

ACTION PLAN

YOUTH CONSERVATION SYMPOSIUM
LOS ANGELES ZOO
2025

Actionable steps youth can take
to put learning into practice.

Introduction

The second annual Youth Conservation Symposium was held on March 15, 2025. This full-day symposium, hosted by the Los Angeles Zoo Teen Council for Conservation, invited young leaders to explore how conservation is inspiring, transformative, and achievable.



Through interactive workshops, engaging speakers, and collaborative activities, youth participants learned about advocacy in conservation and how to use their voices to promote sustainability and protect biodiversity.

Jake Owens, PhD, Director of Conservation at L.A. Zoo, said of the participants “These young minds are not only setting themselves up for long-term success as leaders and advocates for biodiversity and the health of their communities, but they are also collaborating hand-in-hand with their peers to create impacts that will last a lifetime. We are watching the next generation teeing themselves up for success, and taking ownership of a strong, vibrant, and equitable tomorrow.”

Conservation is ✨M.A.G.I.C.✨

This year's theme for the Symposium, "Conservation is M.A.G.I.C.", was all about the small actions that add up to big change.



MINDFUL CHOICES

Making informed decisions and taking actions that minimize their impact on the environment and promote sustainability.



ADVOCACY FOR NATURE

Raising awareness and working towards solutions that protect the environment and its resources.



GROWING SUSTAINABILITY

Incorporating sustainable practices – like reducing waste, conserving water, and reusing items – into everyday life.



INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

Exploring unique approaches to existing challenges, solving new problems and increasing efficiency of others.



COMMUNITY

Building relationships within affinity groups and leveraging their unique strengths to act on environmental issues.

Expo, Keynote, & Workshops

At the first-ever Youth Conservation Symposium Expo, participants were able to connect with organizations geared towards environmental action and youth empowerment. Groups included the Aquarium of the Pacific, City of Los Angeles Youth Development Department, The Climate Reality Project, LAPL Teens Leading Change, The Switch Is On, Theodore Payne Foundation, Youth Climate Commission, and Youth Climate Strike.

The keynote presentation was given by **Marta A. Segura, MPH**, City of Los Angeles Chief Heat Officer and Director of the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office (CEMO).

Interactive workshops were hosted by leaders in advocacy, conservation, and sustainability, including:

- **Karri Ann Frerichs**, Founder & CEO of Circular Fashion LA;
- **Maryanne Pittman**, Director of Public Engagement at the Theodore Payne Foundation;
- **Thomas Yount**, CEO & Founder of Clean Earth Future; and
- Representatives of **Our Children's Trust**, a non-profit public interest law firm.



Creating an Action Plan

Action plans help people achieve big goals by breaking them down into clear steps, tasks, resources, and timelines.

The chances of actually meeting the intended goal increase when it is broken up into smaller, more manageable parts. This bite-sized approach makes the goal seem less overwhelming and helps people make steady progress towards the main objective.

There are several parts to an action plan:

THE GOAL – What do I want to do?

What is the main thing I want to happen? This goal should be specific and measurable so you can track your progress. Remember to add deadlines to your goals to help keep you accountable.

ACTION STEPS – How will I get there?

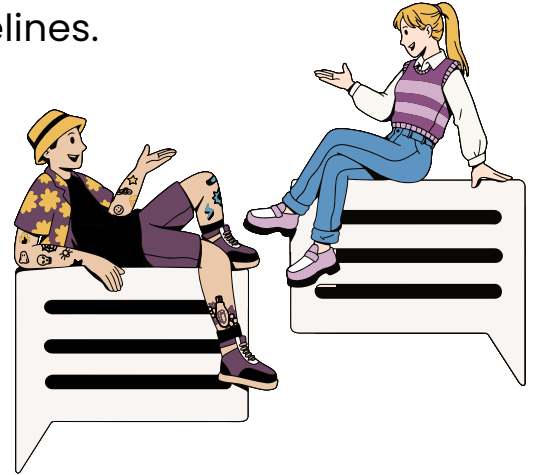
What are the tasks that need to get done to reach the goal? These should be small tasks that, all together, lead to the goal. These singular to-do items should also be completable in a reasonable amount of time.

