

# NORTHERN COLORADO YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION RESOURCES



Are you a youth in Northern Colorado  
that is ready to make a difference?



# INTRODUCTION

## Welcome to the Northern Colorado Youth Climate Action Resources!

Your one-stop hub for all things climate action in NoCo. Whether you're looking for hands-on volunteer opportunities, ways you can take action or just getting started on your climate journey, this resource guide is here to help you get involved and make a difference in your community.

This resource is designed for youth of all ages ranging from K-12th grade, college students and young adults just out of college. While some opportunities are age-specific, many are open to a broad range of participants, empowering young people to take meaningful climate action.

Inside, you'll find:

- **Youth Lead Events:** Activities and initiatives organized by young leaders to drive climate action and awareness.
- **City Run Events & Programs:** Local government-led opportunities to engage in sustainability efforts and community projects.
- **Outdoor Education:** Hands-on learning experiences in nature that explore environmental issues and conservation.
- **Festivals:** Community gatherings celebrating sustainability, climate action, and environmental awareness.
- **Volunteer Opportunities:** Find ways to get involved and gain experience in climate-focused roles.

This is a living document, updated to ensure the information stays relevant. Be sure to check back for new opportunities and updates.

Ready to get started? Use the **Table of Contents** to navigate to the section that interests you most!

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

# SLA YOUTH SERIES

**Ages: 15-25**

## SLA SPONSORED EVENTS

### Climate Leadership Summit

**Age: 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**February 2026, at CSU**

This Summit offers climate leadership training, career exploration in sustainable industries, and networking opportunities with educators and companies committed to sustainability.

### Youth Climate Action

**Age: 15-25**

**September 2026, in FoCo**

Be one of 100 local youths between the ages of 15-25 participating in various service-learning projects that connect you with nature & teach you about the power of giving back to community.

[Sign up today here!](#)



### Energy&Environment Leadership Symposium

**Age: 15-25**

**October 2025 at UNC Greeley**

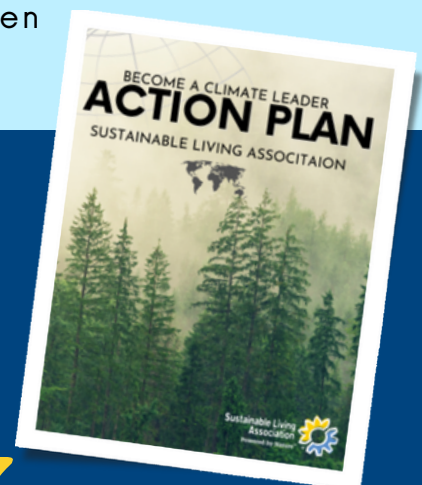
EELS is hosting their 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Symposium! This year the Sustainable Living Association is teaming up with them to open the event to more youth voices from around Colorado!



UNIVERSITY OF  
**NORTHERN  
COLORADO**

### Do you want to be a Climate Leader?

This resource allows you to take action on making a difference in your life and your community. By following all the steps and submitting your form you can get a certificate from SLA to show you are taking action





# YOUTH LEAD EVENTS

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

## Colorado Youth Climate Summit

**Age: 16+**

**May 2-3, 2025, in Carbondale, CO**

The CYCS initiative, taking place on, empowers youth to tackle climate change impacts. Participants work with sustainability experts, policymakers, and peers to enhance their skills and resilience.

