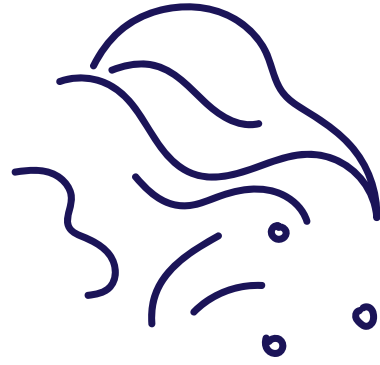


# CREATING YOUTH CLIMATE COUNCILS: A Step-by-Step Guide for Young People





## PURPOSE OF THIS TOOLKIT

This toolkit has been created to help young people establish a youth climate council in their city. As the urgency to take immediate and ambitious climate action grows, it is important that young people like you are actively involved in shaping and driving climate action within your cities and communities. This resource will guide you through the process of bringing dedicated young people together, gathering your ideas, reaching out to local city representatives, and finally: creating an institutional mechanism for strong and effective youth participation in your city's climate decision-making!



## ABOUT C40 CITIES

C40 is a network of nearly 100 mayors of the world's leading cities. Together, they work to deliver the urgent action needed right now to confront the climate crisis and create a future where everyone, everywhere, can thrive. Mayors of C40 cities collaborate with a broad coalition of representatives from labour, business, and civil society, to go further and faster than ever before.

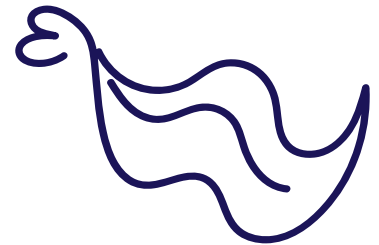
C40 has also cultivated meaningful relationships with young people, academic institutions, city leaders, and other stakeholders. Through these partnerships and beyond, C40 champions youth leadership and effective youth engagement and empowerment in cities.



## ABOUT THE YOUTH CLIMATE COUNCIL GLOBAL ALLIANCE

The Youth Climate Council Global Alliance (YCC GA) is a youth-led community consisting of seven youth climate councils – advisory bodies and platforms that all share the aim of influencing climate policy-making and raising ambition to fight the climate crisis. Together in this alliance, the councils advocate for youth inclusion in climate decision-making processes.

The YCC GA is active globally, promoting the participation of young people in shaping climate policies at international events as well as regional climate weeks. Over the years, the YCC GA has cooperated with a wide range of stakeholders – from non-governmental organisations, movements, and groups to international organisations, institutions, governments and political stakeholders.



# GLOSSARY

## YOUTH CLIMATE COUNCIL:

A youth-led advisory body or collaborative platform supporting a given institution to enhance inclusion and accessibility in environmental and climate-related decision-making processes.

## CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (CAP):

A documented plan comprising policies, programmes, and measures aimed at the climate crisis. It represents stepped-up action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen resilience, and improve adaptation for climate-induced impacts.

## C40 CITY YOUTH ENGAGEMENT NETWORK (CYEN):

A learning platform that helps to increase youth participation in city climate action. Provides a space where city officials can collaborate and share knowledge with peers in other cities.

## C40 YOUTH HUB:

A platform that connects youth climate leaders globally to each other and C40, to collaborate, share knowledge and help shape city-led climate action.

## INCLUSIVE CLIMATE ACTION:

Climate action that considers how people and communities may be impacted – both by the climate crisis and by the actions designed to address it. Inclusive climate action takes into account residents' health, economic status, and location within a city to ensure they benefit from – and are not harmed by – climate actions.

## YOUTH COUNCIL:

A youth-led advisory or collaborative platform body focusing on youth rights, needs, and activities. It helps strengthen the civil engagement of young people in a given location.

## EQUITY:

Equity exists where all groups of people are able to access basic human rights – regardless of their social or economic circumstances; any aspect of their identity; or where they live. An equitable society must work to remove or rectify any and all avoidable differences in people's access to these rights.

# FOREWORD

I have witnessed firsthand the incredible impact that young people like you have in addressing the climate crisis. Your involvement in driving meaningful change on climate change at all levels of governance including at the city level is not just important - it is essential. Young people bring new ideas, dynamic energy, and fresh perspectives that are vital for strengthening climate resilience and sustainable development.

