

# Manifesto for Climate Action: Schools

Part of Climate Action Project by Take Action Global

We believe actions at the level of a school are critical to combating climate change globally. We are firm in our support of green schools and understand that commitments by school communities are essential in creating a positive and sustainable future.

As we have begun to experience the effects of climate change in our community, we continue to have increased awareness and concern. The current rate and intensity of global climate change and projections and potential for detrimental impacts demand our attention. We are committed to responding with urgency and with a plan for action.

Recognizing that there is a need for both mitigation and adaptation, we advance with optimism in the opportunity to explore bold and innovative solutions. Through our efforts, we will lead together as a school for progress and demonstrate the power of collective action.

We believe in the strength of our school community of educators, students, staff, and families, and resolve to take action with the following Climate Action Commitments.

## Our Climate Commitment:

### Measure and Plan

As a school, we commit to the following actions:

- Organize a School Climate Action Task Force to guide and inform climate action efforts at our school;
- Support efforts of assessment to determine areas of strength and areas of need on our campus and within our programs;
- Provide opportunity for reporting and receiving of recommendations offered by the School Climate Action Task Force;
- Create a comprehensive annual School Climate Action Plan within two months of signing manifesto to include:
  - specific actions at the school, class, and individual level
  - target dates by which defined actions will be met
  - review and reporting processes;
- Create internal institutional structures to guide implementation of the School Climate Action Plan.

## **Mitigate and Adapt**

As a school, we commit to the following actions:

- Explore new innovations in energy efficiency and embrace renewable energy sources;
- Promote responsible transport, including cycling and walking;
- Sponsor tree plantings on the campus and within the local and global community;
- Expand green spaces;
- Commit to mitigation and adaptation climate actions per the School Climate Action Plan.

## **Educate and Learn**

As a school, we commit to the following actions:

- Support educators in their roles to educate on climate change and climate action;
- Commit to including climate action and student service within curricula;
- Advance research efforts by participating in, contributing to, or leading formal research action research studies on carbon neutrality, climate change resilience, and/or environmental justice;
- Seek out and provide ongoing opportunities for high-quality learning experiences on climate change for stakeholders, including school leaders, educators, staff, students, and families;
- Develop structures and outreach programs to educate and partner with community members to extend School Climate Action Plan in school-to-home and school-to-community efforts;
- Operate as a learning organization, co-learning as educators and students, and developing and advancing from new understandings resulting from work of the School Climate Action Task Force and actions as indicated in the School Climate Action Plan.