

Policy Brief for Educators 2.0

Greening Curriculum Guidance: Teaching and learning for climate action (2024)

This guidance document is a comprehensive framework developed by UNESCO to address the urgent need for climate education in schools worldwide. This initiative responds to calls from young people for a holistic approach to climate change and sustainability in the curriculum, aligning with the goals set by the 2022 United Nations Transforming Education Summit.

Why it matters

Climate change is one of the most pressing challenges of our time, and education plays a crucial role in preparing future generations to address this issue. The guidance aims to accelerate country-level action and ensure joint progress monitoring towards integrating climate change education into curricula globally.

What it offers

The Greening Curriculum Guidance provides:

01

A global standard for teaching and learning objectives on climate education at all levels, including lifelong learning.

02

Expected learning outcomes for age groups, from 5-year-olds to 18+.

03

A common language for reflecting quality climate change and sustainability content in curricula.

So, what

By implementing this guidance, educators, curriculum developers, and policymakers can:

01

Ensure a comprehensive and age-appropriate approach to climate education.

02

Foster the development of knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes necessary for learners to tackle climate change and promote sustainable development.

03

Contribute to the goal of having 90% of all countries include climate change in their curricula by 2030, as established by the Greening Education Partnership.

How to Use the Toolkit

To effectively implement the Greening Curriculum Guidance:

01

Analyze current curricula against the new guidelines to identify gaps.

02

Consult with key rightsholders, stakeholders, and education actors to gather feedback and ensure local relevance

03

Develop resources and build capacity to support the application of the guidance.

04

Integrate climate education as a core curriculum component, taught in an interdisciplinary manner.

The Greening Curriculum Guidance is a powerful tool for transforming education systems to address climate change. By adapting the local curriculum to this framework, educators, curriculum developers, and policymakers can be crucial in preparing learners to become active participants in creating a just and sustainable future.