In Freetown, we support young people in ways that matter to them and their communities. We're creating opportunities for young people to meaningfully participate in the city's climate decision making processes. By establishing a youth climate council in Freetown, we're working to ensure that young people's voices are represented and have a real, tangible impact in their communities.

Cities and mayors must adopt an inclusive approach to climate action planning, decision making and implementation processes. We must build a movement around city-led climate action that includes everyone, especially those who will be most affected by our climate action efforts for generations to come. In Freetown we have worked with young people to deliver our pioneering Freetown the TreeTown initiative, we have trained over 3000 youths and have planted 977,000 trees with the overall objective of restoring around 3,000 hectares of land, preventing landslides and sequestering approximately 100,000 tonnes of carbon emissions, while also providing good, green jobs for young people in our city.

This toolkit on establishing youth climate councils is an important resource. It provides practical guidance for youth to collaborate effectively with cities in establishing mechanisms for young people to play a decisive role in urban climate action.



It offers insights and actionable steps to harness young people's views, voices and ideas in climate action. Young people can use it to organise, advocate and take a leading role in climate action in their cities.

I encourage you to use this toolkit to help spark ideas and conversations with your fellow youth climate leaders about promoting effective and meaningful collaboration between your fellow youth and your city. As a mayor, I am positive that your city leaders will be excited to partner with you in accelerating inclusive climate action. By using this resource, we can drive forward meaningful collaboration between young people and cities, ensuring that together we can address the urgency of the climate crisis and secure liveable cities for future generations.

Thank you.



**Mayor Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr  
of Freetown  
C40 Cities Co-Chair**



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## INTRODUCTION

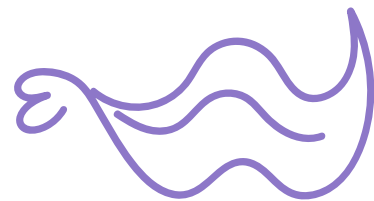
Over the past few years, young people have proven that they are eager to share their points of view, ideas, and suggestions with those in power. They have been using different approaches, methods, and tools to do so, but they know one thing is certain – they are the last generation that can still address the climate crisis before it is too late.

Young people have raised their voices in international politics, they have mobilised their peers, and created communities across regions – but for most young people, the climate journey started at home. This may be the case for you. It may have been here, in your local area, where you participated in your first climate strike, interacted with your local decision-makers, or talked with your friends and family, and realised that something needs to change. And most importantly, that you cannot let that something be the climate.

Does this sound familiar? Have you had these thoughts? Have you wanted to make a difference in your local community but did not know where to start? Maybe you have already figured out a concrete plan to make your neighbourhood a better place – but you do not know how to start a conversation with the people who can help you make it happen.

Over the past few years, several youth groups have been working on a way to bring young people closer to climate policy and decision-making, and have come up with the idea of youth climate councils (YCC). These are essentially either collaborative platforms or advisory bodies associated with a climate, energy, and/or environment authority. This authority could either be national or local to a specific region or city – the exact details will differ from one country to another depending on various social and political factors.

## OVERVIEW OF THE YOUTH CLIMATE COUNCILS WITHIN THE YCC GLOBAL ALLIANCE



Currently, seven YCCs around the world have joined the Youth Climate Council Global Alliance (YCC GA). Of these, six are active on the national level and one is city-based.<sup>1</sup>

The **Danish Youth Climate Council** was established in 2019 as an advisory body to the Ministry of Climate, Energy and Utilities. It is made up of 14 members, aged 18–28, and has been given a two-year mandate. The council's activities focus on engaging young people and amplifying their voices; influencing political processes; and participating in the public debate on climate change and energy transition. The Danish YCC has organised more than 100 events in just one year – from talks at municipalities, schools, and even on

boats, to panel debates and speeches at multiple large industry conferences. It has developed a set of energy recommendations for the ministry, divided into three topics: electrical energy, bio-based energy, and energy efficiency.

The **Polish Youth Climate Council** was established in 2020 as an advisory body to the Ministry of Climate and Environment. It has 32 members, aged 15–26, and, like the Danish YCC, has been given a two-year mandate. The YCC focuses on climate and environmental education, energy transformation, and communication. Its members also consult on legal documents that the ministry is working on.

