

STUDENT CLIMATE ACTION CHALLENGE PARTICIPANT GUIDE

City of Flagstaff
Sustainability Section



**Flagstaff Sustainability
Program**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Student Climate Action Challenge	
How to Participate.....	4
Project Guidelines.....	5
Project Types.....	6
Flagstaff Youth Climate Summit	
Participation Expectations.....	7
Presentation Guidelines.....	7
Climate Action Award	
Eligibility.....	9
Climate Action Award Scoring Rubric.....	10
Student Climate Action Toolkit.....	12

STUDENT CLIMATE ACTION CHALLENGE

The Student Climate Action Challenge (The Challenge) is a project-based learning program for Flagstaff students, during which students will:

- Plan and implement a meaningful climate-related project
- Engage in communication and outreach
- Develop leadership skills

To participate, you must form or be part of an Action Team. Action Teams can be formed as part of a class, a school-affiliated group (i.e. student council, environmental club, national honors society), a homeschool group, or as an independent group of motivated students working to become climate leaders. Action Teams can be new groups formed just for this Challenge, or a long-standing group of students who have been working on a variety of projects.

During the spring of 2018, Action Teams will complete the challenge by planning and implementing a project related to climate change in Northern Arizona that benefits their school, community or the environment. Climate Action Teams will then present their project at the Flagstaff Youth Climate Summit (The Summit).

Local civic and business leaders will be invited to attend the Summit to see what climate actions Flagstaff students took this year. Climate Action Awards will be presented to the top three Action Teams to continue their current action or begin a new project the following year. All Challenge projects will also be featured on the City of Flagstaff website.

How to Participate

All groups of students who want to take climate action can participate in the Challenge. To participate, please take the following steps:

- **Form an Action Team** comprised of two or more students. Each Action Team must have a Climate Action Mentor (an adult who has agreed to advise the Action Team).
- **Sign up** to participate in the Challenge by January 19th using this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/G9G9KJN>
- Plan and begin **implementing** your project.
- Sign-up for the Summit.
- *Optional: apply for the Climate Action Award.*

Project Guidelines

- Projects should identify and address an issue related to climate change that is relevant to Flagstaff, Northern Arizona, or the Colorado Plateau.
- Projects must be conducted by two or more students.
- Projects must start before the Flagstaff Youth Climate Summit, but do not need to be finished before the end of the school year. Projects started before the Challenge start-date are eligible.
- To be eligible for the Climate Action Award*, your project must address at least one of these focus areas (more Award details on page 9):

Water

Water is a scarce resource in the Southwest and as the climate warms, water management and conservation will be essential for continuing life in this arid region of the world. Projects that focus on water could include helping your school reduce water use, or working to protect watersheds, rivers, and streams.

Energy

Climate change is directly linked to fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions that come from energy use throughout our communities. Projects that focus on energy use could include helping your school or community reduce its energy use, or raising awareness about impacts to community health and the environment caused by resource use and extraction.

Biodiversity

The climate is changing at a rate that makes it difficult for plants, animals and humans to adapt. Projects in this category focus on the human, plant, and animal aspects of the environment and how they are impacted by climate change. This could include habitat restoration, raising awareness about local threatened species, and focusing on how culture is impacted by climate change.

Food

Though linked to water and energy, food is in its own category to emphasize the importance of thinking about food production, consumption and waste in the face of climate change. Projects that focus on food could include reducing food waste, campaigning for sustainable menu options, or planting a food garden that includes drought-tolerant or native crops.

*Your Action Team can participate in the Challenge without applying for the Climate Action Award, however your project should still adhere to the project guidelines. Review the Award Evaluation Criteria for Award-specific requirements.

Project Types

As stated above, projects must identify and address an issue related to climate change that is relevant to Flagstaff, Northern Arizona, or the Colorado Plateau. To help guide project development, we have created three project types: Climate Change Adaptation, Climate Change Mitigation, and Climate Change Activism. It is likely that your project overlaps among two or more project types. These are designed to provide helpful guidelines, not create barriers to your climate action work.

Climate Change Adaptation

Projects that help your school or community prepare for the changing climate conditions by increasing resilience and decreasing vulnerability to the changing climate.

Example projects- increasing schools' water conservation, installing a rain water catchment system, preventing erosion by reforestation, building a food garden, creating a comprehensive climate action plan for school, etc.

Climate Change Mitigation

Projects that work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and carbon footprints.

Example projects- reducing waste produced at school functions, increasing recycling by the student body, implementing no-idling zones around the school, lights out campaign for weekends and after school hours, creating a comprehensive climate action plan for your school, etc.

Climate Change Activism

Projects that take action primarily through communication and school or community engagement. These projects also include advocacy and raising awareness.

