

# Global Youth Climate Training Programme

## Overview

The Global Youth Climate Training Programme (GYCT) is a free capacity-building programme that equips people aged 16-35 with the knowledge and confidence necessary to engage in **international climate policy**. Young people are increasingly being given a seat at the table in domestic and international climate policy, and therefore require appropriate capacity-building to ensure their interventions are cogent and relevant. This programme was launched May 2023 to provide greater clarity on the negotiation tracks of the UNFCCC ahead of COP28. We received 10,000 applications for our first iteration of the programme, demonstrating greater need for effective youth capacity building programmes.

This year, with the generous support of the ClimateWorks Foundation, we are running our second iteration of the programme from **3 September-1 October 2024**, with one final session on **1 November 2024**. Our schedule can be found below. [Applications open now at this link](#) until **10 August**. **Applications will only be received through the form above, not by e-mail.**

This project is a collaboration between the Global Youth Coalition (GYC), a coalition of climate youth changemakers, and researchers at the University of Oxford (Oxford Net Zero, Oxford Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment).

## Certificates

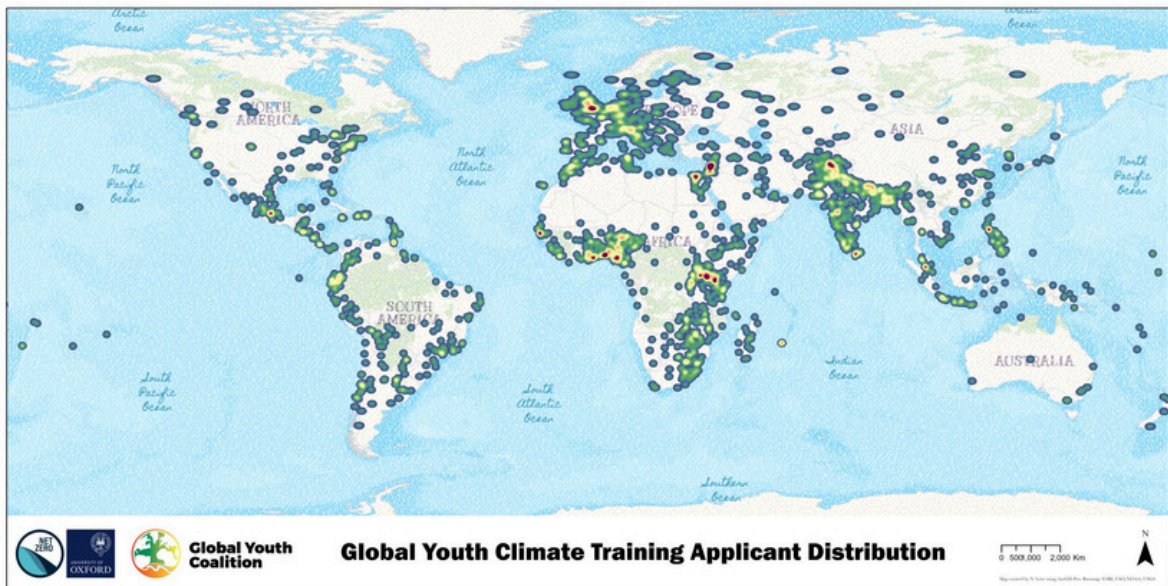
Each week participants will receive a quiz covering the material of that week of training (total of 5 quizzes). Participants successfully completing 4 out of 5 of these quizzes will receive a certificate.

## Our Team

Our small but mighty team delivering this project represent a truly global endeavour, with changemakers from Ecuador, Chile, Egypt, Canada, Paraguay, Spain, Tanzania, and Bolivia, collaborating with Oxford researchers.



**Global Youth  
Coalition**



We received 10,000 applications for our 2023 cohort from 177 countries, with 64% identifying as from Most Affected People and Areas (MAPA). As of February 2024, there have been 66,000 views of recorded sessions.

**Applications are now open until 10 August 23:59 BST: [apply here](#).**

## Inclusivity

Our programme believes in open-access and inclusion, with all of the recordings published to YouTube, and as a completely free course for participants. We have partnered with Ecolnterpreters to offer the course in five languages: English, French, Spanish and Portuguese, Arabic and Mandarin (new this year).

