

Potential Ideas for RCE Youth Involvement in Climate Change Discussions

1. Participating in Climate Change Campaign

The campaign aims to support and mobilize youth action on climate change around the world, and to help carry young people's concerns and commitments to the Secretary-General's Climate Summit (September 23). In the lead-up to that date, we would like to encourage a wave of climate-related youth activities around the world on International Youth Day (August 12).

There are two campaign components in particular to mention at this point: a Climate Change 'Challenge Badge' and a webinar series.

2. Challenge Badge

Based on the popular educational resources produced by the Youth and United Nations Global Alliance (YUNGA, www.yunga-un.org), we would like to develop a Challenge Badge dedicated to Climate Change. To give you an idea of the Challenge Badge format and approach, please take a look at the recent Badges about the Ocean (<http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3465e/i3465e.pdf>) or Forests (<http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3479e/i3479e.pdf>). You will see that these booklets provide educational information on their given topic, complemented by activities that reinforce this information and encourage young people to become active on social and/or environmental issues. Challenge Badge curricula are aimed at youth groups (e.g. Scouts, school classes, etc.) between the ages of 5-10, 11-15 and 16-20 years old.

For more details on sustainability badge - <http://yunga-youth.weebly.com/themes.html>

3. Webinar series

Another idea in the pipeline is to develop a simple format for a climate-related webinar series. This could then be replicated in small/medium-sized groups around the world. For example, a webinar series might include three or four separate sessions over a fixed period of time (e.g.: a session with (a) a climate change scientist (b) a politician (c) a campaign manager/communicator). Such exchanges would connect youth to climate change practitioners and empower them to undertake climate change projects in their local communities. It seems to me that RCEs would be natural partners in such a project!