<sup>1</sup> This toolkit published by the Youth Climate Council Global Alliance provides stories and best practice examples from around the world on the establishment of youth climate councils at the country level: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jl1Qkly8h-LgDcJJUc7Ykb7igNIBpmU1/view>

The **Dutch Youth Climate Council** was established in 2020 as an advisory body to the Directorate of Environment within the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management. It has around 20 active members aged 15–27, and is open to anyone under the age of 30 who wishes to join.

The creation of the **Ghanaian Youth Climate Council** was officially announced in 2021. It serves as a platform for young people to raise awareness on climate-related issues and get involved in climate policy-making. The YCC focuses on creating an avenue for collaboration among youth, governmental, and non-governmental stakeholders. It also works to bridge knowledge and policy gaps through consultation and other capacity-building initiatives. Currently, the YCC cooperates with 2,000 young people and over 1,000 organisations.

The **Costa Rican Youth Climate Council** was established in 2023 and, like the YCC in Ghana, it provides a platform for young people to engage in climate decision-making. It comprises around 30 people, who are working to analyse recently passed climate and environmental policies as well as those that are currently being drafted. It aims to identify when and how young people can be involved in co-creating these and future policies.

The **Ugandan Youth Climate Council** was established in 2023, and serves as a platform providing more than 500 young people with opportunities to collaborate and engage in the climate policy discourse. The YCC works closely with the Children and Youth Department of the Ministry of Water and Environment as well as non-governmental stakeholders.

The YCCs in Denmark, Poland, the Netherlands, Ghana, Costa Rica, and Uganda all operate at a national level. However, one YCC within the YCC GA was set up to work specifically at the local level.

The **Youth Climate Council in São Paulo** was established in 2022. The young people behind this YCC realised that certain factors – such as the size of the country and its political approach to climate issues – meant it would be most effective to implement their first YCC on a city scale instead of nationally. Although the São Paulo YCC is not an official body to the city council, it has successfully mobilised hundreds of young people through public consultation, conferences, and thematic events. Its activities are organised around four pillars: (I) participation and policy, (II) movement building and training, (III) communication and outreach, and (IV) international cooperation. To date the YCC has organised public consultations, 12 meetings with legislators, and five meetings with federal decision-makers. It has also played a crucial role in establishing a national coalition, consisting of over 100 members and more than 50 organisations.

The São Paulo YCC is the only member of the alliance that operates at a city level – so far. Could you be among the young people who establish the next city-based YCCs?



# LOCALISATION OF YOUTH CLIMATE COUNCILS



There are different approaches that you can take to influence climate policy-making. Some young people decide to join youth climate movements that organise strikes and demonstrations, while others get involved in school-orientated initiatives, engaging educators to commit to addressing the climate crisis.

You may also be interested in joining an existing youth council, if there is one active in your city. While some youth bodies may not have an existing focus on climate issues, you can help promote this as a priority. For example, you could consider inviting climate scientists and activists to raise awareness on the climate crisis and why it is essential to take action. You can also initiate a dedicated working group or a subcommittee within your youth council that would focus on the climate problem. Reach out to city officials who are responsible for local climate policies. Discuss how young people could be involved in climate

action and decision and policy-making processes. Take a look at the following section for inspiration, and gather any questions and points that you want to consider, before talking to city representatives about a climate-focused working group.

In some cities or countries there may not be any existing youth councils. In other places, there may be youth councils but you want to have an even bigger impact on climate politics in your community. In this case, you may consider proposing the establishment of a local YCC – a dedicated body that can help you shape climate policies on a local level.

Many will ask: Where do I start? Some may also say that it is “easier said than done”. But this is not true! It may seem hard – but if you are motivated enough and willing to make a difference, it is entirely possible.





# ESTABLISHING A LOCAL YOUTH CLIMATE COUNCIL



Cities globally are taking meaningful steps to ensure that young people can actively engage in city-led climate action. Several C40 Cities already have youth climate councils or equivalent bodies, which have already had an impact. In Auckland, youth recommendations helped shape the city's 10 year climate budget. Los Angeles connects young people with city resources and local NGOs to achieve their climate goals. Quezon City integrated climate and environment into school curricula, making climate education more accessible. Seattle has provided young people with a platform to help shape the city's transportation future, which in 2022 led to legislation that introduced free public transport for under-18's.