Example Projects- Launch a letter writing campaign to government officials, create and display art to increase awareness around climate change impacts, help tell stories from frontline communities through film, etc.



FLAGSTAFF YOUTH CLIMATE SUMMIT

The Flagstaff Youth Climate Summit (the Summit) is a one-day gathering in late-spring that will bring young climate leaders in Flagstaff together and serve as the culminating event of the Student Climate Action Challenge. At the Summit, your Action Team will present your Climate Action Project to other Action Teams, teachers, parents, City staff, City leadership, the press, and members of the community.

The Summit will include:

- Chances to tackle one of the world's most serious problems with other climate leaders like yourself
- A keynote speaker and a panel discussion
- A student-led workshop
- A climate action planning break-out session
- And fun!

We hope you will leave FYCS with more skills and inspiration to take climate action.

A request for student input will be sent to your Action Team in February for suggestions regarding the Summit theme, the panelist topic, speakers you would like to hear from, and Summit group activities.

Note: the Summit schedule and activities are subject to change based on Action Team availability.

Participation Expectations

All Action Teams participating in the Challenge are expected to present their work at the Flagstaff Youth Climate Summit as a PowerPoint presentation. If no members of your team are able to attend the Summit, you may submit a poster presentation or short video to be displayed at the Summit.

Presentation Guidelines

Please be prepared to present your project as a PowerPoint presentation. If no members from your Action Team can attend, please submit a presentation of your project as a video or poster.

PowerPoint Presentation

You will have 10 minutes to present. Your presentation should take 5-7 minutes, allowing 3-5 minutes for questions. Your presentation should be no more than 10 slides, and needs to include the following:

- Title Slide: Project Title, Action Team name, Team member names, Climate Action Mentor
- Describe what the purpose of your project is and why you chose it.
- Explain what your Team did to implement your project
 - i.e. what was this process like? Did you overcome any obstacles? If so, how?
- Describe where your project is now.
 - i.e. how far along is your project? What will you do next? Did you finish it? If so, what are the results?
- Explain what next steps your Action Team will or could take.
 - i.e. can you continue this project? If so, how? Are there other projects you could implement? What would you like to see for your school or community in the future?
- Include a minimum of 5 photos.
- At least two Action Team members attending should be involved in the presentation.

Need some tips on how to make good presentations? Take a look at these resources to learn how big your font should be, if you should use fancy effects, and how many words per slide you should have:

- [9 PowerPoint Presentation Tips for Students](#)
- [Tips for Effective PowerPoint Presentations](#)

Presentations must be submitted in advance of the Summit. Action Teams must email their PowerPoint presentation to lcottingham@flagstaffaz.gov

Video and Poster Presentations

If no members of your Action Team are able to attend the Summit, you have the choice of making a video or poster presentation. If there will be a representative from your Action Team, please only submit a PowerPoint Presentation.

Requirements for video presentations:

Your video should be 5-7 minutes long and must include the following:

- Project Title, Action Team name, and Team member names
- Describe what the purpose of your project is and why you chose it.



- Explain what your Team did to implement your project.
 - i.e. what was this process like? Did you overcome any obstacles? If so, how?
- Describe where your project is now.
 - i.e. how far along is your project? What will you do next? Did you finish it? If so, what are the results?
- Explain what next steps your Action Team will or could take.
 - i.e. can you continue this project? If so, how? Are there other projects you could implement? What would you like to see for your school or community in the future?
- Include footage of your Action Team working on the project

Please email your video presentation lcottingham@flagstaffaz.gov

Requirements for poster presentations:

- Project Title, Action Team name, Team member names, Climate Action Mentor name
- Describe what the purpose of your project is and why you chose it.
- Explain what your Team did to implement your project.
 - i.e. what was this process like? Did you overcome any obstacles? If so, how?
- Describe where your project is now.
 - i.e. how far along is your project? What will you do next? Did you finish it? If so, what are the results?
- Explain what next steps your Action Team will or could take.
 - i.e. can you continue this project? If so, how? Are there other projects you could implement? What would you like to see for your school or community in the future?
- Include a minimum of 3 photos

Bring all posters to Larrea Cottingham at the City of Flagstaff Sustainability Section Office, located at 101 W. Cherry Ave, 2nd floor.

City of Flagstaff contact information:

Email: lcottingham@flagstaffaz.gov

Phone: 928-213-2156



CLIMATE ACTION AWARD

Climate Action Awards will be granted to the top three Action Teams. Additionally, all Action Teams that participated in the Challenge will receive a certificate of achievement, and have their project featured on the City of Flagstaff Website.

Climate Action Projects entered in the Student Climate Action Challenge will be evaluated by a panel of judges using the Climate Action Award Scoring Rubric (page 10).

