

## Youth Climate Pledge

Created at the 2008 Global Youth Leadership Summit in New York

By definition, a pledge is a promise, but it carries a much stronger meaning with it. Countries, citizens, politicians, religious leaders, and movements have made pledges over the centuries to enforce their commitment to a cause or belief. The word pledge seems to demand commitment from those involved and action is almost always expected to follow it.

Here is your pledge. Developed, created, and refined by you, this pledge serves as a foundation for your climate change efforts. We take the word "pledge" seriously. Do you? You have shown that these items are important to you; now is the time to use personal power, collective power, and institutional power to bring the pledge from paper to the real world.

### My Home:

1. Purchase energy efficient products
2. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
3. Turn off lights
4. Avoid wasting water by taking short showers and turning off running water
5. Waste less food and reuse waste by composting

### My School:

1. Involve school board and administration to get energy efficient technology and curriculum infused with environmental issues
2. Recycle in every classroom
3. Turn off anything unused at night
4. Use recycled or recyclable furniture, carpet, etc. within the school building
5. Educate peers and their families on environmental concerns and how they can take action
6. Reduce paper copies and print double-sided

### My Community:

1. Encourage public transportation, walking, biking, and carpooling
2. Involve local government in environmental issues such as protecting local ecosystems and biodiversity, waste management, and recycling
3. Protect and encourage the use of public parks, forests, and other green areas
4. Grant funding to low income areas for developing sustainable programs
5. Convert waste to energy and electricity

### My Country:

1. Create more green areas by planting trees, reforestation, and protecting national parks
2. Develop and use alternative energy sources such as wind, biofuel, solar, hydroelectric, geothermal, and nuclear power
3. Provide tax credits, government incentives, and funding for sustainable programs and behaviors
4. Conserve and reuse water and other limited resources
5. Develop environmental education programs and fund student efforts to learn about environmental solutions

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