



# GREENING EDUCATION AND THE YOUNG REPORTERS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (YRE) PROGRAMME

Education for Sustainable Development is key to tackling the urgent transformation we all need in our lives and societies. In the context of the Greening Education Partnership, the YRE programme provides a learning approach to Greening Communities.

Greening  
Schools

Greening  
Learning

Greening  
Capacity &  
Readiness

Greening  
Communities



Young Reporters  
for the environment

[www.fee.global](http://www.fee.global)  
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# WHAT IS THE ROLE OF EDUCATION?

Taking a life-long learning approach starting from pre-primary to adult education, ESD aims to equip all learners with critical competencies covering not only knowledge, but also social and emotional awareness and agency, including critical thinking and collaboration.

With such knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes, learners gain insight into the complexity of the climate crisis, the interconnectedness of global sustainability challenges, as well as how to contribute to problem-solving in daily contexts.

Drawing upon ESD's holistic approach to learning, the Greening Education Partnership aims to inspire action from countries to empower learners with the skills required for inclusive and sustainable economic development within the context of the transition toward digital and green economies.

The four pillars of the Greening Education Partnership are:

- Greening Schools
- Greening Learning
- Greening Capacity & Readiness
- Greening Communities

## YRE's Contribution

### Greening Learning

Supporting with resources, training for youth, participation in the programme etc.

### Greening Capacity & Readiness

Teachers training and capacity building for leaders.

### Greening Schools

Reporting on Action and Performance to help other schools on ways to do it.

The Greening Communities is the one that YRE as a programme is in a strong position to support.

### Greening Communities

#### Vision

Engage the entire community by integrating climate education in life-long learning, in particular through community learning centres and learning cities.

#### Goal

All countries will be able to report **at least 3 different ways learning opportunities** are made available for adults outside the formal education system to develop the skills, attitudes, and actions that will foster community resilience to tackle climate change.

# HOW THE YRE PROGRAMME CAN CONTRIBUTE TO GREENING COMMUNITIES

YRE is an international programme that empowers young people to become a voice for the environment and advocates for sustainability to influence change. It could be one of the three ways larger communities could be impacted.



## Raising awareness in the community

The YRE youth are raising awareness about environmental issues and educating communities. By engaging in environmental reporting, YRE participants can research and report on local challenges, and tailor solutions and best practices to influence change. **Disseminating stories helps to raise awareness and make their activities more impactful.**

## Influencing communities to act, engage and change

Through storytelling, interviews, and leading community events, YRE inspires communities to take action on environmental issues. **Awareness-raising campaigns, and social media activities support positive actions.**

## Engaging young people in environmental reporting

By participating in the YRE programme, young people develop their communication and reporting skills. Playing an active role on social media helps to engage more young people in environmental initiatives, which is also a key component of the Greening Community pillar. In this aspect, it is important to evaluate **post-competition stories to check the impact.**

## Promoting sustainable practices

Through reporting, YRE participants highlight environmental solutions. They inspire others to adopt similar practices and contribute to the overall greening of the community. **YRE supports GEP in embedding sustainability principles in education and community activities. They inspire other schools with their actions.**

## Fostering collaborations and partnerships

YRE also facilitates collaboration between young people, schools, local stakeholders and governments to promote and take sustainable actions.

## Contributing to monitoring and evaluation

By collecting data and reporting on progress, YRE provides valuable insights into the different sustainable interventions and helps with the improvements.

## Advocating for change

Through investigation, YRE identifies areas where policy change is needed. **Policy Advocacy through their stories could be the next step.**

# HOW DO WE FACILITATE GREENING COMMUNITIES?

Through the **GAIA Fellowship programme**, YRE can foster changes in the communities. There is also an opportunity to develop new tools and ideas to support GEP. One of them can be e.g. a **national YRE HUB** for communities to **exchange and learn from each other**.

Overall, it is important to continue storytelling activities via **national and international competitions**. In other **campaigns, smaller calls for storytelling** will be also valuable. It is important also to continue in a systematic way to **evaluate post-competition stories and describe the impact**. It is also important to continue **training and empowering activities for youth** on the local and international levels.

YRE is the **best approach to improve the Greening Communities** pillar by engaging young people, promoting, advocating and influencing the change to create more sustainable and resilient communities around the world.



# YRE'S 4-STEP METHODOLOGY

The programme develops participants' knowledge about the environment and enhances communication and citizenship skills, individual initiative, teamwork, critical analysis, social responsibility, and leadership abilities.

YRE uses a tried and tested four-step methodology:



## INVESTIGATE

INVESTIGATE A LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE:

- Identify and define a local environmental issue.
- Investigate relevant information from primary and secondary sources.
- Identify key stakeholders and explore their different perspectives, goals, and approaches to resolving the issue.
- Conduct original research, such as surveys/questionnaires, and interview key individuals or groups to obtain first-hand information.
- Cover relevant historical, economic, social and/or political implications and possible consequences of the issue.
- Link the local environmental issue to the bigger global picture.



## RESEARCH SOLUTION

RESEARCH SOLUTIONS TO A LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE:

- Identify possible solutions through experts/stakeholders voices to the environmental issue and evaluate its likely effectiveness, giving reasons for and against.
- The solutions presented have to be thoroughly explained, well argued and justified.



## REPORT

REPORT ON THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE AND ITS POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS THROUGH A JOURNALISTIC PIECE:

- Identify your target audience and choose the best way to reach and communicate with them, i.e. which media do they read/watch/listen to?
- Plan how you will report on the issue (who needs to be informed? how? when?) and use the appropriate journalistic format and style.
- Create an article, photograph, or video that documents the environmental issue; where possible you should suggest a solution through the experts/stakeholders voices.
- Take a positive approach to inspiring change and finding a solution.



## DISSEMINATE

DISSEMINATE WITH THE LOCAL AUDIENCE:

- Share (disseminate) your work to a local audience through the media, e.g. newspaper, magazine, radio, television, social media, exhibition, film show, local events, etc.



*The UN Secretary-General calls the climate crisis ‘a battle for our lives’, as we still struggle to transform our societies to reach the 1.5°c-degree path recommended by the Paris Agreement.*

## FOUNDATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Established in 1981, the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) is one of the world’s largest environmental education organisations, with over 100 member organisations in 81 countries.



FEE’s strategy, GAIA 20:30, prioritises impactful action to address the threats of climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental pollution.



FEE Academy is an online learning platform which supports the capacity development needs of a range of stakeholders at no cost to the learners.



## YOUNG REPORTERS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Young Reporters for the Environment (YRE) is an award-winning programme coordinated by Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE). The programme empowers young people to take an educated stand on environmental issues they feel strongly about and gives them a platform to articulate these issues through the media of writing, photography or video.



**Young Reporters  
for the environment**



Over 400,000 youth (students and scouts) yearly in 44 countries.



Over 22,000 impactful stories, articles, photos and videos that engage local communities in actions



6,5m people reached through constructive journalism stories by students to raise awareness, advocate, educate and encourage to act.

The Greening Education Partnership is an independent and inclusive community of practice on the role of education in tackling climate change. It is led by national governments, intergovernmental organizations, youth, civil society organizations, and private sector, among others.

The Secretariat is hosted by UNESCO’s Headquarters in Paris.

For more information, please contact [gep@unesco.org](mailto:gep@unesco.org).

