Climate change education for social transformation

#3 Education for post-carbon green economies

Background

UNESCO and UNFCCC are launching a series of eight monthly conversations, one every month from April to December, focused on climate change education on the road to COP27, which will be held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt on 7-18 November 2022.

The series is dedicated to the goal of greening every education policy and curriculum to ensure that every learner is equipped with the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes to tackle climate change and promote sustainable development. The series highlights the central role of education in promoting social transformation, which implies a certain level of disruption in individual action intertwined with reorganization of societal structures towards a more just and sustainable direction.

The series is organized in view of the UNESCO global framework on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) for the period 2020-2030, entitled “Education for Sustainable Development: Towards achieving the SDGs (ESD for 2030)”, as well as Glasgow work programme on Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) to promote transformative education to tackle the climate crisis, and feeds into the ACE Hub, an initiative launched by UNFCCC and
the German Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia in 2022 to foster education and public awareness, training, public access to information and participation in climate change action.

Objectives and key questions for webinar #3

The evidence of the climate crisis, the limits of natural resources, the impact of pollution and the growing inequalities and social injustice, shows that reconciling economic growth with the principles of sustainable development is challenging as long as current industrial and production models, built to pursue unlimited economic growth, continue. Therefore, in a post-carbon green economy, a systematic redesign is needed to radically transform the way we build our economies. According to the report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), limiting global warming to 1.5°C would require ‘rapid and far-reaching’ changes in all sectors of society and the reduction of global net human-caused carbon dioxide emissions by about 45% from 2010 levels by 2030, reaching ‘net zero’ around 2050.

A transition towards a post-carbon green economy, which implies meeting the needs of all people without overshooting earth’s planetary boundaries, requires fundamental rethinking of all aspects of our societies. Concrete changes in lifestyles are also integral to the solution for a sustainable future. The 1.5-degree lifestyle questions current consumption patterns and promotes strategies to achieve low-carbon lifestyles. With this in mind, knowledge, values, attitudes, and actions need to change at both the systemic and individual level. Education encourages this paradigm shift by raising awareness of the structural changes and promoting alternative values, such as fairness and solidarity, away from the notion of unlimited economic growth. Furthermore, education fosters competencies such as civic and political engagement, so people can engage directly in the political and advocating process, while also equipping learners with the skills that will be required in future jobs created by the 1.5°C transition.

In the margins of the UN Transforming Education Pre-Summit, the third session of the UNESCO-UNFCCC webinar series on climate change education will discuss what needs to be integrated into educational policies and curricula to help accelerate the transition to alternative sustainable economic models and promote individual sustainable lifestyles.

The session will address the following questions:

- What is the role of climate change education to promote the transition towards a post-carbon green economy?
- How can climate change education foster a 1.5-degree lifestyle?
Date
The webinar will be held on Tuesday, 28 June at 12:30 – 13:30 GMT+2 (60 min).

Technical specifications
The webinar will be held on Zoom and a YouTube livestream will be provided. The webinar is conducted in English and live interpretation will be provided in French. Written interactions during the session are available in English and French.

Organizers and partners
The series of webinars is organized by UNESCO and UNFCCC.

Contact
- Section of Education for Sustainable Development, Education Sector, UNESCO at future.esd@unesco.org
- Action for Climate Empowerment team, UNFCCC at ace@unfccc.int.

More details will be made available on the UNESCO ESD webpage and UNFCCC ACE Hub.