



BECOME A CLIMATE LEADER

ACTION PLAN

SUSTAINABLE LIVING ASSOCIATION



TABLE OF CONTENTS & INTRODUCTION

- 
- 1- WELCOME TO CLIMATE LEADERSHIP
 - 2- STEPS TO CERTIFICATION
 - 3- JOINING THE SUMMIT
 - 4- ENGAGING IN EVENTS
 - 5- SHRINK YOUR FOOTPRINT
 - 6- SPARKING CONVERSATIONS
 - 7- REACHING OUT TO LEADERS
 - 8- VOLUNTEERING
 - 9- REFLECTION
 - 10-KEEPING MOMENTUM & EARNING A CERTIFICATE

Welcome to the Youth Climate Action initiative step-by-step guide to earning your Climate Leader Certification! This certification recognizes your dedication to sustainability and environmental stewardship.

What are you earning?

You are earning the Climate Leader Certification, a credential that highlights your active participation in climate action and leadership in promoting sustainability.

Why would you want this certificate?

This certification sets you apart as a proactive and conscientious individual. It enhances your resume, strengthens college applications, and demonstrates your commitment to environmental advocacy.

INTRODUCTION

Why Make a Plan

What skills do you gain from this?

- **Skill Development:** Build valuable skills in leadership, communication, and project management.
- **Networking:** Connect with like-minded individuals and professionals in the sustainability field.
- **Career Advancement:** Enhance your academic and professional profile with a recognized certification.
- **Personal Growth:** Gain a deeper understanding of climate issues and make a tangible impact.

What does it mean to be a Climate Leader?

A Climate Leader is passionate about the environment, takes initiative, shows resilience, collaborates effectively, and brings innovative solutions to climate challenges.

Steps to Earn Your Certification:

1. Attend an SLA Event: Participate in an event hosted by the Sustainable Living Association.
2. Calculate your environmental footprint.
3. Have a conversation about climate change.
4. Reach Out to a Government Official: Advocate for environmental policies.
5. Volunteer 10 Hours: Engage in meaningful community service projects.
6. Complete [Climate Leader Certification Proof and Reflection Form](#)
7. Submit your form to **kellie@SustainableLivingAssociation.org**

Complete these steps by filling out our form and sending it back to us. By becoming a Climate Leader, you join a community dedicated to creating a sustainable future. Let's get started on this exciting journey!

WELCOME *Take Action*

SLA SPONSORED EVENTS

Youth Climate Action

- You already took the first step by participating in this event! Be sure to tell your friends about it and plan to join the activities again next year.
- If you are interested in joining the youth-led planning committee that organizes both SLA events, just [email Kellie](#) and let her know.

Climate Leadership Summit

- If you are in high school you can attend this event at CSU on February 27, 2025.
- This Summit offers climate leadership training, career exploration in sustainable industries, and networking opportunities with educators and companies committed to sustainability.
- [Sign up today here!](#)

JUST CLICK ON THE UNDERLINED NAME AND YOU WILL BE SENT TO THE LINK FOR MORE INFO!

CONGRATULATIONS, YOU
HAVE ALREADY
COMPLETED **STEP 1!**

WHATS NEXT?



WELCOME

Let's get started

HOW CLIMATE-FRIENDLY IS YOUR LIFESTYLE?

Ecological Footprint

- Let's start by finding out how many planets it takes to support your current lifestyle.
- Are you surprised by your results?
- There is only 1 planet Earth so take action and do what can now!

Lifestyle changes to reduce your footprint:

- When it comes to living a sustainable lifestyle there are many choices you can make that reduce your impact:
 1. [SLA Resources](#): 25 easy actions.
 2. [Drawdown Ecochallenge](#): Challenge yourself and your community to encourage new sustainable habits—a platform to capture small steps that lead to a healthier world.

STEP 2: [Calculate your footprint](#), read about lifestyle changes and pick 2 or more changes you can make in your life.

WHATS NEXT?



TALK ABOUT *Climate Change*

TIPS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE CONVERSATIONS

*Why should we have
these conversations*

- We can't change what we don't talk about. It is important to start conversations and inspire others to care about this global issue.

Communicating Climate Guide

- Check out the "Communicating Climate Guide" which includes 4 useful tips on how to have productive conversations around climate change.

STEP 3: [Read this guide](#) and start a climate conversations with friends, family, peers, or even strangers

WHATS NEXT?



SPEAK OUT

Inspire Action

CONTACT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Who do I contact?

- Decide if you want to contact a local, state, and/or federal official.
- [Find your government representative!](#)

How do I do this?

- Once you have used this resources and found your local representatives send them a letter or an email.
- Here is a [template to start with for addressing your representative.](#)
- It's letters like these that show our representatives that as citizens we expect them to listen to our concerns and take action.