The C40 Youth Engagement Playbook<sup>2</sup> contains additional case studies on how cities are driving innovative approaches to youth engagement with impactful outcomes.

Drawing from the experiences of the Youth Climate Council Global Alliance and insights from C40 Cities, the following steps outline a process you can follow to establish and sustain a YCC or equivalent platform in your city.



## STEP 1

### IDENTIFY THE GOAL AND OPPORTUNITIES OF CITY-YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

**Define your objectives for working with the city on climate action initiatives.**

#### **Reflect on the purpose of youth engagement:**

- Start by identifying the main reasons for wanting to work with the city on climate. This will help you think through the next steps, and enable you to share openly with the city your vision of the impact you'd like to make with them.

#### **Types of engagement may include:**

- Policy input: Involving youth in shaping city climate policies.
- Awareness and education: Organising events or campaigns to raise awareness about climate change to other young people, the wider public or specific stakeholders.
- Project design and implementation: Engaging youth in the planning, implementation and monitoring of climate projects and high impact actions.

<sup>2</sup> The C40 Youth Engagement Playbook has been informed by insights shared by youth climate leaders and contributions from 15 cities. It includes case studies showcasing a variety of approaches to meaningful youth engagement that have driven increased and more inclusive climate action: [www.c40.org/what-we-do/building-a-movement/youth-engagement/playbook/](http://www.c40.org/what-we-do/building-a-movement/youth-engagement/playbook/)

## STEP 2

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### ANALYSE THE TRAJECTORY OF YOUTH ADVOCACY ON CLIMATE CHANGE

**Evaluate the ways your city is being impacted by the climate crisis and the trajectory of local youth advocacy on climate action.**

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Start by gathering an overview of youth participation in your city, then begin to look more closely at your local youth climate scene. Questions you can ask include:

- Have young people organised any climate advocacy initiatives, strikes, or demonstrations in my community?
- Are there any climate activists or advocates trying to raise awareness of climate change in the local media or online?

You should also look into whether youth climate advocacy and/or activism has been a thing in your city historically. Consider talking to your relatives, teachers, or people who may be aware of anything important that happened in the past! It would also be worth checking out some old newspapers or information online to see whether any efforts were being made to raise awareness on youth climate engagement in past years.

Finally, try to analyse why young people in your community should care about climate change. How is the community being impacted by the climate crisis? Why is this topic important? Make sure that you know why you are trying to make a difference, and why more people should be involved.



## STEP 3

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### REFLECT ON YOUR CITY'S PAST AND ONGOING ENGAGEMENT WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

**Analyse how young people have been engaged in your city's climate action and decision-making processes so far. Understand their interests, challenges, and the opportunities they have been offered. Then, use these insights to plan your engagement with the city.**

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Start by analysing what youth engagement has looked like in your city up to now. You may begin by asking the following questions:

- How have young people engaged in local activities, initiatives, and decision-making in general?
- What are local young people interested in and how have their needs been addressed over the years?
- What platforms and opportunities have been offered to young people and how have they responded?<sup>3</sup>
- What has been best received by local young people?
- Are there strong mechanisms for youth participation in place? If yes, how are they built? If not, why not? What can we learn from young people's experiences with using these mechanisms?
- What institutions have supported youth-related initiatives – for example, schools, universities, the city council, or individual policy-makers?
- Does the city's climate action plan (CAP) focus in any way on youth participation? Can you find a way to use it as a guiding document when establishing a YCC?

Reflect on your findings and identify the key strengths, opportunities, and gaps in youth engagement in your city. Then, use your findings to inform your plans to establish a YCC. This is key to keep your plans relevant and appropriate to your local context. In this way, you can be sure that your efforts will effectively empower young people to contribute to climate action and decision-making in your city.



## STEP 4

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### BUILD PARTNERSHIPS

**Identify active youth climate groups in your city. Reach out to them and explore opportunities for collaboration.**

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An insight into youth participation and an understanding of youth-led climate initiatives will help you investigate active youth climate groups in your city. You will also need to identify what stakeholders these groups typically interact with. The following questions will help build a full picture:

- What do the relationships between youth groups and different actors look like?
- Has cooperation been smooth within these collaborations?
- What challenges have these groups faced?
- How have they addressed these challenges?

Try reaching out to these organisations and meet with them to discuss how you can work together towards establishing a local YCC. Remember that it should be a joint effort. The process can get overwhelming, but you are not alone in your climate journey. It is important to be surrounded with people who share the same values and concerns.