## Denver Public Schools STEAM Expo

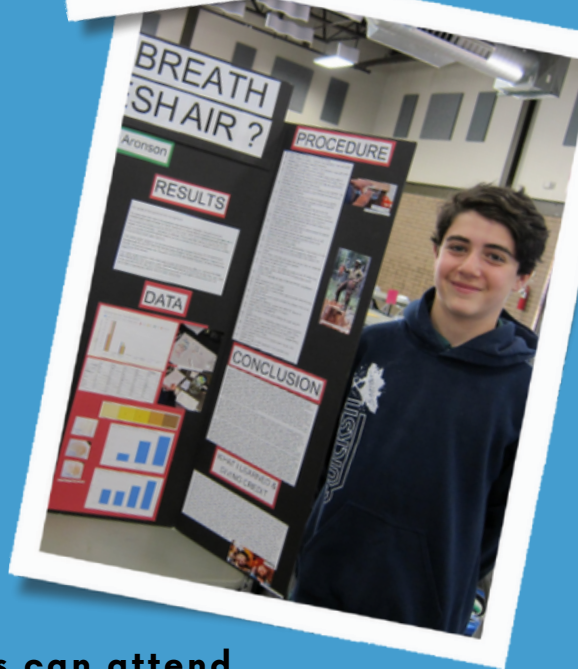
**Age: All**

A day-long event celebrating creativity and innovation in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Movement/Media Literacy. Showcase your projects, participate in hands-on activities, and explore how STEAM can inspire positive change.

## San Juan Resilience Youth Summit

**Ages: Middle and Highschool presenters- All ages can attend**

Once a year, students from the San Juans gather to present their environmental resilience projects. Peers and community members can attend various breakout sessions and engage with student presenters during a poster symposium.



## Do you want to start a Youth Climate Summit?

Anyone can organize a Youth Climate Summit with support from **The Wild Center**. They offer free resources to help **you** design a summit for your community, including facilitator guides, planning timelines, and sample agendas.

# CITY RESOURCES

## Fort Collins Youth Education Programs Utilities

Fort Collins Utilities provides outreach and education for students and adults about our four utilities - water, wastewater, stormwater and electric.



## Speak with your City Council Member!

While you can go to City Council and talk there in-person, you can also 'talk' to your City Councilmember over email and at events, which can have a BIG impact.



## Our Climate Future

**Did you know that the City of Fort Collins has sustainability goals?** Our Climate Future (OCF) is the community guide to reduce pollution and waste and adapt to our changing climate in Fort Collins, with a focus on people's day-to-day needs.

## **Make a Change at a State Level!**

## CO Youth Advisory Council

Advise state legislators on issues most relevant to youth and build relationships between youth and elected leaders



# CITY EVENTS & PROGRAMS

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

## Fort Collins Natural Areas

**Age: K-12**

They offers place-based learning through field trips and classroom visits. Activities align with curriculum standards, and detailed lesson plans are available on the website.

## Larimer County Solid Waste Garage Education Center

They offer an interactive experience where visitors learn about waste, recycling, and landfill operations. With engaging displays for all ages, including a "Mountain of Trash" tunnel, the center explores waste reduction and sustainable alternatives.

## Larimer County Department of Natural Resources

They offer life and earth science programs that are hands-on, interactive, support Colorado state science standards and inspire stewardship of our natural resources.





# OUTDOOR & HANDS ON EDUCATION

Ages: All

## Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

Connects people of all ages to nature through bird-focused education and experiences. The conservancy fosters appreciation for birds and their role in the environment.

## Colorado Youth Outdoors

Provides hands-on outdoor activities such as fishing, survival skills, archery, and shooting sports on 220 acres, with equipment supplied. Programs emphasize social-emotional learning and can include optional lessons on ecology, conservation, and history.

## Environmental Learning Center

The CSU Warner College offers a variety of programs including K-12 programs, summer camps and after school programs. Their programs are dedicated to inspire and educate people to connect with and become stewards of our natural world.

## Gardens on Spring Creek

They provide engaging, hands-on science education programs, focusing on the landscapes and animals present. After tours, groups can enjoy the Children's Garden.



**NOCO BEET** is a collaborative of Environmental Education organizations working together to further the impact and quality of environmental education in northern Colorado.

Their mission is to cultivate a network of Northern Colorado educators who collaborate, support, and provide resources to increase student access to impactful and effective environmental education.

# OUTDOOR & HANDS ON EDUCATION

Ages: K-12

## Cache La Poudre National Heritage Area

Learning in Our Watershed (LIOW) engages students with the history and natural habitats of the Cache la Poudre River through experiential outdoor education. By collaborating with local museums and organizations.

## CO State Forest Service

Education about trees and forestry through Project Learning Tree (PLT). This initiative provides educators with resources and training for environmental education and offers free outdoor activities for families to connect children with nature.