STEP 4: Write a letter or an email to a government official about an issue you care about. Making sure your voice is heard!

WHATS NEXT?



ACT ON IT *and Volunteer*

**GET HANDS ON EXPERIENCE AND
CONTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY CLIMATE
EFFORTS!**

Where do I volunteer?

- Research your local town or state projects.
- If you want to expand further you can look into US projects and global initiatives to participate in.

Complete 10+ hours

- You must volunteer for 10 or more hours at one or more sustainable projects.
- Log your hours on your [Climate Leader Certification Proof and Reflection Form](#)

STEP 5: We have provided some ideas of places and projects you could volunteer with next!

WHATS NEXT?



ACT ON IT and Volunteer

NATURAL AREAS LAND MANAGEMENT

CLICK ON THE UNDERLINED NAME AND YOU WILL BE SENT TO THE LINK FOR MORE INFO!

[Environmental Learning Center](#)

- Inspiring and educating people to connect with and become stewards of our natural world.

[City of Fort Collins](#)

- Managing and restoring land to its native state and educating others to do the same as a stewardship volunteer.

[Colorado Youth Corps](#)

- Find a conservation corps near you. Get involved as a critical partner in enhancing and maintaining Colorado's natural beauty and conserving precious energy and water resources.

[Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado](#)

- Become an active steward of Colorado's natural resources, connect to nature and care for our outdoor spaces.

Choose 1 or more of these volunteer opportunity and complete 10+ hours



ACT ON IT *and Volunteer*

WASTE MANAGEMENT AND FOOD SECURITY

FoCo Cafe

- FoCo Cafe's mission is to build community by providing nutritious and delicious meals to the people of Fort Collins regardless of their ability to pay, while using mostly local, organic, and sustainably grown ingredients.

Pick it up FoCo

- Join the community to stop single-use plastics and other waste in their tracks before they impact wildlife and our waterways

Vindeket

- Volunteer with a non-profit food rescue grocery store to reduce food waste and help the community

JUST CLICK ON THE UNDERLINED NAME AND YOU WILL BE SENT TO THE LINK FOR MORE INFO!

Choose 1 or more of these volunteer opportunity and complete 10+ hours



ACT ON IT and Volunteer

CARE FOR WILDLIFE

Rocky Mountain Raptor Program

- Provide a second chance at Freedom to hundreds of eagles, owls, hawks, and falcons. Help to inspire hearts and minds to conserve raptors and the spaces we share with them.

NCCO Wildlife Center

- Rehabilitate wildlife, educate and advocate for humans and wildlife to coexist.

Greenwood Wildlife

- Rehabilitate and re-introduce wildlife. Educate and participate in outreach programs.

WOLF Sanctuary

- Rescue and care for wolves in the sanctuary and educate the community about their importance and protection.

Choose 1 or more of these
volunteer opportunities and
complete 10+ hours



ACT ON IT and Volunteer

SUSTAINABLE FARMING, FOOD SECURITY AND COMMUNITY BUILDING

FoCo Cultural Enrichment Center.

- Promoting an environmentally and socially just local food system through agricultural experiences, education, community building, economic opportunities, and advocacy.

Sagrada Botanic Gardens.

- Working to foster, educate, and encourage the development of the Seed to Soul™ community lifestyle that dignifies the relationship of reciprocity between people and the planet.

Growing Food Security.

- A volunteer-based effort that strives to promote food security in both the CSU and Fort Collins communities.

Choose 1 or more of these
volunteer opportunity and
complete 10+ hours



ACT ON IT and Volunteer

GET INVOLVED INTERNATIONALLY

Trees Water People

- Working to improve lives by helping communities protect, conserve, and manage the natural resources on which their long-term well-being depends.

WWOBFING

- Connecting people who want to live and learn on organic farms with people who want to share their knowledge and way of life.

Work Away

- Connecting culture seekers, budget travellers and language learners with families, individuals or organisations that are looking for help with a range of varied and interesting activities.

Choose 1 or more of these
volunteer opportunity and
complete 10+ hours

WHATS NEXT?



KEEP US *Updated*

YOU'RE ALMOST DONE! REFLECT ON YOUR EXPERIENCE AS A CLIMATE LEADER

Write about your experience

Reflect on your favorite part about this experience and write about it. You'll find your reflection questions [HERE](#).

Getting your Certificate

Once you have completed the Climate Leader Series, submit your completed [Climate Leader Certification and Proof Form](#) to receive your digital certificate. Email to: Kellie@SustainableLivingAssociation.org.

STEP 6: Keep it up! You are just getting started, imagine how much more you could do and the people you can inspire.

LET'S DO THIS!



CONGRATULATIONS

YOU DID IT! DON'T STOP HERE STAY
INVOLVED AND KEEP MAKING A
DIFFERENCE



www.SustainableLivingAssociation.org