Gather those that would be willing to take on this challenge and join forces with you. Create a group chat and organise in-person meetings to discuss your strategy, motivation, and goals. Here are some guiding questions for discussions:

- Why are you all willing to do this?
- What brings you together?
- How can you address potential differences and make sure that the space you are in is safe and inclusive?
- How can you make a bridge between groups that may have the same end goal but are using different approaches to get there?

Remember that communication and honesty are key if you want to succeed and make a long-lasting impact.<sup>4</sup>



Illustration credit: © Tess Smith-Roberts - C40



## STEP 5

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### REACH OUT TO YOUR CITY REPRESENTATIVES

**Identify and reach out to city representatives to discuss the potential for a local YCC and prepare your case for establishing one.**

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Let's take a quick recap on our steps so far:

- Understanding local youth advocacy on climate change: CHECKED!
- Understanding your city's engagement with young people: CHECKED!
- Building partnerships with interested people and organisations: CHECKED!

Okay – so what's next?

Now is the time to reach out to city officials and discuss what could be done as far as a local YCC is concerned. Key questions to consider include:

- What could a local YCC look like?
- What would be its objectives?
- What are the needs and expectations of local young people? How do city officials see it?
- What are the desired outcomes on both sides?
- How does the local YCC seek to address the needs and expectations of young people? This would briefly describe the implementation strategy.

At this point you may well be thinking: How does one reach out to a city official? But in fact, it is easier than you might expect. Start by looking for their contact information online. Then, send them a clear email, and attach a short description of what you think a potential local YCC could look like. Outline why you think it is necessary to establish a YCC in your city; the role that you and other young people could play in shaping local climate politics; and how the YCC would interact with city officials. It sounds like a lot, doesn't it? But remember that you don't have to know it all. Set up a meeting with city representatives who can help you analyse how feasible this project is in your local context. Local non-governmental or civil society organisations can also be a great help in establishing a relationship with city officials. You may find that they already have relevant contacts, and can make the process of getting in touch much easier for you. And if your city is a C40 member city, don't forget that you can also contact the C40 Youth Team who may be able to help you!

It was not easy to establish YCCs at the national level in six countries around the world – yet it happened. Do not give up – look at the examples in this toolkit. You can do it as well – and the more prepared and motivated you are, the more possible it will be!

## STEP 6

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### PREPARE TO MEET CITY REPRESENTATIVES

**Reflect on the practical aspects of establishing a YCC. Partner with other young people and groups to develop a proposal for how the YCC could be structured. Identify ways to balance the needs and expectations of young people with the practicalities of working with city representatives.**

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So, you've managed to set up a meeting with city representatives. Great work! What now?

Arrange a discussion with the other young people and organisations you connected with earlier, to determine what kind of resources and technical support the YCC is likely to need. Questions to think about include:

- How would you want the council to be structured?
    - Would you like it to be an official advisory body to the city council, with a given number of representatives?
    - Or would you like it to be a more informal platform, where young people can advocate for change and raise awareness on the importance of youth participation in climate politics?
- You can read more about different ways of structuring YCCs in the YCC GA Toolkit.<sup>5</sup>
- How many people should be part of the council?
  - How would these members be selected?
  - How would you go about building up a movement and creating an effective coordination system for members?
  - How could you ensure that the YCC is inclusive and representative?
    - What can you find out about the demographics of your city?
    - How could you encourage representatives of diverse groups, including those from marginalised demographics within your city, to join the YCC? How could you include girls and women, disabled young people, racial and ethnic minorities, informal communities (both workers and residents), LGBTQIA+ youth, and immigrant and transient communities, as well as young workers in the highly polluting industries where change most needs to be made?
    - How could you promote and offer equal access to the YCC across all of these diverse groups of residents?

Once you have reached an agreement among yourselves, you are ready to present it to city officials. Go into this meeting with a clear vision – but be open to comments and suggestions from the representatives of the city. Remember that a YCC is, and should be, a platform for young people, but if you want to shape climate policy-making in your city then you need to reach a consensus with the final decision-makers. You may find that you sometimes disagree with them – and that is okay. In fact, this is what it is really all about. You may each have different opinions, priorities, and ideas, but you should be able to listen to each other with mutual respect.