RESOURCES – What do I need?

What supplies do you need for your action step? This can include equipment, money, and people needed for success.

INDICATORS – Did you reach the goal?

What evidence do you have to show that you made progress on an action step? Benchmarks help ensure you are on the right track. You can also use your indicators to measure progress towards the overall goal you set.





Mindful Choices: Circular Fashion L.A.

EXAMPLE GOAL:

Reduce my personal contribution to fast fashion by the end of the summer by not purchasing any new fast fashion clothing. Instead, I will upcycle at least 5 items, organize a clothing swap, shop for clothes at secondhand or thrift stores, and/or post about fast fashion on my social media.

ACTION STEP	RESOURCES	INDICATORS
Reduce consumption by not purchasing from any fast fashion stores and shopping at secondhand, vintage, or thrift stores when I need new items.	Spending money, Transportation, Support from friends/family	# of fast fashion pieces purchased # of pieces thrifted or swapped # of trips to secondhand stores instead of fast fashion stores & websites.
Upcycle 5 items by repairing them or turning them into something new.	Old clothing, Sewing kit, Thread, Scissors, Dye, Iron, Hot glue.	# of pieces upcycled
Organize a clothing swap with friends, classmates, or community members.	Venue, Displays (hangers, racks, mirrors, etc.), RSVP platform, Guests & clothes	# of events hosted # of participants # of clothing items swapped
Share information about the environmental impacts of fast fashion, my upcycled items, or thrift store finds on my social media.	Social media account, Reliable news sources, Content to share	# of posts made # of comments, likes, or interactions # of views

Advocacy for Nature: Theodore Payne Foundation



EXAMPLE GOAL:

By the end of the next school year, I will have planted a garden with at least five species of native plants at my school, home, or in my community.



ACTION STEP	RESOURCES	INDICATORS
Learn more about native plants by attending a gardening workshop, guided nature walk, or webinar.	Transportation, Time, Workshop Materials, Internet Access	# workshops attended # nature walks attended # webinars attended
Apply for grants or host a fundraiser for a native plant garden.	Garden plans, Budget, Computer and Internet access, Fundraising partner	# grants applied to \$ raised or awarded
Organize a volunteer day to install a native plant garden.	Personal network, Garden location, Plants, Planting Tools, Snacks	# volunteers # volunteer hours
Share garden updates on social media to track growth and gain support.	Social media, Content for posts, Phone access, Followers	# posts # of engagements (views, likes, etc.)

Growing Sustainability: Symposium

EXAMPLE GOAL:

By the end of the 2030 fiscal year, we see a yearly increase in the number of youth advocating for clean streets and sustainable living by actively participating in City meetings, creating resource libraries to raise awareness, and supporting initiatives that connect youth to decision-making opportunities at various City levels.



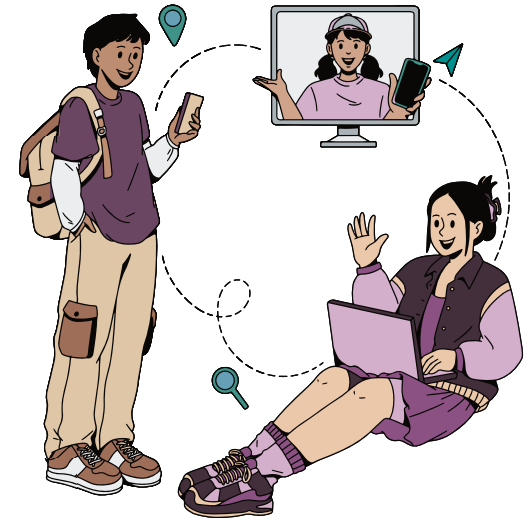
ACTION STEP	RESOURCES	INDICATORS
Build or add to a local library that focuses on climate justice and sustainability, including native seeds for gardening.	Funds from grants/donors, Local nurseries for seeds, Community libraries	# books in circulation # seeds in circulation # libraries # books checked out
Advocate for increased funding to sustainability services at various City levels.	Calendar of City meetings, Data showing return on investment for sustainability programs, Org. charts and mission statements for City Departments	# meetings attended \$ funds raised / allocated
Create a digital manual to help people navigate City Hall meetings.	Digital platforms like Canva, Website or social media account; Understanding of how to make public comments, meet with staffers, and fiscal calendars	# interactions online # of people who use manual to advocate at City Halls

