

...do YOUTHinkgreen?

Green Youth for Green Growth!



**“Not he who has
much is superior, but
he who needs little.”**

(Niko Paech, Environment economist and sustainability researcher,
Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg)



RIO+20

United Nations Conference
on Sustainable Development

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WE 200 TEENAGERS FROM 11 COUNTRIES ROUND-THE-WORLD

ARE MEMBERS OF THE INITIATIVE



AND WE HAVE DEMANDS
FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY
OF THE SUMMIT RIO +20

Campaign “Green Thread”

We, the YOUTHinkgreen climate ambassadors, initiated the worldwide campaign “Green Thread”. We put the decision-makers from politics, economy, science, church, culture, the media etc. the green thread around their wrists and we ask them to never lose track of this green thread (not the red one) during their actions. It’s time to take responsibility for the planet and the upcoming generations. Now! The decision-makers have to take measures to stop the climate and environmental catastrophe. The green thread will lead us towards a worldwide sustainable development!

OUR DEMANDS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

We demand the issue sustainable development to become a current topic within international politics in order to improve synergy effects. We want to have an UNO-council for sustainable development which directly reports to the UN General Assembly. The United Nation's environmental programme, UNEP, shall be converted to an UN-environmental organisation. We reject blockading attitudes.

We demand from decision-makers to raise awareness for the necessity of a global, binding sustainability agenda with the aim to strengthen the international interests and to reduce the national ones. We shall find mutual solutions. Problems like the transport of dangerous waste, illegal trade of endangered species, reduction of abundance of species or desertification need to be solved with specific measures taken by the community of states.

We demand a network of coordinates and a code of action relating to environmental policy which helps all countries evaluating the determined sustainability criteria. Important contents of this code of action are the worldwide change of consumption and production, the establishment of sustainable mobility, the responsible use of resources, the improvement of renewable energies, a better food provision, the maintenance of biodiversity and the link between climate change and poverty.

We demand the establishment of binding framework conditions because a legal system based on liability and polluter pays principle, for example, can strengthen sustainability.

We demand the establishment of a green economy which deserves this title and does not affect upcoming generations negatively. Important factors are: Substitute energies for branches depending on fossil energy sources, renunciation of unnecessary consumer goods and stopping the endless quantitative growth. We furthermore support the demand for the state promoting the green economy with specific tax and subsidy policies.

We demand the issue sustainable development to be spread to every citizen. All of them shall be made aware of the topic and participate in the process. We also want sustainability issues to be an important topic in schools and educational programmes. The UNO shall play an important role in order to make young generations aware of sustainability and climate protection and to show them how to take action and to be a role model for others.

Not rhetoric, but political will is in demand!

WE ALSO HAVE DEMANDS FOR THE DECISION-MAKING BODIES OF OUR PARTNER COUNTRIES

BRAZIL

Brazil hosts the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development 2012 and sees itself confronted with striking environmental problems.

We demand the Brazilian government to use the international attention during and after Rio +20 to set visible examples for sustainable policy. The government should play a leading role and engage in, for example, ending the deforestation of the Amazonas region and developing an energy concept without nuclear energy.

BULGARIA

The environmental awareness in Bulgaria has increased and the country's environment minister, Nona Karadschowa, recognized that the Bulgarian nature is "our most precious resource". But this alone cannot fight the environmental problems of the country.

We demand a stronger transparency and control in order to guarantee that our products do not contain any environmentally harmful materials. The industry and consumers must have the possibility to get better access to information about, for example, tensides in washing and cleaning agents. Sustainable consumption must become quite natural for everybody. Besides, coal mining is still the most important economic branch in Bulgaria. Thus, it is essential to push on with measures of environmentally friendly closings of former mining areas and the recultivation of such regions..

CHINA

In absolute numbers, the Central Kingdom has become the biggest emitter of greenhouse gases.

We demand that China sets binding goals in a straightforward schedule and does everything to achieve those goals. For a more sustainable policy in the field of environmental issues, the civil society has to play a greater role. Only then the people will be noticed. But for that, more democracy and freedom rights are needed.

EGYPT

Cairo is the biggest city in the Arabic world and it is also one of the megacities of the world, which have to cope with huge environmental pollution.

We demand the Egyptian government to take effective measures for the reduction of air and noise pollution in metropolises. It is not sufficient to pass laws, for example on the control of air and water pollution, but they also need to be enforced. We absolutely need a clear strategy for sustainable tourism as well as for sustainable mobility, especially in Cairo.

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GERMANY

Germany has a leading role in the energy revolution and is an important actor in the field of European and international environmental policy.

We demand the German government to recognize its responsibility and to campaign for a long-term sustainability policy. This includes to implement a stricter regulation of the global financial market so that they will no longer be obstacles for the global protection of the environment and the climate.

India

The biggest environmental problems of the country are water scarcity, soil erosion and air pollution in major cities. Similarly to China, India has an immense amount of carbon-dioxide emission.