<sup>5</sup> This toolkit describes how to establish a youth climate council on a national level: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jl1Qkly8h-LgDcJJUc7Ykb7igNlBpmU1/view>

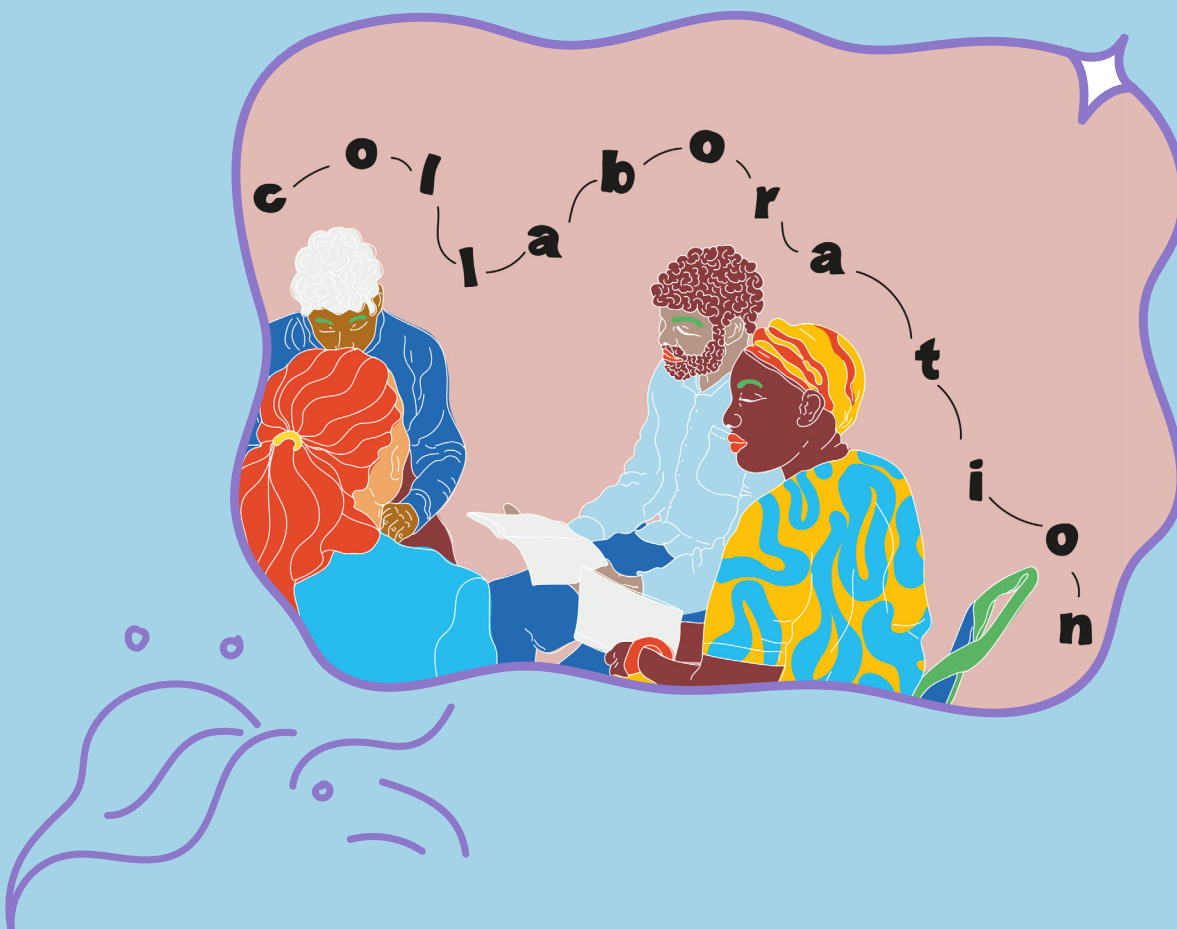
## STEP 7

### ESTABLISH A STRONG RELATIONSHIP WITH CITY REPRESENTATIVES

**Actively engage and build a collaborative relationship with city representatives. Consider how their expertise and resources can support the establishment and implementation of a YCC.**

City officials (as well as those from other government institutions) are experts in climate decision-making processes. Their experience and technical expertise should make them very helpful partners as you establish and implement your local YCC. Building a strong relationship with these city representatives will help ensure smooth cooperation and effective, co-creative ways of working. You should keep in touch with city representatives and meet regularly to offer your insights throughout the process.

