



Series of webinars

## Climate change education for social transformation: Whole-institution approach to greening every school

Season 2: On the road to COP28

Please register here:

[https://unesco-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_TKLRzvgER\\_GqI3d0XAlffa](https://unesco-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TKLRzvgER_GqI3d0XAlffa)

Following the success of the [first series of eight monthly conversations on climate change education for social transformation on the road to COP27](#) which gathered 15,000 participants from 184 countries focusing on greening every education policy and curriculum, UNESCO and UNFCCC are launching a second series of six webinars, from May to December, on greening schools on the road to COP28 in Dubai, UAE.

The discussions will focus on how to ensure that all learning institutions, from early childhood through adult education, are climate-ready and integrate a whole-institution approach to ESD to transform their teaching and learning, school facilities and operation, school governance and community engagement. The webinars feed into the [ACE Hub](#), an initiative launched by UNFCCC and the German Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia in 2022 to foster education and public awareness, training, public access to information and participation in climate action.

## Background

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- The climate crisis, as other interconnected global challenges, requires an urgent response. At COP27 in 2022, the UN Secretary-General emphasized “we are on a highway to climate hell with our foot still on the accelerator,” as we struggle to transform our societies to reach the 1.5-degree path recommended by the Paris Agreement. In an increasingly complex and interconnected world with a real, existential threat such as climate change, there is a growing call for education to enable individuals, as agents of change, to acquire knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes that lead to green transition of our societies, as enshrined in SDG Target 4.7, and, indeed, in the entire 2030 Agenda.
- However, the recent UNESCO global survey report ‘[Youth demands for quality climate change education](#)’ reveals that 70% of the 17,000 young people surveyed question the quality of the climate change education they receive and one out of five report that they do not feel prepared for climate change based on what they have learnt at school. The key findings of this report was the basis of the [Ministerial Session on climate education](#) at COP27, where Ministers of Education and Environment and young people addressed concrete ways to transform education to tackle climate change. This global survey recalls the [2021 Berlin declaration on Education for Sustainable Development \(ESD\)](#), which called for “climate action as a core curriculum component,” and the [Youth Declaration at the Transforming Education Summit](#), which demanded “decision-makers to invest in education for sustainable development across curricula, particularly climate education to build skills and knowledge needed to build resilience, mitigate the impacts of the climate crisis and ensure climate justice”.
- UNESCO global framework on ESD for the period 2020-2030, entitled ‘[Education for Sustainable Development: Towards achieving the SDGs \(ESD for 2030\)](#)’, was adopted with the aim of increasing the contribution of education to respond to the urgent challenges and build a more just and sustainable world. The [ESD for 2030 roadmap](#) underlines the implementation of the framework, stressing ESD’s role for the successful achievement of the 17 SDGs and the individual and societal transformation needed to address the current sustainability challenges.
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) article 6 and article 12 of the Paris Agreement calls for [Action for Climate Empowerment \(ACE\)](#), which includes the key role of education to facilitate a green societal transformation. Following the establishment of the ten-year [Glasgow work programme ACE](#) and its [action plan](#), Parties to the Convention and other stakeholders are further expected to collaborate on, promote, facilitate, develop and implement formal and non-formal education and training programmes focused on climate change at all levels. Specific recommendations include integrating climate change learning into the curricula of schools and other institutions that provide formal education; supporting non-formal and informal education on climate change, including respect for and inclusion of indigenous and traditional knowledge; and strengthening education, training, and skills development in national institutions to deliver action on climate change learning.
- In order to accelerate urgent action, the [Greening Education Partnership](#) was launched during the Transforming Education Summit as a global initiative to deliver strong, coordinated, and comprehensive action to advance and improve the implementation of climate change education. The partnership encourages countries and key stakeholders

to focus on 4 action areas: *Greening Schools, Greening Curriculum, Greening Teacher Training and Education Systems' Capacities, Greening Communities*. To date, more than 300 organizations expressed their interest in joining the partnership.

## Programme of the series

Outline	
<b>3 May 2023</b> <b>12:00 CEST</b>	<b>What is a <i>green school</i>?</b> <p>A “green school” may be understood as an educational institution that delivers knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes to promote social, economic, cultural, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development through a whole-institution approach to Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in its teaching and learning, facilities and operations, school governance and community partnerships. The discussion will kick off the series of conversations on what it means to embrace a whole-institution approach to ESD, with a particular focus on climate change.</p>
<b>20 June 2023</b> <b>10:00 CEST</b>	<b>What does a climate-proof and climate-ready school look like?</b> <p>Reflects on how to transform learning environments to ensure that facilities and operations embody sustainability principles in response to climate change. The conversation will also explore how school governance and culture become inclusive and participatory.</p>
<b>25 July 2023</b> <b>14:00 CEST</b>	<b>How can schools collaborate with communities?</b> <p>Explores ways in which schools can engage with community members to contextualize and enrich the content of climate change learning as well as serves as innovation hubs for building climate resilient communities.</p>
<b>12 Sept 2023</b> <b>10:00 CEST</b>	<b>How can transformative learning environments shape the learning content?</b> <p>Discusses how these reflections on school facilities and operations, school governance and community engagement can be widened into teaching and learning on climate change to ensure holistic learning environments where learners can live what they learn and learn what they live.</p>
<b>31 Oct 2023</b> <b>12:30 CET</b>	<b>Getting ready to promote greening schools at COP28</b> <p>Presents key messages and strategies to promote the greening of every school, particularly around COP28. The conversation will share green schools’ good practices in view of the UNESCO green school quality standard.</p>
<b>12 Dec 2023</b> <b>14:00 CET</b>	<b>Post-COP28 greening schools: Where do we go from here?</b> <p>Closes Season 2 by looking back at COP28 and its key takeaways, achievements, commitments, and ways forward on how to promote climate change education for social transformation including greening schools.</p>

## Working languages

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The webinars are conducted in English. Live interpretation in French and Spanish will be provided. Written interactions during the webinar are available in English, French, and Spanish.

## Technical specifications

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The webinars are organized on the platform Zoom and a YouTube livestream will be provided. The detailed agenda of each session and the link to access the session are shared in advance through the online page for the series.

## Organizers and partners

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The series of webinars is co-organized by UNESCO and UNFCCC.

## Contact

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- Section of Education for Sustainable Development, Education Sector, UNESCO at [future.esd@unesco.org](mailto:future.esd@unesco.org)
- Action for Climate Empowerment team, UNFCCC at [ace@unfccc.int](mailto:ace@unfccc.int).

More details will be made available on the [UNESCO ESD webpage](#) and UNFCCC ACE [Hub](#).