Through the generous support of the ClimateWorks Foundation, we are delighted that this year we are able to offer 5 bursaries for admitted applicants in our 2024 training to cover the costs of attending COP29. This bursary of up to £3000 is to cover flights, accommodation, food and transport. We can unfortunately not support accreditation – this is primarily for applicants who have the ability to attend COP29 but face financial barriers. This will be a secondary application for accepted applicants into our 2024 programme.

## Our Accomplishments

Our first training succeeded in giving a broad overview of the UNFCCC negotiations and in building a strong collaboration between GYC and the University of Oxford. We have received wide recognition for our course, including being used as an example of best practice by the UN Youth Climate Champions team and winning the University of Oxford's Vice Chancellor's Awards for Environmental Sustainability.



Find out more [hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/vice-chancellors-awards](https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/vice-chancellors-awards)

## Our programme in 2024

Runs from September 3-October 1 2024, with one final session on November 1st. This programme builds and extends on the first broad overview of the UNFCCC system and negotiation tracks. Our 2024 programme focuses on the **landscape of sub-state and non-state actor accountability as a vital feature of climate policy**. The time of the sessions will be decided based on the time zone most appropriate to our selected cohort, but sessions will be between 1-5pm UTC.

### Why a focus on non-state actors?

- Sub-state and non-state actors, including cities, state and regional governments, businesses, financial institutions, civil society groups and more, have the power to enhance national ambition on climate change.
- Ambition and accountability for non-state actors is an increasing focus of climate policy in recent years, e.g., the UN Secretary General's appointment of a High Level Expert Group to create guidelines for credible non-state net-zero pledges, the Race to Zero Global Campaign, and business mobilisation such as the "Fossil to Clean" commitment by 260 businesses calling for fossil fuel phase out.
- However, non-state actor commitments can be misleading or confusing: initiatives like the Net Zero Tracker help to provide greater clarity on the quality of non-state actors' climate commitments, but it is important to have a better literacy of credible climate action to be able to detect greenwashing.

### This programme will help participants:

- Critically assess the legitimacy of non-state actor commitments.
- Understand how these fit into/complement state-level climate commitments.
- Situate interventions within the 'wider-than-climate' context, i.e., understanding how non-state actor commitments impact water, biodiversity, and social justice.

### Other outcomes:

- Participants will receive a certificate upon completion of 4/5 Global Youth Climate Training quizzes
- Participants will be able to apply for a bursary up to £3000 to assist with attending COP29

## Applicant Profile

- Age: 16-35
- Demonstrated experience in climate activism (e.g., campaigns, projects, community engagement).
- Knowledge of the UNFCCC process and key outcomes (e.g., COP negotiations, net-zero commitments).
- Demonstrated ability to advocate effectively for change (e.g., communication, persuasion, collaboration). Previous efforts in advocacy.
- Strong passion for climate action and a desire to make a difference.
- Preference for applicants representing diverse regions and groups most impacted by climate change.

## Schedule & Applications Timeline

Date	Session Title (1.5 hours per session)	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Learning Outcomes</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>By the end of the session, learners should be able to:</b></p>
3 September	<b>Kick off: Introduction to Course &amp; Cohort Introductions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the logistics around delivery of the course</li> <li>• Be able to find at least 3-4 other learners with the same background or interests as them</li> <li>• Articulate intentions for the month-long course</li> </ul>
5 September	<b>Knowing &amp; Understanding Environmental Change</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Articulate different ways of knowing and understanding climate change?</li> <li>• Summarise 5 Key Takeaways from the Recent IPCC AR6 that can be brought into any public-facing messaging on climate</li> <li>• Explain the Importance of Traditional Environmental Knowledge &amp; Indigenous Ways of relating to the environment</li> <li>• Explain Different perspectives on climate action - different realities &amp; perspectives</li> </ul>
10 September	<b>Net Zero or Not Zero: The Net Zero Corporate Governance Landscape</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain: What makes a good net zero pledge? Navigate conversations about the net zero governance landscape</li> <li>• Deliver 3 key messages on convergence</li> <li>• "Grade" the quality of a net zero pledge through walking through Net Zero Tracker data</li> <li>• Understand how we can use AI responsibly to monitor Net Zero</li> </ul>
12 September	<b>Nonstate Actor Involvement in Increasing Ambition in NDCs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Articulate why and how technical interventions on climate must be accompanied by contextualisation/understanding of social preferences and cultural acceptability</li> <li>• Explain the intersection between corporate governance &amp; increased ambition in NDCs</li> <li>• Evaluate and understand different countries' NDCs</li> <li>• Know where to go/who to go to for latest analysis as NDCs get released</li> </ul>
17 September	<b>GYC Lab - Interactive Workshop: Youth-Led Projects &amp; Meaningful Youth Engagement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate having met 3 new people working in similar fields - Articulate any support you need in the course</li> <li>• Explain 3-5 youth project ideas</li> <li>• Propose ideas on how to get better data for Youth Access to Climate Finance</li> </ul>