Innovative Solutions: Clean Earth Future



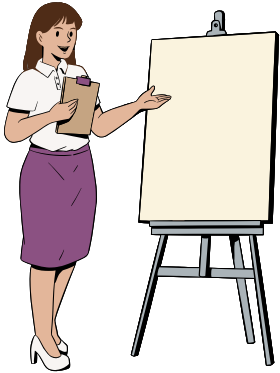
EXAMPLE GOAL:

By the end of the year, I will identify three people in my network (friends, classmates, family) who would be interested in joining or creating a club or organization with me that advocates for legislation that reduces fossil fuel emissions.



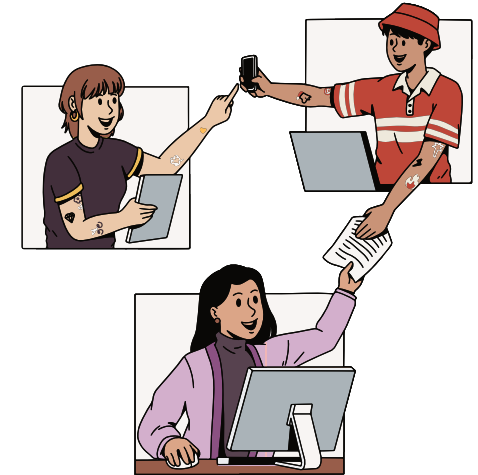
ACTION STEP	RESOURCES	INDICATORS
Join a student-led initiative, like the Green Schools Campaign, that advocates for clean energy.	Internet access, Phone for texting, Campaign materials, Transportation, Free time	# of groups joined # hours spent on projects # meetings attended
Attend events focused on environmental issues and introduce myself to 3 people.	Access to events, Transportation, Admission fees, Time	# of events attended # people met
Start a Discord, Slack, or other group chat with likeminded peers to share resources, upcoming events, or actions to take.	Peers, Internet access, Group messaging platform	# peers in group # messages sent Creation of Group Chat

Community Impact: Our Children's Trust



EXAMPLE GOAL:

By the end of the school year, I will advocate for the addition of a civic engagement course or unit by gathering at least 100 student signatures, meeting with the principal and head of the social studies department, and presenting a one-page proposal highlighting benefits and curriculum ideas.



ACTION STEP	RESOURCES	INDICATORS
Meet with a youth advocacy group to develop a strategy for my campaign.	Personal connection, Youth advocacy group, Internet access, Transportation	# meetings held Creation of campaign strategy
Use posters and social media to raise awareness about youth advocacy.	Permission from School, Posters and materials, Social Media Account,	# posters put up # social media posts
Create a one-page proposal with ideas for advocacy curriculum and its benefits.	Research from reliable sources, Person in your network to proofread	Creation of one-page proposal
Meet with school principal and social studies department to get buy-in .	Principal, Social Studies teacher, Personal Connection, Proposal, Time	# meetings held # persons at meeting(s)

My Action Plan



MY GOAL:

ACTION STEP	RESOURCES	INDICATORS



Resource List

ADVOCACY & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Clean Earth Future

<https://cleanearthfuture.com/>

Clean Earth Future was founded with the mission of building game-based learning tools around ecology, environmental science, climate education and climate issues.

Community Coalition (CoCo)

<https://cocosouthla.org/>

8101 S. Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90044
Phone: (32) 750-9087

We unite the voices of the community to bring about social change. CoCo works on the frontlines of social change to dismantle systemic racism and economic inequity. CoCo focuses on the root causes of problems to create sustainable change that goes beyond short-term solutions.

One Up Action

<https://oneupaction.org/>

It's our mission to support marginalized youth by providing them with the resources needed to take innovative steps to tackle the climate crisis within their local communities for a regenerative future.

Our Children's Trust

<https://www.ourchildrenstrust.org/>

PO Box 5181
Eugene, OR 97405
Phone: (541) 375-0158

Our Children's Trust empowers young people asserting their climate rights to transform the entire energy paradigm from one that prioritizes profits to one that centers their lives and fundamental rights.

