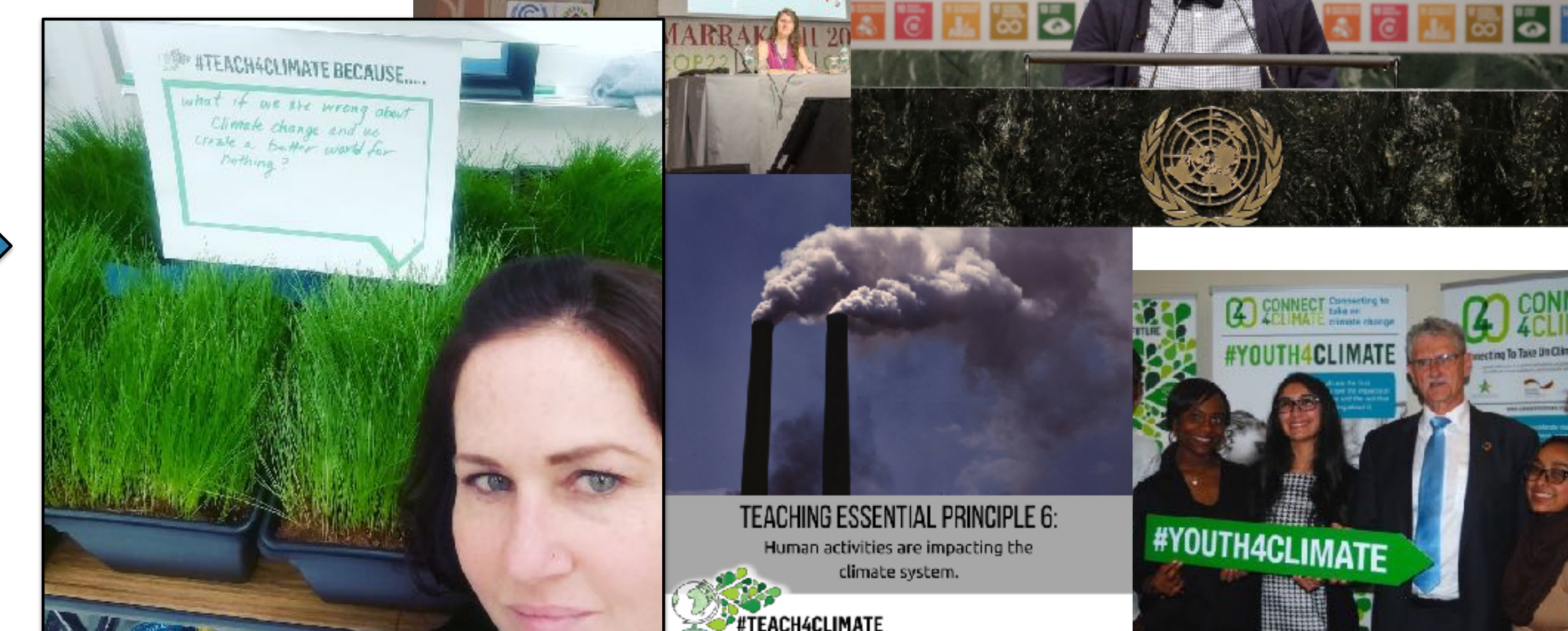
White House Climate Education and Literacy Initiative (CELI) youth engagements



Climate Youth Engagements building to COP21 (CELI commitments



Paris Signing Ceremony, Earth Day 2016, and COP22



#Youth4Climate and #Teach4Climate Social Media Campaigns

“The solutions to climate change are also the paths to a safer, healthier, cleaner and more prosperous future for all. To see this and to understand what needs to be done requires a sharp and sustained focus on education, training and public awareness in all countries and at all levels of government, society and enterprise.” UNFCCC Action for Climate Empowerment

Figure 1: Climate Youth Engagement Social Media campaigns from for COP21, Paris Agreement Signing Ceremony and COP22