## High Plains Environmental Center

Highlights native ecosystems within a 3,000-acre suburban area, providing a "living laboratory" for visitors. Explore demonstration gardens, trails, and educational programs. Learn about native plants and eco-friendly practices.

## Poudre Learning Center

Offers field experiences and stewardship action programs to empower K-12 students. They help educate students through outdoor education

## Rocky Mountain National Park

They offers free in-person and virtual interactive programming, allowing students to explore and learn about the park's resources.





# OUTDOOR & HANDS ON EDUCATION

**Ages: Specific Grades**

## Central CO Water Conservancy District

**Ages: 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>**

The goal of The Children's Water Festival is to allow students to dive deeper into water related issues that face the South Platte River Basin, where our food comes from and how to be better stewards of our natural resources.

## City of Loveland Open Lands & Trails

**Ages: pre K through 9<sup>th</sup>**

They have conserved over 5,000 acres and manage numerous natural areas and trails, including the Big Thompson River Trail and others. They offer environmental education, volunteer opportunities and more!

## YMCA of the Rockies - Estes Park Center

**Ages: 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>**

Provides residential environmental education, focusing on outdoor, standards-based learning on its 860-acre site near Rocky Mountain National Park.





# SEAL OF CLIMATE LITERACY

## Empowering Students for a Sustainable Future

Preparing high school students to take the lead in addressing the economic and social impacts of a changing climate.

The Seal of Climate Literacy is a certification given by a local education provider (LEP) to students who have studied principles of climate literacy and demonstrated their understanding of these principles through hands-on learning by or before their high school graduation.

The skills gained through this certification pave the way for empowering students to thrive in a rapidly evolving environment. By integrating local climate-related challenges into the curriculum, partnering with local experts, and providing hands-on training and community engagement opportunities, the Seal of Climate Literacy prepares students for a future grounded in resilience.

## What It Takes To Earn The Seal

To earn the Seal of Climate Literacy, Colorado students must meet minimum graduation requirements and successfully complete:

- A high school science course
- A course incorporating climate literacy standards
- An experiential learning project approved by their school

These requirements ensure that students gain a well-rounded understanding of climate change, its impacts, and potential solutions, while also actively engaging in hands-on experiences that foster a sense of agency and responsibility.



Get in contact with your teachers to see how your school is participating in the Seal of Climate Literacy!

# FESTIVALS

All Ages

## Earth Day Fort Collins

**April 19th, 11a.m.- 5p.m.  
Civic Central Park**

Inspires community members to honor the Earth EVERY DAY and features a combination of activities and events for the entire family, including informational booths and displays, kids activities, arts & crafts, live music, speakers, food trucks, farmers market and a beer garden.

## FoCo EcoFest

**June 14 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Washington Park**

An environmentally-focused and free event. Delve into the City of Fort Collins' ambitious climate initiatives in a vibrant atmosphere filled with food trucks, live music, informational booths, educational presentations and family-friendly activities.



DANCE • FUN • BOOTHS • DEMOS • YOGA • ART • FOOD • SPEAKERS



GET INSPIRED.  
TAKE ACTION.

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteering is one of the best ways to make a direct impact on your community and the environment. Whether you're passionate about conservation, climate advocacy, or sustainable living, there are countless organizations in Northern Colorado looking for dedicated volunteers like you!

Most volunteer opportunities **require participants to be 18 or older**, but many organizations welcome younger volunteers with a guardian present. If you're in **K-12**, don't hesitate to explore these resources. **Many offer youth programs, special project days, field trips, and hands-on learning experiences** designed for students.

Check out the opportunities listed here and find a way to contribute that excites you. Every effort, big or small, plays a role in protecting our planet!

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Natural Areas Land Management
- Waste Management & Food Security
- Care for Wildlife
- Sustainable Farming & Community Building

**Ask your school about volunteer opportunities!**



# VOLUNTEER

## NATURAL AREAS LAND MANAGEMENT

### [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](#)

**Age: 14+**

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.