ECOLOGY & WILDLIFE

Bat Conservation International

<https://www.batcon.org/>

500 N Capital of TX Hwy Bldg 8, Suite 225
Austin, TX 78746
Phone: (512) 327-9721

We're fiercely passionate, expert conservationists and scientists who are leading the charge to ensure the worldwide survival of bats. Our mission is to conserve the world's bats and their ecosystems to ensure a healthy planet.

Cabrillo Marine Aquarium

<https://cma.recreation.parks.lacity.gov/>

3720 Stephen M White Dr,
San Pedro, CA 90731
Phone: (310) 548-7562

A facility of the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks with support from Friends of CMA. Cabrillo Marine Aquarium is a trusted resource that inspires exploration, respect and conservation of Southern California marine life.

ECOLOGY & WILDLIFE

Catalina Island Conservancy

<https://catalinaconservancy.org/#>
708 Crescent Ave.
Avalon, CA 90704
Phone: (310) 510-2595 ext. x0

The mission of the Catalina Island Conservancy is to be an exemplary steward of Island resources through a balance of conservation, education, and recreation. The Conservancy's vision is for a beautifully functioning Island ecosystem for all to enjoy.

Los Angeles Zoo

<https://lazoo.org/>
5333 Zoo Drive,
Los Angeles, CA 90027
Phone: (323) 644-4200

The Los Angeles Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) and is dedicated to providing exemplary animal care and wellbeing. The lush 133-acre campus and its passionate and dedicated team welcomes all to be inspired by the Zoo's vision to create a just and sustainable world where people and wildlife thrive, together.

Nature for All

<https://lanatureforall.org/>
201 W. Garvey Avenue,
Suite 102-503,
Monterey Park, CA 91754

Our mission is to build a diverse base of support to ensure that everyone in the Los Angeles area has equitable access to the wide range of benefits which nature provides. We're committed to building support to protect, create access to our forests, rivers, and parks, and developing a new diverse generation of environmental leaders and stewards who connect to and care for our public lands.

Pasadena Humane

<https://pasadenahumane.org/>
361 S. Raymond Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91105
Phone: (626) 792-7151

Pasadena Humane is more than an animal shelter; we are a community-supported animal resource center providing compassion and care for all animals. Since 1903, Pasadena Humane has offered lifesaving programs and services for animals and the people who love them in the Greater Los Angeles Area.

Theodore Payne Foundation

<https://theodorepayne.org/>
10459 Tuxford St,
Sun Valley, CA 91352
Phone: (818) 768-1802

Theodore Payne Foundation (TPF) is a nonprofit organization that inspires and educates Southern Californians about the beauty and ecological benefits of California native plants. Located on 22 acres of canyon land in the San Fernando Valley of Los Angeles, the TPF headquarters includes a full-service nursery featuring native plants alongside display gardens, wildland hiking trails, and extensive plant production areas.

ECOLOGY & WILDLIFE

Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

<https://www.xerces.org/>
1631 NE Broadway Street, #821
Portland, OR 97232
Phone: (855) 232-6639

The Xerces Society is a science-based conservation organization, working with diverse partners that include scientists, land managers, educators, policymakers, farmers, and communities. By utilizing applied research, engaging in advocacy, providing educational resources, addressing policy implications, and building community, we endeavor to make meaningful long-term conservation a reality.

LOS ANGELES AREA GROUPS & RESOURCES FOR YOUTH

Climate Reality Project Los Angeles Chapter

<https://www.laclimatereality.org/>

As a chapter of the Climate Reality Project, our mission is to catalyze a global solution to the climate crisis by making urgent action a necessity across every level of society, starting right here in our hometown of Los Angeles. We are united in our dedication to accelerating a just transition to green energy and a sustainable future.

Friends of the L.A. River (FoLAR) River Fellows Program

<https://folar.org/k-12-education/#la-river-fellowship-program>
570 W. Ave 26 #250
Los Angeles, CA 90065
Phone: (323) 223-0585

At Friends of the Los Angeles River, we're passionate about nurturing the next generation of LA River stewards. FoLAR's River Fellows program offers high school students in LA – particularly youth underrepresented in STEAM and conservation – an opportunity for a paid, year-long STEAM workforce development program. The Fellowship is geared toward creating long-term benefits for students, their communities, and the environment.