Collaborate with city representatives to develop key performance indicators (KPIs) that will track and measure success and impact. These should be aligned with the city's climate priorities or CAP and the goals of the YCC. This will help make sure that your efforts complement and support the city's climate action priorities and that the YCC and the city are working towards common goals.



## STEP 8

### ASSESS TRAINING AND CAPACITY-BUILDING NEEDS

Identify the specific skills and knowledge needed for youth leaders to participate in a YCC. Plan a set of capacity-building sessions that will address these needs.

Some of the young people you work with to establish a YCC may need further training, or various forms of capacity-building sessions. These can help to strengthen their ability to engage in the process. Assess what skills could be further developed to help your peers understand their role in the process – and to ensure that everyone who wants to can meaningfully contribute to this great initiative.<sup>6</sup>

Examples of potential training and capacity-building topics include:

- **Policy and governance** training on how city climate policies are developed and implemented.
- **Advocacy and campaigning** training on the effective planning of public and media engagements.
- **Project management** training for planning, implementing, and tracking YCC initiatives.
- **Leadership** training to enable young people to effectively lead and manage YCC initiatives.
- **Stakeholder engagement** training on effectively engaging residents, city officials, and other community stakeholders.
- **Fundraising** training on grant writing and other fundraising activities for YCC initiatives.

Identifying the skills that you and your peers might need will help equip you for your roles – and ensure that you're all able to make an impact on climate action in your city.



Photo credit: YCC Ghana's project management and proposal writing capacity-building workshop at the Centre for Science and Technology Policy Research Institute in Accra. © Derrick Obeng Brobbey.

<sup>6</sup> This toolkit contains useful guides on how to engage young people, especially beginners, on climate policy:

[www.c40knowledgehub.org/s/article/A-toolkit-for-young-climate-activists-in-Latin-America-and-the-Caribbean?language=en\\_US](http://www.c40knowledgehub.org/s/article/A-toolkit-for-young-climate-activists-in-Latin-America-and-the-Caribbean?language=en_US)



## STEP 9

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### MAINTAIN COLLABORATION WITH CITY REPRESENTATIVES

**Actively engage with city representatives, ensuring that young people's views are helping to shape the structure and activities of the YCC.**

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You will be working hand-in-hand with city officials to establish your local YCC. Work with them to define key milestones and checkpoints, to make sure you stay on track and maintain inclusive cooperation. You should also check-in regularly with those working on the legal and practical elements of the process. It is important to understand the time it might take to prepare the ground for this initiative – but make sure the city representatives know that you are available. They may call on you as needed to provide them with further details around the expectations of local young people towards a YCC.

In order to provide meaningful insights to city officials on youth perspectives, gather the views of your peers on the following questions:

- How should the council be structured?
- How many members should there be?
- How should members be selected?
- How would the membership be managed and effectively coordinated?
- What should the council focus on? What activities should it plan? What deliverables should it aim to produce?

The city will be undertaking the formal parts of the project, in terms of legal and organisational arrangements. Having a clear vision of the aspects above will help ensure you deliver a meaningful contribution to the process and that young people's voices are heard.

The city should assign a named representative who will be responsible for the YCC and its activities. Keep supporting the process and maintain smooth cooperation with this representative.



## STEP 10

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### OPERATIONALISE THE YOUTH CLIMATE COUNCIL

**Assign a dedicated youth representative to liaise with city representatives. This will ensure ongoing communications and meaningful collaboration between YCC members and the city.**

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When your local YCC has been established, it is important to keep a clear vision of what you want to achieve. Decide how you want to support city officials in developing climate policies and taking ambitious climate action in your community. Be sure to maintain smooth and respectful cooperation with city representatives. To help with this, assign one member of the YCC – potentially its president or a representative of a board – to be responsible for keeping in touch with the city.

What should you do once the local YCC has been established?

- Identify your YCC's needs and priorities.
- Be clear about its scope of work.
- Decide what thematic areas your YCC will focus on.

To effectively guide the YCC's initiatives, it's important to develop a strategy for ongoing monitoring and evaluation. This should include detailed plans for monitoring priorities, addressing evolving needs, and assessing the impact of your YCC. There are different ways of gathering this data, such as through surveys, community consultations, and other participatory research processes.

