

# THE CASE FOR CLIMATE EDUCATION IN CHINA

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.

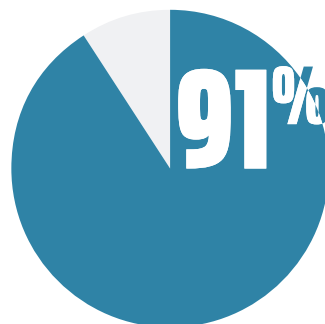
## CLIMATE CHANGE IN CHINA

- As the world's largest country the effects of and response to climate change will affect hundreds of millions of people.
- Over the next 50 years, weather events related to climate change could **decrease agricultural output by up to 37%** and **displace over 50 million people** across China.
- Educating students on the interdisciplinary nature of climate change will prepare the next generation in the transition to a green future.

## CURRENT STATE OF CLIMATE EDUCATION IN CHINA

China's Nationally Determined Contribution states that "**green and low-carbon development will be included in the national education system**".

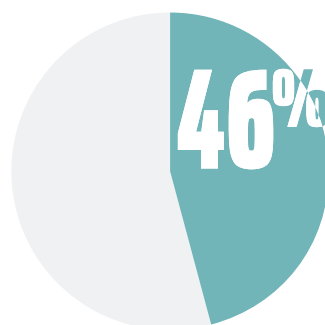
- Over the last two decades, updates to curriculums have **embedded climate change education into secondary school science classes**, with a focus on green skills to prepare students for the green economy.
- A 2023 study showed significant changes in attitudes on climate change and its impacts following participation in a **14-week university class on climate change**.
- China has committed to teaching about climate change in order to **promote the economic well being of its people**, both present and future.



OF PEOPLE IN CHINA VIEW CLIMATE CHANGE AS **HAVING AN IMPACT** ON THEIR DAILY LIVES

## LOOKING TOWARDS A GREEN FUTURE

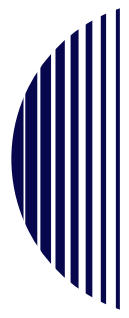
- Climate change, including climate change education, made its way into Chinese domestic policy in the early 2000's as carbon emissions increased.
- China is currently scheduled to reach their carbon emission peak by 2025, five years ahead of schedule.
- As China positions itself as a global climate change leader, interdisciplinary climate education should be a core part of their campaign.



OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CHINA CONSIDERED CLIMATE CHANGE AS THE **LARGEST GLOBAL ISSUE**

# GREEN ECONOMY IN CHINA

- Climate change education will prepare students for jobs in the growing green economy.
- Clean energy, including solar power, EV's, and batteries, was a **top driver** of China's economic growth in 2023.
- China has the world's **largest capacity** of renewable energy, with plans to **triple their 2022 capacity** by 2030.
- **Major grid reform is needed** across China to achieve CO<sub>2</sub> reduction pledges, requiring a wide variety of jobs and large numbers of workers.



**LESS THAN A THIRD OF YOUNG PEOPLE FEEL THAT THEIR EDUCATION HAS PREPARED THEM FOR JOBS ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE**

## HOW TO ADVANCE CLIMATE EDUCATION

- Climate change topics should be introduced into subject areas beyond science.
- Teacher training, in the form of guides, workshops, and local conferences, should demonstrate how to incorporate climate education into all subject areas.
- Working with existing organizations like **Friends of Nature** can help improve teacher training programs and expand climate education across the country.
- Interdisciplinary climate education should be included in China's upcoming five-year national plan for 2026–2030.

**95%**  
**OF PEOPLE IN CHINA CONSIDER SUSTAINABILITY IMPORTANT OR A PRIORITY WHEN LOOKING FOR A JOB**

## 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.

**90%**  
**OF PEOPLE IN CHINA ARE IN FAVOR OF STRICTER GOVERNMENT MEASURES TARGETING INDIVIDUAL BEHAVIOR IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE**

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

**In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we are taught.**

— [Baba Dioum](#), Senegalese forestry engineer

