

THE CASE FOR CLIMATE EDUCATION IN EUROPE

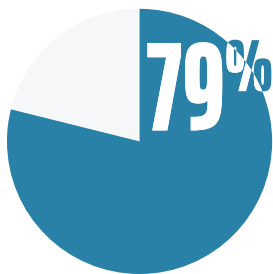
There is an urgent need to provide all students with the knowledge and skills they need to support climate justice and well being, thrive in the green economy, and develop sustainable behaviours.

THE CURRENT STATE OF CLIMATE EDUCATION IN EUROPE

- In 2019, [Italy](#) announced it would become the first country in the world to make climate a compulsory subject in the national curriculum.
- Additionally, Finland, France, Romania, Spain, and the United Kingdom have all included climate in their curricula.
- Sustainability education is considered a key pillar of the European Green Deal:

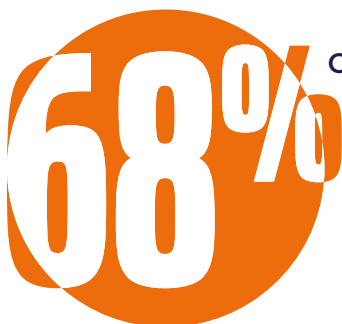
“Education and training policies and investments geared towards inclusive green and digital transitions hold the key to Europe’s future resilience and prosperity.”

— European Commission



79% of secondary teachers say they are not teaching about the ecological crisis in a meaningful and relevant way

DO STUDENTS WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE?

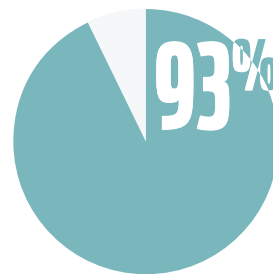


68% of students in the UK **want to learn more** about the environment

[Teach the Future](#)

CLIMATE EDUCATION NDCs

- Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) outline efforts to reduce emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- Including climate education in NDCs ensures that educational systems support climate goals and foster a well-informed and solution orientated populace capable of driving and supporting climate action.



93% of Europeans see climate change as a serious problem

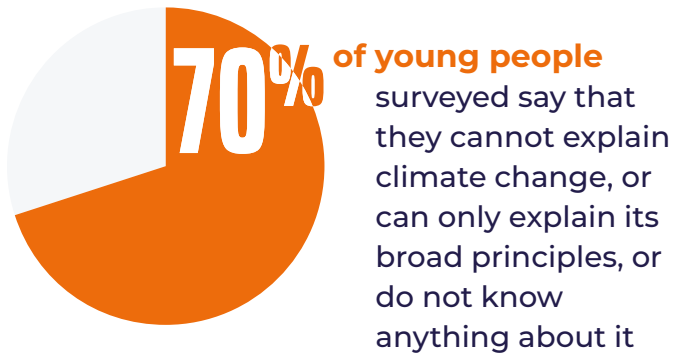
[Eurobarometer on Climate Change, 2019](#)

CLIMATE JUSTICE, EQUITY, AND WELL BEING

- A survey of young people ages 16 to 25 from 10 countries, found that [more than half felt sadness, anxiety, anger, and guilt](#) about climate change.
- Directly discussing climate change and using Social Emotional Learning to explore [coping strategies can help young people increase positive emotions](#) on the subject.
- Comprehensive climate education will expand a student’s understanding of climate justice and equity through an analysis of how climate change disproportionately impacts women, marginalized communities, and indigenous people.

THE GREEN ECONOMY

- The **rising demand for green skills** requires governments and schools to act now to ensure green jobs will be filled in the future to help the world achieve net zero by 2050.
- **Children start to make decisions about potential career paths** at a young age. We need to provide all young people with the knowledge and skills they need to benefit from this economic revolution.
- The transition to a net zero emissions environment by 2050 **will create new industries worth \$10.3 trillion to the global economy** creating a massive market for green goods and services.
- According to the World Economic Forum, employers estimate that **four in ten workers will need to be reskilled** for the for the green jobs of the future.



[UNESCO](#)



[World Economic Forum](#)

SUSTAINABLE BEHAVIOUR

Climate Education can be a mechanism for developing instinctual sustainable behaviours that move us towards net zero carbon emissions.

- Climate Education leads to meaningful behavioural changes. According to one study, if 16% of secondary school students around the world, in middle and high-income countries, studied climate change, it **would result in cutting almost 19 gigatons of CO₂** by 2050.
- Students who took climate action in the past year were more than **twice as likely to be interested in taking further action**.
- Students completing a one-year university-level course on climate change **exhibited a significant and lasting reduction in individual carbon emissions**, with an estimated decrease of approximately 2.86 tons of CO₂ per year per student.

HOW TO ADVANCE CLIMATE EDUCATION

- Teacher training, in the form of guides, workshops, and local conferences, should demonstrate how to incorporate climate education into all subject areas.
- Leaders in government, business, and education should identify and promote the mutually beneficial outcomes of climate education, including green skills and green technology, and provide the funds to implement climate education.
- Climate Education should be embedded in every country's curriculum and included in their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) by 2025.

In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we are taught.

— [Baba Dioum](#), Senegalese forestry engineer

