



# STUDENT CLIMATE CHALLENGE

ENGAGING STUDENTS TO BE  
CLIMATE LEADERS



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# NEW JERSEY STUDENT CLIMATE CHALLENGE

The New Jersey Student Climate Challenge starts with a question—how can we meet the challenges posed by the climate crisis? To help answer it, middle and high school students are encouraged to identify and complete a school or community project to address a cause or impact of climate change. The students then create a short digital story video to highlight what they have accomplished. To support and inspire student action, educational sessions are offered. The sessions spotlight local impacts of climate change and strategies to address them, as well as success stories about what students are already accomplishing.

## ENTRY HIGHLIGHTS

The Climate Challenge is free and open to New Jersey public schools; students in grades 6 to 12 and are eligible to participate.

Teachers register and integrate the Climate Challenge into their classroom or club activities.

Student teams complete a school or community-based climate action project and create a short digital story video.

## TIMELINE

Registration Opens: **October 25, 2021**

Educational Sessions: **December 2021 - February 2022**

Student Team Entries Due: **April 20, 2022**

Winners Notified: **May 15, 2022**

Awards Ceremony: **June 2022**

## AWARDS CEREMONY

First, second and third place winners in a middle school and a high school category are selected by a panel of judges that includes educators and representatives from local non-profits, state agencies and the partner organizations.

Schools with winning submissions receive a grant to support their climate education initiatives: first place \$2,500, second place \$1,000 and third place \$500.

Student team winners and their teachers are recognized at an awards ceremony hosted by the Drumthwacket Foundation with the New Jersey Governor and First Lady.

## EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

- A Climate Challenge information session
- Topic focused sessions on areas where students can make a difference
- Profiles of climate change student activism
- Professional development sessions for teachers on integrating climate change across the curriculum

## CLIMATE CHALLENGE PROJECT IDEAS

Each student team completes a specific project that addresses a cause or impact of climate change. The projects can be school or community based. Check-out this partial list of possible projects for inspiration:



- Advocate for Change in your School or Town
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan for School or Town
- Climate Action Plan or School Carbon Footprint
- Community or School Garden
- Community Education & Outreach
- Food Waste Reduction
- Green Fair or Event
- 'Green' Your Events
- Make Your School or Town Electric Vehicle Friendly
- Make Your School or Town Solar Friendly
- Promote Healthy/Locally Grown Food
- Promote Local Green Businesses
- Rain Garden
- Recycling or Composting Program
- School Green Challenge
- Tree Planting Program

Visit [SustainableJerseySchools.com](https://SustainableJerseySchools.com) or [SustainableJersey.com](https://SustainableJersey.com) for climate action ideas and guidance.



# BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

The New Jersey Student Climate Challenge provides guidance and educational sessions to aid the students as they implement local projects to address the climate crisis and compete to earn a grant for their school.

## STUDENTS

### Turn Passion into Action

Share solutions for the climate crisis

Access resources to complete a climate project

Connect with clean energy and climate professionals

Learn how students are making a difference

Receive recognition at special awards ceremony

## TEACHERS

### Empower Climate Leaders

Register a class or club for the Climate Challenge

Have students participate live or view the educational sessions

Learn strategies for including climate change in curriculum

Support student-centered climate action projects

Receive recognition at special awards ceremony

## SCHOOLS

### Develop Informed Citizens

Encourage teachers to support student participation

Help students develop lifelong love of learning by being actively involved in climate projects

Receive recognition at special awards ceremony

## CLIMATE SESSIONS

Students and their teachers can participate in virtual sessions to learn about the New Jersey Student Climate Challenge and actionable ways to address the climate crisis. The sessions will energize and motivate participants as they prepare climate projects.

### Topic Focused Student Sessions

Students are invited to participate in virtual sessions that focus on local actions they can take to address the climate crisis. Participants hear from New Jersey experts and student activists who discuss case studies of local climate action and share the resources available to support student action.

### Teacher Professional Development Sessions

Expert teacher educators guide teachers from across content areas on ways to identify the big ideas of climate change and to integrate those climate concepts into the curriculum using high-quality (and free) educational resources. Strategies for scaffolding and supporting student-centered action projects are shared.





# #WHYIPARTICIPATE IN THE NJSTUDENTCLIMATECHALLENGE

## New Jersey Student Climate Challenge participants share why they participated in the 2021 pilot program:

"... because I want to protect my beautiful hometown from disaster. The Climate Challenge is all about - starting NOW and doing NOW what we can to address climate change. I have been so amazed to learn how big of a difference student leaders and activists are able to make. With the right initiative and goals in mind—students can do anything."

**NATASHA IQBAL**, *Graduated Senior, Egg Harbor High School and New Jersey Student Climate Challenge Student Representative*

"...to expand and strengthen my students' knowledge of the climate crisis because the climate crisis is real, and students are the future."

**CAROLYN TAGMIRE**, *Environmental Science Teacher, Winslow Township High School.*

"New Jersey leads the world in the number of scientists and engineers per square mile. Our students today will tackle the climate challenge and become the clean energy leaders of tomorrow."

**HELAIN BARR**, *Research Scientist Climate Change Program, NJ Department of Environmental Protection*

"So students know that strategies exist to make a difference when challenges arise, which empowers our youth to be agents of change."

**VICKI PALAGANAS**, *Environmental Science Teacher, Penns Grove High School*

"Because young folx—particularly black, indigenous, and people of color—are being left out of the conversations about the "environment" that disproportionately negatively impacts their lives. I participate to inspire and TO BE INSPIRED."

**MEISHKA L. MITCHELL**, *AICP, PP, Vice President, Cooper's Ferry*

"...Our partnership with the next generation of innovative thinkers is paramount to our continued success in meeting our reliability and environmental responsibilities."

**LERNARD S. THORNTON, JR.**, *Workforce Development, Atlantic City Electric/Pepco Holdings*

## For more information visit

<http://bit.ly/NJStudentClimateChallenge>

Email:

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## POWERED BY ATLANTIC CITY ELECTRIC

Atlantic City Electric and the Exelon Foundation are proud to support the New Jersey Student Climate Challenge as part of their commitment to powering a cleaner and brighter future for customers and communities in New Jersey.

## New Jersey Student Climate Challenge Partners