### [Environmental Learning Center](#)

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

### [Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado](#)

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



# VOLUNTEER

## WASTE MANAGEMENT AND FOOD SECURITY

### FOCO Cafe

**Age: All**

Their 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

**Ages: All**

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

### Vindeket Foods

**Age: 8+**

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





# VOLUNTEER

## CARE FOR WILDLIFE

### Greenwood Wildlife

**Age: 18+**

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



#### **How Kids Can Help**

How Kids Can Help Request a Project!  
Greenwood cannot allow youth to volunteer...

[greenwoodwildlife.org](http://greenwoodwildlife.org)

### NOCO Wildlife Center

**Age: 10+**

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

### Rocky Mountain Raptor Program

**Age: 18+**

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.

### WOLF Sanctuary

**Age: 18+**

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





# VOLUNTEER

## SUSTAINABLE FARMING AND COMMUNITY BUILDING

### FoCo Cultural Enrichment Center

**Age: 18+**

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

### Growing Food Security

**Age: 18+**

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

### Loveland Youth Gardeners

**Age: 18+, Youth can get involved**

They operate a youth-led urban farm where young people learn new skills, form healthy connections, and spend restorative time in nature.

### Sagrada Botanic Gardens

**Age: All**

An outdoor community gathering space where all ages can use the land to learn to garden and steward the land



# WHERE TO START?

## Your Climate Action Journey Starts Today!

Feeling inspired? We hope that something in this guide sparked your interest. Whether it's volunteering, joining a club, attending an event, or even starting your own initiative. There are countless ways to get involved, and every small step adds up to a big impact.

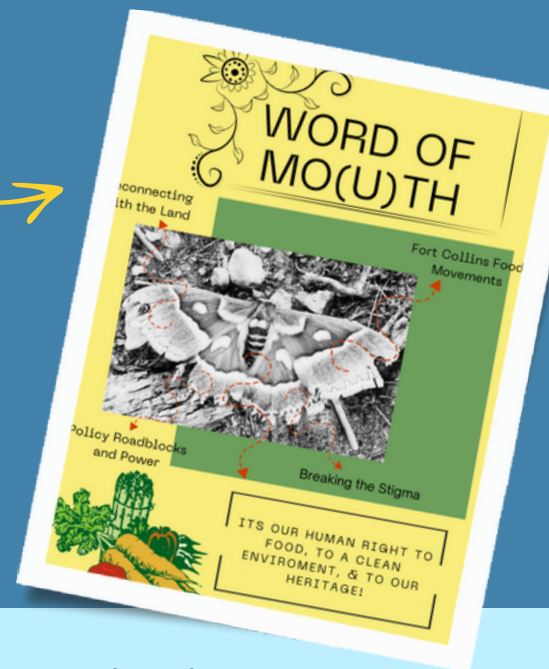
## More Ways to Take Action Beyond This Guide...

Here are a few extra steps you can take to amplify your impact:

- **Talk with Local Leaders:** Communicate with officials about climate issues.
- **Start a Climate Club:** Advocate for sustainability and organize projects. Talk to your teachers about starting a club!
- **Reduce Your Carbon Footprint:** Make eco-friendly choices daily.
- **Collaborate with Organizations:** Join forces with environmental groups for greater impact. Reach out to these organizations and ask how you can get involved.
- **Explore the "Word of Mouth Zine":** This document examines the intersection of the right to food, clean environment, and human rights, highlighting challenges posed by industrial agriculture and its impact on Indigenous communities in Fort Collins, Colorado.

## Your Actions Matter!

Climate action is about taking consistent, meaningful steps that lead to real change. Utilize the resources in this guide, stay connected, and continue learning. Every effort, no matter how small, contributes to a healthier planet and a more sustainable future.



Do you know of an event or program that should be on this document? Please reach out to **X** or fill out our Google Form stating the Northern Colorado Youth resource, adding an explanation of what it is and link. We will review it and you may be featured in the document.



# GET INVOLVED AND KEEP MAKING A DIFFERENCE

If you ever need guidance or have new ideas to share, reach out to local organizations or community leaders. The movement needs your energy, passion, and creativity!



[www.fcgov.com](http://www.fcgov.com)



[www.SustainableLivingAssociation.org](http://www.SustainableLivingAssociation.org)