

2023 Adirondack Youth Climate Summit

Workshop Session 1

HOW TO CREATE A STELLAR GREEN TEAM

Tupper Lake Green Team - Tupper Lake High School
Main Conference Room

The Tupper Lake Green Team has had a successful, and highly effective Green Team which has been able to implement Climate Action Projects into their school such as composting. This workshop will consist of a short presentation, followed by an upcycling Green Team logo activity. Afterwards, the Tupper Lake Green Team will provide a coloring page activity for teams to take home with steps to success!

CREATURES ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Nick Corcoran & Nicole Baker - The Wild Center
Planet Adirondack

Attendees will be introduced to the science of climate change and explore its impacts on Adirondack wildlife. Groups will discover the solutions to these issues through visualizing global datasets on NOAA's "Science on a Sphere" and maybe even have some surprise visitors! They will also learn about citizen science projects that they can integrate into their own lives.

BEYOND PLASTICS

Katie Alexanian & Harley Cohen - Saranac Lake High School
Flammer Theater

Sick of seeing plastic bags littering the streets? How about those plastic bottles? And don't even get me started on styrofoam! Come to this workshop to get the tools you need to stop this insane dependence on single use plastics. We will be showcasing strategies to help you tackle these issues in all aspects of your own personal life and how to enact change on a community wide level.

Workshop Session 1

LOCAL SOLUTIONS, GLOBAL IMPACT: CLIMATE JUSTICE STARTS HERE

Anjalee Wanduragala - Hobart & Williams Smith Colleges
Climate Solutions

This workshop will use hands-on activities to look at the history of climate justice and how it impacts us today. In this session, you will learn about climate justice, environmental justice and energy justice; travel through time to investigate important events from these movements; and explore public health connections to climate change.

TALKING TRASH TOGETHER

Shannon Surdyk & Leanne Favreau - The Wild Center
Naturalist Cabinet & Outside

So many of us want to reduce our waste and curb our consumption, but lack clarity on how to make it happen. In this session you will get your hands dirty to gain the tools and skills you need to conduct your school's next (or first) waste audit. Diving into dumpsters helps you gain a clear idea of what you are throwing out, how much, and what common contaminants your school is producing. Waste audits help determine how effective a waste management system already is and identifies areas for improvement.

Understanding your waste is the first step to living more sustainably. Over 1.559 billion tons of food is thrown away every year globally. Reducing the amount of food we throw away will lessen carbon emissions, feed more people, reduce landfill loads, and make better use of your resources.

Jump into a dumpster today (maybe not literally) to create momentum that carries our communities onward, to our next milestone of sustainable living.



Workshop Session 2

CLIMATE UNWIND TIME: CARING FOR YOURSELF AND REPAIRING YOUR HEALTH

***Leah Valerio, Rachel Helt, Gavin Ratjaczak - The Wild Center
Climate Solutions***

Youth in the climate movement need more than “self care” to sustain themselves. While climate change work can be challenging, it also presents a unique opportunity for connection, creativity, rest, laughter, and joy. In this workshop we hold space for all of these things. You will leave with a practical set of activities which you can share with your Green Team and friends to take care of yourselves, together.

A CLIMATE REPORT CARD FOR YOUR SCHOOL

***Mariah Keagy - Vermont Energy Education Program
Main Conference Room***

This workshop will lead you through the process of examining how sustainable your school is in terms of heating, transportation, electricity, food and climate education. We will share the assessment process and resources developed for the “Climate Report Card for our Schools” youth reporting project, and help you learn how to take the steps to assess your school to see what is being done, and what still needs to be done, which is the first step towards making impactful change in your school community.

CLIMATE, WATER, AND ARTIVISM

***Tom Collins, Michale Glennon, and Nadia Harvieux - Adirondack
Watershed Institute & Finger Lakes Institute
Naturalist Cabinet & Outside***

Data helps us understand long term trends in our watersheds, and to our climate. Interpreting that data can sometimes be challenging. In this workshop, participants will collect water quality data to learn how we can contextualize challenges in our watersheds. Returning to the classroom, participants will engage in a community value mapping activity that encourages us to think about what we value in relation to water and climate, and the solutions we have in order to protect what we value.

