

# THE CASE FOR CLIMATE EDUCATION IN ASIA AND OCEANIA

There is an urgent need to provide all students with the knowledge and skills they need to support climate justice and well being and thrive in the green economy.

## CLIMATE CHANGE IN ASIA AND OCEANIA

- More than **9 million people in Asia** were affected by floods and storms in 2023 alone.
- Parts of South Asia have become drier since the 1970s with an **increase in the number of droughts**.
- At the current rate of global warming, almost **80% of the Maldives could become uninhabitable by 2050** due to rising sea levels.
- Educating students on the interdisciplinary nature of climate change will prepare the next generation in the transition to a green future.



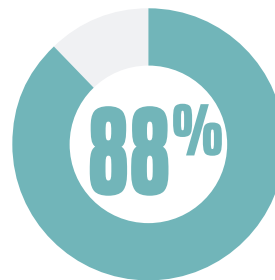
91%

OF YOUTH IN INDIA BELIEVE THAT CLIMATE CHANGE RELATED TOPICS SHOULD BE **INTRODUCED BEFORE SECONDARY SCHOOL**

## CURRENT STATE OF CLIMATE EDUCATION IN ASIA AND OCEANIA

- Countries across Asia and Oceania are establishing climate education programs, but much more work needs to be done.
- At COP28, eight countries in the Asia-Pacific region adopted a declaration **linking education and climate action**, including Bangladesh, Japan, and Pakistan.
- There is a desire to teach and learn about climate change, but resources and tools are largely underdeveloped. In the Philippines, 83% of child development workers **would like to teach climate change**, but only 30% feel ready to do so.

- China's nationally determined contribution states that "green and low-carbon development will be included in the national education system".



OF BANGLADESHI STUDENTS WANT TO TAKE CLIMATE ACTION BUT ONLY...



COULD **CORRECTLY ANSWER A QUESTION** ABOUT GREENHOUSE GASSES

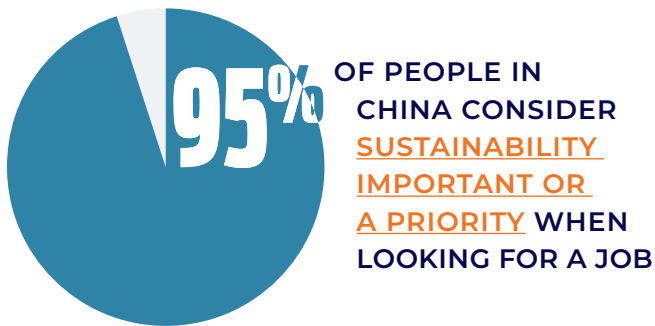
## EDUCATION GAPS AND CLIMATE BEHAVIOR

Education is key for promoting pro-climate behaviors.

- In China, increased education attainment has been linked to a **2% increase in pro-environmental behaviors and attitudes**.
- Similarly, a study in Thailand showed that **increased education resulted in environmentally friendly behaviors** including reusable bag use and usage of energy-efficient appliances.
- In India, climate-related outreach to children not only increased their pro-climate behavior but also **increased the pro-climate behavior of parents by nearly 13%**.
- Parents are much **more receptive to climate-messaging** when it's done with their children or through their children.

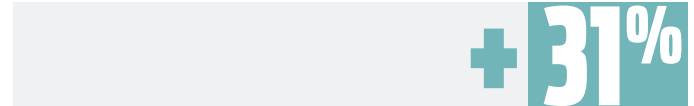
# GREEN ECONOMY IN ASIA AND OCEANIA

- Up to **63% of the economy** across Asia and the Pacific is at risk from human-caused climate change and natural habitat destruction.
- With continued rapid growth in this region, the green economy will play a vital role in job creation and economic output. By 2030, Asia and the Pacific could see a **\$4-5 trillion boom** in nature-friendly businesses.
- **35 million jobs could be created** in India alone by 2047 through sustainable industry growth.
- Climate change education will prepare students for jobs in this growing global green economy.



## CLIMATE JUSTICE, EQUITY, AND WELL BEING

- A 2023 survey found that in a nationally representative sample of China, **more than one third** felt extremely, quite a lot, or somewhat tense about climate change.
- Directly discussing climate change and using Social Emotional Learning to explore **coping strategies can help young people increase positive emotions** on the subject.
- Comprehensive climate education will expand a student's understanding of climate justice and equity through an analysis of how climate change disproportionately impacts women, marginalized communities, and indigenous people.

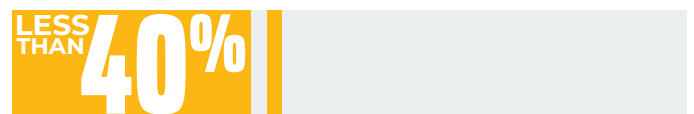


IN SOUTH ASIA, WORKERS IN GREEN JOBS EARN **31% MORE** THAN THEIR NON-GREEN COUNTERPARTS

## HOW TO ADVANCE CLIMATE EDUCATION

- Teacher training, in the form of guides, workshops, and local conferences, should demonstrate how to incorporate climate education into all subject areas.
- Ensuring that climate education is in all countries NDC's can secure resources from international organizations and help grow climate education programs.
- Connecting governments with ongoing climate education initiatives can ease integration into existing curricula.
- UNESCO's "**Green Schools Asia**" serves to promote climate education across Asia and provides training material to educators.
- School infrastructure across Asia is threatened by extreme weather events. Building more climate-resilient schools will extend time in classrooms and allow for more climate education instruction.

58,000 TEACHERS FROM 144 COUNTRIES BELIEVE IN CLIMATE EDUCATION, BUT...



...FELT CONFIDENT **TEACHING IT**

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS, CONTACT [EDUCATION@EARTHDAY.ORG](mailto:EDUCATION@EARTHDAY.ORG)

**Saving our planet, lifting people out of poverty, advancing economic growth — these are one and the same fight.**

— Ban Ki-moon, South Korea, Former UN Secretary-General

