

INTERSCHOOL YOUNG PEOPLE CONSULTATIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE:

“MINI CLIMATE CHANGE SUMMIT”

POSTULATES

As a result of consultations between representatives of students from schools from the region of the Wisloka River Basin Communes in Poland and from the Osnovna šola Bratov Polančičev school in Maribor in Slovenia,

we clearly see that the consequences of climate change are a global problem and a global risk:

The Earth has more people and uses more technology than ever. This is bad for nature. When we use fossil fuels like coal and oil, it releases a lot of CO₂, causing the planet to get warmer. [These fossil fuels are spent faster than they are made.](#)

This warming affects farming, making it hard for crops to grow and making food more expensive. The ice melting and the sea rising can flood places where people live. [Melting ice causes sea levels to rise, which can flood coastal areas where people live. We need to work together to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, use sustainable farming methods, and develop resilient crops to adapt to these changes.](#)

We're also facing less drinking water, the loss of forests, and cities getting much hotter, which can be dangerous.

We should work together globally to fight against climate change and support countries that are most affected.

Technological development and industrialisation nowadays require the use and burning fossil fuels, that in turn, emits large amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, which causes air pollution. This leads to a kind of a chain reaction because :

- Air pollution causes greenhouse effect
- Greenhouse effect causes global warming
- Global warming causes destruction to economy – agriculture, forestry, fishery (plants bloom earlier than they should, extreme weather events occur more often, crops are destroyed, limited access to water impacts the plants in a negative way and in consequences of the above :
- Damage in agriculture means financial losses for farmers
- Financial losses for farmers means we pay more for products.
- Global warming also results in limited access to drinking water because of disappearing lakes and rivers which causes reduction of water levels.
- Reduction of water in rivers, seas and oceans is the death of many species of organisms which leads to change in natural ecosystems.

- What's more, global warming causes extreme weather events like : floods, droughts, storms that destroy infrastructure and may be a threat to public health and human life.
- Moreover, because of the fact that our planet is getting warmer heatwaves occur– they are formations of heat islands in cities-places where temperatures are higher than in the outlying areas which is a threat to human life.
- Another problem is deforestation that causes change of natural ecosystem and destroying animals' habitats. This causes animal migration, which, in turn may cause threat to public health and human life.

Therefore, we believe that more attention should be paid to activities reducing greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation), including:

1. Lowering energy use in homes by switching to energy-saving lights **and turning them off when they're not necessary.**
2. Promoting renewable energy sources like solar and wind power for farms and homes **and finding ways to recycle them.**
3. Choosing local products to reduce how far goods travel, which lowers CO2 emissions.
4. Emphasising recycling, using water wisely, giving clothes, **and items** a second life, and reducing waste. This includes using less plastic, recycling paper, and improving how we handle waste and sewage to reduce methane, a harmful gas.

We must also find ways to remove CO2 from the air, use renewable energy, and protect our forests. **We also need to plant more useful plants like algae that maybe don't look as good but they help more.**

Buying less, **wasting less resources**, choosing local items, and eating less meat are also good steps

It's important for young people and schools to get involved in making decisions and starting projects that help the environment

- Reducing energy consumption in our houses
- Obtaining energy from renewable sources
- Promoting powering farms : wind, solar and biomass
- Reducing land and air transports, use railways or cycling paths instead
- Introducing regulations and financial motivation for businesses and houses that want to reduce emissions of gases.
- Modernising energy sector by limiting coal
- Developing infrastructure for public transportation, including railways and cycling
- Promoting electric vehicles through financial motivation
- Limiting car traffic in city centres

We also believe that the following actions should be considered so that our regions can adapt to climate change (adaptation):

1. Enhancing green spaces and designing cities that work with nature, not against it. This includes managing water better, using materials that let water through, and expanding **and repairing** bike paths.
2. Improving energy efficiency in buildings, starting eco-friendly campaigns, and educating young people on environmental protection.
3. Helping farmers adapt to changing weather, developing systems to warn people of extreme weather, and making plans to deal with emergencies.
4. Be ready for extreme weather and protect natural areas like wetlands and forests to fight against sea rise and storms.
5. Giving up plastic
6. Afforesting
7. Limiting meat consumption
8. Increasing water retention
9. Thermal modernisation of public buildings
10. Developing extreme weather warning systems that can help to respond quickly to dangerous situation
11. Developing quick action plans in the event of climate disaster
12. Controlling water consumption
13. Investing in flood prevention systems
14. Choosing local suppliers of products
15. Sorting out rubbish
16. Recycling
17. Using collected water in gardens
18. Giving your clothes a second life
19. Buying second-hand
20. Using reusable bags
21. Collecting waste paper
22. Reducing waste food
23. Construction of wind and solar farms

We also see the importance of engaging young people in climate action. To contribute to meeting the climate challenge, we believe that young people and schools can:

1. Learn about how their choices affect the climate and work on projects that show them how to live in an eco-friendly way.
2. They can also lead events, ask for changes from leaders, and spread the word about climate action online.

3. Visits to places like weather stations and recycling centres can teach us a lot **about climate change because it is very important.**
4. Young people can involve in peer education by organizing workshops, presentations, and discussions on climate change in their schools and local communities.
5. Young people can take environmental actions in their schools or promote eco-friendly practices among peers and teachers.
6. We can cooperate with local authorities and other institutions to promote pro-environmental actions at the local level
7. We should exchange experiences between different schools

We hope that our recommendations will be useful for the inter-school community and help engage more young people in climate action.

Signed:

***Representatives of students
from schools from the region of the Wisłoka
River Basin Communes in Poland***

***Representatives of students
from the Osnovna šola Bratov
Polančičev school in Maribor in Slovenia***