We demand that India also takes on more responsibility in reducing the country's green house emissions and focuses on green technology and renewable energy. Sustainable mobility shall become a central goal of the government and the public transport shall be expanded in both quality and quantity. Moving without motors, for example going by bike or walking, should be included in the politicians' considerations.

ICELAND

From the tropics to the temperate zone to the polar ice caps, there is a disastrous melting of the glaciers – also to be seen with the Pine Iceland Glacier.

We demand the decision-making bodies to implement global measures and laws for a sustainable and ethical consumption of natural resources without accepting any compromises. Because this is the only way to stop global warming.

ITALY

Because of its natural resources, its human potential and its role as an early warning system for the climate change, the Alps region is a very important area.

We demand that sustainability becomes more important especially in regions that are economically underprivileged. Topics such as sustainable tourism, no further expansion for winter sports areas, or a better use of rail traffic must get in the focus of attention.

NAMIBIA

In Namibia, a lot of people are living on subsistence agriculture. They cannot benefit from modern economy.

We demand a sustainable development of the economy, especially supporting small and medium enterprises, as they have a high employment potential and may make up a solid basis for the country's economy.

PERU


The forests of Peru are more and more diminished by overexploitation. This threatens one of the richest biological diversities of the world which is to be found in the Andean country.

We demand that traditional ways of agriculture supporting sustainable development are promoted by the government. The living space of the indigenous people must not be destroyed by the mining economy. A stricter law to protect the flora and fauna and to fight the deforestation of the rain forest is needed.

TURKEY

The Black Sea is severely polluted. Every year, more than 5000 ships carrying gasoline and oil are passing the Bosphorus, posing an increased risk potential for the region. By now, the Black Sea, which is also linked to the Mediterranean Sea via the Bosphorus, is extremely contaminated.

We demand not only the politicians but also the economy to reduce the dependence on oil and other fossil resources by investing in environmentally friendly technologies. This is the only way to prevent tanker accidents and to reduce the pollution of water, air and soil.

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WHAT CAN I DO? EVEN TODAY?

HELPFUL SUSTAINABILITY TIPS FOR YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE

- ➔ Recognize acting in a sustainable way as a primary precondition for joint surviving on this planet; e.g. raise and strengthen awareness: What do I really need? Do I stand up for sustainable acting and do I report about it? Am I willing to help shape the process of sustainability?
- ➔ Discharge wealth ballast, e.g. buying certified products, reducing and avoiding food wasting
- ➔ Avoid overstimulation and consumer debts, save money; e.g. analyze advertisement critically, avoid installment plans, do not pay more money than you actually have, reduce debts steadily.
- ➔ Extend your devices' the period of use by maintaining and repairing them.
- ➔ Save and gain back resources; e.g. save water, use rainwater, separate waste
- ➔ Improve efficiency, e.g. share cars
- ➔ Extend community service and voluntary work; e.g. stand up for others, feel responsible for public places, show commitment.
- ➔ Recognize education as chance of life; e.g. lifelong learning process, think about living in the future. People who know a lot about sustainability can save resources and energy.
- ➔ Gain (back) time sovereignty and take priorities; e.g. don't be available everywhere you go, take breaks, be aware of and analyze former habits concerning consumption and mobility.
- ➔ Integration instead of exclusion; e.g. stand up against poverty and social exploitation, take international responsibility.

Youthinkgreen asks you:

HOW DOES YOUR SUSTAINABILITY FOOTPRINT LOOK LIKE?

- * Which features provide information about your sustainability footprint?
Have you ever questioned or changed your way of life?
Do you check your personal eco-balance on a regular basis?
(e.g. by visiting the following website: http://klimaktiv.klimaktiv-co2-rechner.de/de_DE/page/)
- Do you set an example and motivate the people around you to actively contribute to the protection of the environment and the climate in their everyday life?**

More Informations:

WWW.YOUTHINKGREEN.ORG

„In every speech we listened to in the workshop week, there was at least one fact that astounded me and showed me that there is no time to waste with protecting our environment, that we have to act now.“
(Namibia)

“The Street activity has inspired us to be more active. And we now act more actively concerning the realization period of our local project.”
(Turkey)

“It was a lifetime experience nobody can ever take away from me.”
(Namibia)

“Now, I am much more aware and attentive of environmental problems.”
(Germany)

“I think that YOUTHinkgreen is the best learning experience of my life.”
(India)

“[...] before getting into this big YOUTHinkgreen family, we thought that not everything was possible and that people will never get the truth about what's going on with nature and our environment, but now, after being in Wolfsburg working together as a group and coming up with new ideas, we realized that we all can make a big move [...].”
(Peru)

“Many things inside of me have changed. In some way, I've even become a different person.”
(Germany)

“The workshops were a great opportunity for us to talk to other people and to share opinions.”
(Italy)

“We learned a lot from each other and became much more aware of some problems in other countries and also of their actual situations.”
(China)

“It was one of the best weeks of my life. Now, I think green!”
(Egypt)

“We are the ones who are crazy enough to think that we can change the world, and we are the ones who do it.”
(India)

The teenagers' project experiences and voices about the International Youth Climate Week in Wolfsburg, Germany