You will need to assess your findings and use the insights they provide to set clear goals and objectives. You should also identify the thematic areas that you plan to focus on. Some existing YCCs have chosen to specialise in topics such as green jobs; energy transition; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); climate education and advocacy; or raising public awareness through social media. Others have focused on working hand-in-hand with various institutions, and have had a tangible impact on legislation and specific policies.

Remember that a lot depends on the specific context in which your local YCC will operate. Consult with city officials about what you can engage in – but never lose sight of your creativity and innovation. Always make sure that you know what you want to do and explore further. This is your chance to prove that young people's ideas deserve to be incorporated into climate policy-making.

Bear in mind that a local YCC should be a platform that unites young people from a given city or region. For this exact reason, it has to be inclusive and representative, and take into account multiple points of view and perspectives. You do not have to always agree with each other, but having a consensus-based internal decision-making process will help to foster unity and cooperation within the council.

## STEP 11

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### REGULARLY ASSESS AND ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF THE COUNCIL

**Continue to monitor the priorities, evolving needs, and impact of the YCC's initiatives.**

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Keep in mind the objectives and priorities of your YCC. Make sure to monitor the needs of the council, and reach out to check whether any members need help or additional support. Track progress of the activities your YCC is conducting and speak out about any potential challenges. Bring these to the attention of your named city representative. Be flexible if circumstances change, but remember your goals and what you want to achieve through the YCC.

Measure the impact of your YCC using the KPIs you defined with city representatives in Step 7. Always make sure to report your progress to the community. Use social media and other communications channels to raise awareness about your initiatives, highlight successes and learnings, and showcase the contributions that young people are making in city climate action.

## STEP 12

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### CELEBRATE SUCCESSES

**Amplify the successes and impact of your city–youth collaboration.**

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Recognise and celebrate the outcomes, impact, and achievements of your city–youth collaboration through events and public communications. Share successes and best practices with your networks to inspire youth leaders globally and promote the benefits of youth engagement in city-led climate action. C40 and the YCC GA are great places to share your learnings with other youth climate leaders, and to build momentum for meaningful youth participation at all levels of climate action decision-making.



## SUMMARY

The prospect of establishing a YCC in your city may seem overwhelming – but think how exciting this process could be for you and other young people in your community! For starters, you can get closer to like-minded young people and exchange your visions, objectives, and expectations for the platform. But you can also learn more about local climate policy-making; about the role you can play; and about how you can use your potential in the best possible way to stop the climate crisis.

Remember that this will be a new experience for everybody – not just for you and your peers, but for the city representatives as well. Try to be open-minded and flexible, but be sure to share your thoughts and concerns when needed. Don't be afraid to speak up and express what's on your mind.

Keep in mind that there may be people with different needs around you. Making sure that you all feel comfortable and safe while participating in this process is crucial for its success.

And don't forget that you are not alone! C40 and the YCC GA are here to help you, and there are a number of available resources that will make the process smoother and easier.

We are well aware that the reality of the climate crisis is overwhelming – but we can all play a role in protecting our planet. One of the approaches we can take is to establish a local YCC. Advising city officials, and making sure that youth voices are heard and included in climate politics, will have a bigger impact than we can all imagine!

If you need more direct assistance with establishing a YCC in your city, please contact the YCC GA. We can offer you tailored guidance and advice, and are here to help and support you throughout the process. We can't wait for you to join the YCC GA and be a part of this constantly growing community!

Please stay in touch with C40 and the YCC GA, and share your successes and lessons learned. And remember to talk to your friends in other cities, as they also may be interested in having a YCC in their community!

Good luck!



## FURTHER READING:

1. [Youth Climate Council Global Alliance's Toolkit on how to establish a youth climate council](#)
2. [UNICEF's Toolkit for young climate activists in Latin America and the Caribbean](#)
3. [C40's Youth engagement playbook for cities](#)
4. [C40's Energy poverty and resilience training for caregivers: Facilitator's guide](#)
5. [C40's Achieving the just transition: A toolkit for city leaders across the globe](#)
6. [C40's Delivering disability inclusive climate action: Resource pack for cities](#)
7. [C40's Good green jobs: Dashboard of city programmes](#)
8. [LinkedIn's Global green skills report 2023](#)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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