



# MOBILIZEU



## Hosting a Climate Forum

The who, what, when,  
where, why, and how

Climate Education  
Week: April 16th-23rd



The climate challenge will  
be one of the defining  
issues of this century.

Let's make everyone part  
of the solution.

# Why host a Climate Forum?

- Hosting a forum is a great way to inform and inspire others to get involved.
- Forums are an opportunity to discuss and identify sensible approaches that your university and community can take to become more sustainable.
- Forums allows stakeholders to identify who may be willing to play a large role in putting ideas into action.

# Who to Invite?

This should be a multilateral conversation, involving university administrators, faculty, students, and community members.

- ◉ **Student Groups:** Environmental, Fraternities, Sororities, Public Health, Social Justice, Minority, Student Government, etc.
- ◉ **Government Officials:** Minister, Mayor, Councilmembers, County Commissioner, Governor, State Senator, State Representative, U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative
- ◉ **Administration:** School President, representative from Sustainability Office, Dean of Students, Student Life Representatives
- ◉ **Faculty:** Professors in environmental science, chemistry, biology, public health, social science, urban studies, etc.
- ◉ **Community:** Local environmental organizations, philanthropic groups, religious leaders, K-12 teachers, youth groups, businesses, concerned citizens, etc.

# What to Include?

- This discussion should focus on how students learn about climate change as well as how climate education can be improved and expanded in their school and community.
- These conversations will enable students and faculty to take initiative in their local community and take the lead on educating their student bodies about climate and sustainable development.



# When to Host?

- Climate Education Week will take place April 16-23. We encourage you to [register your event on our website](#).
- While hosting your Climate Forum during Climate Education Week is strongly encouraged, that is not to say that we discourage hosting such an event any other time of the year.

# Where to Host?

A Climate Forum can be held nearly anywhere on campus. Here are just a few possible locations:

- Classroom
- Lecture Hall
- Student Center
- Library
- Auditorium



# How to Make it Happen

1. Ask a professor, administrator, scientist, or local official to moderate your discussion.
2. Partner with a variety of campus and community organizations, administrative offices, and departments.
3. [Register your campus event](#) and become an official Earth Day 2016 partner.
4. Promote your event on your campus and community with flyers, online announcements, and through social media.
5. Host the event during Climate Education Week, using the below questions to spur discussion.
6. Check out our [Earth Day toolkits](#) for other great ideas!



# Conversation Starters

- How do we effectively educate our communities on climate change?
- How do certain ways of framing climate issues impact communication? How can we make more effective use of language? How can we communicate the negative impacts without deterring action?
- How are you as administrators or professor/students implementing climate change education?
- What is the best way for students to involve their contemporaries and communities on this issue?
- How is the government conveying the importance of their environmental initiatives to their community? Is there a sustainability or climate adaptation plan? Has the community been engaged?
- What impacts do deforestation have on the global community? What policies can we implement to combat deforestation on a global level?

# Let's Talk Solutions:

## 100% Renewable by 2050

Often, people are paralyzed and fail to take action if we just talk about the risks. We need to talk about the solutions. When we take action, there are positive impacts beyond mitigation, including social and economic gain. Have a conversation about setting and achieving goals to reach 100% renewable. Here are a few questions to get you started:

- What does a sustainable campus look like to your University?
- Who are the major players? i.e. University President, government officials, utility companies, students etc.
- How do you give back to the community?
- What forms of renewable energy are plausible?
- What are the costs? What are the benefits?

### How to Start Today

- Sign a petition and encourage the rest of your community to sign on with you as an Act of Green.
- Encourage your University President, city council or government to pass a proclamation and send us a copy at [GetLocal@earthday.net](mailto:GetLocal@earthday.net)

# Now you're ready to host your very own Climate Forum



For more information on how to host a successful Earth Day event visit our website at: <http://www.earthday.org/toolkit>.