<p>19 September</p>	<p><b>Fossil Fuel Phase Out, International Outcomes &amp; Fossil Fuel Companies' Commitments</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can we achieve climate policy outcomes by leveraging 'non-climate' approaches to policy -&gt; e.g., health, energy security, job security etc.</li> <li>• Explain: What is the current status of fossil fuel phase out? What is the landscape of current agreements (both at COP28) and voluntary agreements?</li> <li>• describe the political economy of fossil fuel expansion &amp; phase out as it relates to development options and trajectory</li> </ul>
<p>24 September</p>	<p><b>Show Me the Money: Financing the Green Transition</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Articulate: What is the global landscape of financial flows for the energy sector?</li> <li>• Explain: What should financial institutions commit to when it comes to financial flows?</li> <li>• Understand: What does Article 2.1c mean for the energy transition?</li> <li>• Assess: What can non-state actors do to ensure a high-ambition NCQG? What does good financial commitment look like?</li> <li>• How can we create non-state actor ambition and scrutiny on financial pledges at COP29</li> <li>• Access to climate finance for youth-led projects</li> <li>• Primer for procedures to access finance</li> </ul>
<p>26 September</p>	<p><b>Workshop/GYC Lab: How do I interact with Negotiators at COP?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain and understand a typical workflow at COP for a negotiator</li> <li>• How to focus on specific areas of work to engage with negotiators</li> <li>• How to impose key ideas/what format/terminologies</li> <li>• How to format briefs/what language considerations etc</li> </ul>
<p>1 October</p>	<p><b>Workshop/GYC Lab: What does Meaningful Youth Engagement at COP29 look like?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-create and articulate our list of demands on youth engagement for COP29</li> <li>• On the ground at COP29: Engaging on Pavilions/strategies for crafting engagement; How to find free food; How to pick side events; Key strategies for meeting &amp; engaging on agenda items</li> <li>• Building momentum from afar: Advocating on domestic policy, following movement building away from COP29</li> </ul>
<p>1 November</p>	<p><b>Pre-COP29 Session</b></p>	<p>Planning your objectives, create agenda for COP29.</p>

## Past Speakers

Including (pictured from left to right)

- the late Dr. Saleemul Huq, International Centre for Climate Change and Development, covering Loss & Damage;
- Reetika Revathy Subramanian, PhD candidate at Cambridge and founder of Climate Brides podcast, who covered the intersection of gender politics and climate change;
- Dr. June Rubis, Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Indigenous Environmental Studies, looking at conservation biology through a lens of Bidayuh teachings;
- Mirna Fernandez, Policy Coordinator at the Global Youth Biodiversity Network, covering the main focus of Biodiversity COPs and youth engagement;
- Milka Chepkorir, member of the Sengwer Indigenous Peoples of Cherang'any Hills, Kenya, covering the intersection between conservation organisations and Indigenous Peoples.



## Testimonials

“The training I received through Global Youth Climate has been a transformative experience in my life. It has not only equipped me with valuable knowledge and skills but has also given me the confidence and motivation to contribute meaningfully to the global efforts in addressing climate change. As a refugee, this opportunity has been a ray of hope, a chance to grow, and a reminder that even in the face of adversity, there are organisations like yours that value the participation of most marginalised people like me.”

2023 GYCT Participant

“I appreciate the inclusive nature of the training (both in terms of speakers and translations), and the ability to come together with other youth who are passionate about climate change.”

2023 GYCT participant

“I truly believe 'Knowledge is Power', and so thank you for sharing it with us and equipping us with that power to change the world.”

2023 GYCT participant

I am a climate negotiator for small island developing states (Cook Islands) and a young Pacific leader. Why youth training? It will continue to build necessary skills to keep fighting the necessary fight for climate action which in turn will help raise ambition to protect my island home, community and people.”

2023 GYCT participant