L.A. County Department of Public Health

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/>
Environmental Health
5050 Commerce Drive
Baldwin Park, CA 91706
Phone: 1 (888) 700-9995

L.A. County DPH Environmental Health Mission: To assess environmental conditions and reduce exposure to health risks; and to educate the public on sources of environmental risk so they are empowered to protect themselves, their families and their communities.

Los Angeles Conservation Corp

<https://www.lacorps.org/>
John Van de Kamp Center
1400 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

The LA Conservation Corps creates equitable opportunities for young people to build resilience in themselves, their communities and the environment through a program of work, education and support.

LOS ANGELES AREA GROUPS & RESOURCES FOR YOUTH

L.A. Sanitation & Environment (LASAN)

<https://sanitation.lacity.gov/>
1149 S Broadway 9th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90015
Phone: (800) 773-2489

As the lead agency for the City's environmental programs and initiatives, LA Sanitation (LASAN) protects public health and the environment through the administration and management of three program areas: Clean Water (wastewater), Solid Resources (solid waste management) and Watershed Protection (stormwater).

Outward Bound Adventures

<https://www.obainc.org/>
P.O. Box 202
Pasadena, CA 91102
Phone: (626) 564-0844

Outward Bound Adventures (OBA) is the oldest non-profit in the nation dedicated to outdoor education for BIPOC youth. OBA is a pioneer of Transformational Experiential Environmental Education (TEEE). Every OBA course is designed to challenge and empower youth with environmental education that changes their perspective about themselves and their surroundings.

Teens Leading Change L.A. Public Library

<https://tlc.lapl.org/>

Join Teens Leading Change for the opportunity to develop and participate in a civic action project and implement positive change in your community. Contact your local branch for more information.

Youth Climate Commission

<https://ycc.lacounty.gov/>
500 West Temple St.
Room 383
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Phone: (213) 974-1172

The Youth Climate Commission empowers youth and young adults to use their voices and agency to combat climate change in Los Angeles County. The YCC advises the Board of Supervisors and County departments on policies, programs, and legislation related to climate change and works closely with youth across the County to amplify their voices.

Youth Climate Stirke L.A.

<https://www.ycsla.org/>

We are a BIPOC and youth-led volunteer grassroots group made up of high school and college-aged youth, students and young adult across Los Angeles county. We are youth that aren't waiting on adults to make the change we want to see. We believe youth leadership and inter-generational organizing is key to surviving the climate crisis.

Youth Development Dept

<https://ydd.lacity.gov/>
444 Flower St., 14th Fl,
Los Angeles, CA 90071

The YDD is working with Departments to develop and institute reliable standards for program development for City services for youth and young adults.

SUSTAINABLE LIVING

Circular Fashion L.A.

<https://www.circularfashionla.com/>

We are a California Social Purpose Corporation with the goal of tackling the dual problems of post-consumer clothing and textile waste, as well as over-consumption of natural resources by the fashion industry. We're here to make it easy for individuals, communities and organizations to participate in a Circular Fashion system that's Regenerative for your self, your style, and the environment.

Maya's Ideas for the Planet

<https://mayasideas.com/nonprofit>

Phone: (678) 951-9525

Maya's Ideas 4 The Planet is an environmental, humanitarian, and arts focused nonprofit. We recognize the power of youth, gender equity, and the arts, in our mission to create a more sustainable and equitable present and future.

The Building Decarbonization Coalition

<https://buildingdecarb.org/initiatives/california>

We envision a future where all Californians have access to healthy, affordable, and climate-ready homes and buildings powered by clean and renewable energy. We drive progress through strategic advocacy in legislation, regulation, state funding, and innovative programs, supporting California's climate leadership.

The Switch Is On

<https://www.switchison.org/ca>

The Switch Is On initiative was launched in 2019 by the Building Decarbonization Coalition (BDC) to educate, inspire, and make switching to electric appliances easier for communities, contractors, and all those who live and work in buildings.