Award Amounts:

First Place: \$1,000

Second Place: \$500

Third Place: \$250

Award recipients will be announced at the end of the Flagstaff Youth Climate Summit.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the Climate Action Award, you must be part of an Action Team participating in the Student Climate Action Challenge and adhere to all Challenge guidelines (see page 4 for details).

To be considered for the Climate Action Award, your Action Team must submit a Climate Action Award Application and prepare a presentation for the Flagstaff Youth Climate Summit (see page 7 for presentation details).

A reminder will be sent to your Action Team to sign-up for the Climate Action Award. The application form can also be found on the City of Flagstaff Website:

<http://flagstaff.az.gov/3782/Climate-Action-Award>

Note: Your Action Team can participate in the Challenge without applying or being eligible for the Climate Action Award, however you should still adhere to the Challenge project guidelines (see details on page 5).

Climate Action Award Scoring Rubric

Developed from Presentation Rubric for PBL (for grades 6-8) by the Buck Institute for Education and the Alberta Government Climate and Environment Student Action Challenge Evaluation Criteria.

	1	2	3	Score
Relevance	<p>The Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ does not specifically serve a school, community, or environment in or around Northern Arizona ❖ is relevant to climate change, but is not specific to the Colorado Plateau region. 	<p>The Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ is specific to the Flagstaff, Northern Arizona or the Colorado Plateau, but only indirectly serves a school, community, or environment in or around Northern Arizona ❖ explicitly addresses one or more of the four focus areas: water, energy, food, biodiversity. 	<p>The Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ is relevant to climate change in Flagstaff, Northern Arizona, or the Colorado Plateau ❖ directly serves a school, community, or environment in or around Flagstaff ❖ explicitly addresses one or more of the four focus areas: water, energy, food, biodiversity. 	
Scope of Impact	<p>The Action Team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ did not identify the needs of the school, community, or regional environment ❖ does not meet the needs of the school, community, or regional environment ❖ only involved Team members in project 	<p>The Action Team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ identified less than three needs of the school, community, or regional environment ❖ provides solution(s) to one of the identified needs ❖ involved others groups or students within the school 	<p>The Action Team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ identified at least three needs of the school, community, or regional environment ❖ provides solution(s) to at least two of the identified needs ❖ involved other groups within the school and one or more groups within the community. 	
Environmental Impact	<p>The Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ has a positive environmental impact, but it is not measurable 	<p>The Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ impact is measurable, but the environmental impact in only measurable school-wide. 	<p>The Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ has two or more positive environmental impacts that are measurable, and thoroughly explained. ❖ impact extends beyond the school, into the surrounding community and environment 	

<p>Organization</p>	<p>The Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ includes seventy-five percent of everything required in the presentation ❖ main idea may not be clear, or some ideas may be in the wrong order ❖ has an introduction and conclusion, but they are not effective ❖ is generally timed presentation well, but there may be too much or little time spent a topic, a/v aid, or idea, or goes over time allotted 	<p>The Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ includes everything required in the presentation ❖ states main idea and moves from one idea to the next in a logical order, emphasizing main points in a focused, coherent manner ❖ has an effective introduction and conclusion ❖ is well timed; no part of the presentation is rushed, too short or too long and the presentation does not exceed 7 minutes. 		
<p>Eyes, Body, and Voice</p>	<p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ make infrequent eye contact and reads slides or notes most of the time. ❖ speak clearly most of the time; sometimes too quickly or slowly ❖ speak loudly enough for most of the audience to hear, but may speak in a monotone ❖ occasionally use filler words 	<p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ keep eye contact with the audience most of the time and only glances at slides or notes. ❖ speak clearly, not too quickly or slowly ❖ speak loudly enough for everyone to hear; changes tone to maintain interest. ❖ rarely uses filler words 		
<p>Response to Audience Questions</p>	<p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ answer some audience questions, but not always clearly or completely 	<p>Presenters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ answer questions clearly and completely, or admits "I don't know" and explains how the answer might be found. 		<p>/15</p>
<p>Comments:</p>				

Student Climate Action Toolkit

We have created the *Student Climate Action Toolkit: a planning guide for taking climate action* to help student-driven Action Teams plan and implement meaningful climate action projects.

The Toolkit can be used as a comprehensive guide, or in sections, to best meet your team's needs. It goes through a step-by-step process designed to guide your Action Team through the brainstorming phase all the way to the Flagstaff Youth Climate Summit. Each step includes an explanation and short exercise for your Action Team to complete.

Also included in *The Toolkit*, are learning resources for Action Teams and teachers about climate science, climate change impacts, and recent or current climate action projects started by young people.

We suggest reading through each section to see what aspects of *The Toolkit* might be most helpful to you.

The Toolkit can be found on the Student Climate Action Challenge Website:
<http://flagstaff.az.gov/3780/Student-Climate-Action-Challenge>