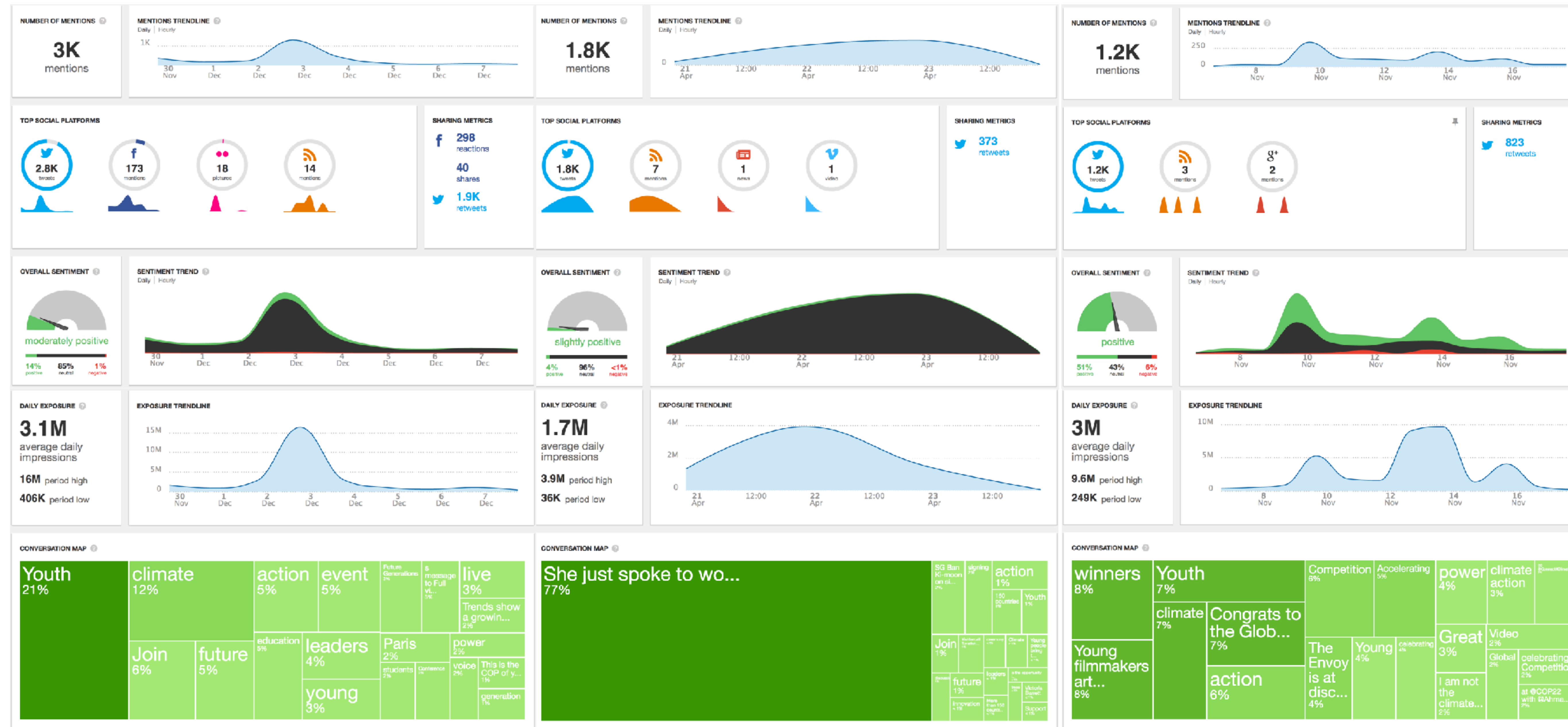


Figure 2: World Climate Simulations Results (a CELI commitment)

Global Statistics (2015-2016)

- 67 countries
- 526 World Climate Simulations
- 27,233 participants

Africa Statistics (2016)

- 24 African countries
- 115 World Climate Simulations
- 9,515 participants

Figure 3: Climate Generation COP21 Education Ambassadors Accomplishments

- **750** Students Reached Directly
- **400** Subscribers to the “Your Window Into Paris” Daily Digest with a 50% average open rate
- **100** Blogs written by Ambassadors, Staff and Guest
- **15** Webcasts from COP21
- **13** Cafe Roundtables with experts including business, academia, philanthropy and education
- **10** Education Ambassadors
- **1** Meeting with Dr. John Holdren to present student position statements

Figure 4: The Wild Center's Youth Climate Summit Toolkit

- No matter where you're located in the world, the Youth Climate Summit is a replicable, scalable model that any organization can base their own summit off of.
- To get you started, we've compiled a helpful Youth Climate Summit toolkit and appendix for you to download and start planning your own climate summit with.
- For more information, please contact Jen Kretser at 518.359.7800 x138 or email jkretser@wildcenter.org



Social Media Campaigns

Each of these four social media campaigns (COP21, Earth Day 2016/Paris Agreement Signing Ceremony, Back to School 2016 (#Teach4Climate), and COP22) had a simple ask, give young people a voice and prepare them to succeed in doing something about climate change. The largest one, the #Youth4Climate campaign for COP21 youth engagement had over 33 million impressions and opened a discussion for all to join with youth for climate actions at COP21.

We are excited to have new partners join forces and support young people, giving them a voice and an opportunity to lead in Paris and beyond. We know the solutions are here, and are committed to working together to build a climate-friendly world. Join us with #Youth4Climate and #Teach4Climate.



To explore the Climate Youth Engagement case studies, events and models visit climate.gov Teaching Climate.