Workshop Session 2

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN THE NORTH COUNTRY

Kim Smart & Farm Staff - North Country School

Planet Adirondack

NCS/CTT farm staff will be exploring some of NOAA's agricultural datasets on The Wild Center's "Science on a Sphere" and sharing some different sustainable agriculture methods regarding seasonality, climate zones, what we can grow here, and why. They will also discuss the work they do at the NCS/CTT farm, their farm education program, and even play a food web game. You will have the opportunity to pickle your own vegetables while you ask all your burning agriculture questions to a panel of 6 farmers with diverse experiences and perspectives! In addition to your pickles, you will be able to bring home resources to share and inspire others to keep learning and keep growing.

USING OURSTORYBRIDGE TO CONFRONT AND COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

Jery Huntley & Janelle Schwartz - OurStoryBridge

Flammer Theater

The workshop will: 1. Introduce participants to OurStoryBridge and the power of personal, short-form oral histories to reveal moving stories related to climate and inspiring change; 2. Play recorded stories that exemplify change-making opportunities in local communities from rural Alaska to our North Country; 3. Share details on how to prepare, collect, and tell compelling stories; 4. Practice peer-to-peer storytelling related to their climate interests; and 5. Brainstorm ideas for using stories to advance their personal quests to fight climate change.

Workshop Session 3

MICRO-MYSTERY: CITIZEN SCIENCE ACTION LAB

Heather DeLagran & Lexy Harquail - Ocean School & River Institute
Naturalist Cabinet

Is there plastic lurking in your salt? Dive into an exciting hands-on experiment and find out. Once the experiment is complete, collaborate with your peers to get to the heart of the plastic pollution issue. Brainstorm challenges, connections, and solutions. Along the way, we will share three concrete climate-actions you can take to address the challenges you identify. Join our workshop and become a catalyst for environmental change. Make your commitment official by adding your pledge for change to our action-tree! 🌍❤️

THINK SMART! PROTOTYPING A CLIMATE CARD GAME

Erin Shupe & Madlyn Larson, Natural History Museum of Utah
Main Conference Room

Think Smart! is an in-development card game that is being created with teens who are interested in climate action. It aims to provide a fun way to engage in creative exploration, constructive conversations, and critical thinking about something that is often tricky to talk about – how to tackle the impacts of climate change! Join us in this final round of prototyping. Make your ideas heard before these cards go to print!

WHAT IF IT ALL GOES RIGHT? DRIVING CHANGE AS A VISIONARY LEADER

Mindy Hart-Audlin & Jenna Audlin - What If Up
Planet Adirondack

It's been said that transformation happens in circles, not in rows. This collaborative workshop introduces youth leaders to small-group processes for creating positive change. Participants will leverage their collective creativity in small groups to spark new ideas, rekindle hope, and inspire positive change. We will engage in activities that foster connection and creativity, while supporting each other to overcome challenges and bring good ideas to life.

Workshop Session 3

FIGHTING FAST FASHION THROUGH UPCYCLING

Sam Baker & Aurora Gallagher - Lake Placid Middle/High School & Paul Smith's College

Climate Solutions

Some people may look at soda cans, feed bags, and old clothes as something to be thrown away. We see it as an opportunity to create! Develop your craft skills and learn about waste as you upcycle trash into treasure!

COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION: PARTNERING WITH YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Dazzle Ekblad, Carlie Leary, Rochelle Daniels, Natalie Warner, and Caroline Dodd- NYS DEC Office of Climate Change, Adirondack North Country Association, & Clarkson University Institute for a Sustainable Environment

Flammer Theater

Want to think bigger than your home or school? This workshop will introduce you to climate action that affects your whole community. LEED for Communities and New York State's Climate Smart Communities certification programs offer roadmaps for community-led climate action. Come brainstorm with us about how you can partner with your local government on climate and sustainability projects.