

## 3rd International Conference on Sustainability Education DAY 1

Theme: Education for Ecosystem Restoration  
September 9, 2021 (Thursday)

Session 4: - **Climate Literacy leads to Green Jobs**

By



Time - 15:30 - 16:30 hrs IST (GMT + 5:30)

### CONCEPT NOTE

#### Objectives:

- Establish Climate Literacy as the need of the hour
- Create more green jobs, eco-preneurs, and sustainable livelihood opportunities
- If you belong to a not-for-profit organization or large academic institution, consider signing this letter calling on Governments to Commit to Urgent Action on Climate and Environmental Literacy at the Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow, UK:  
[https://action.earthday.org/cop26\\_literacy\\_letter\\_orgs](https://action.earthday.org/cop26_literacy_letter_orgs)

#### Outcome:

Combined with Civic Education, Climate Literacy will create jobs, build a green consumer market, and allow citizens to engage with their governments in a meaningful way to solve climate change

#### Background:

The UNEP defines the Green Economy as one that results in improved human well-being and social equity while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. The environment is seen as a determining factor of economic production, value, stability, and long-term prosperity – indeed, as a source of growth and a spur to innovation. Simply put, the Green Economy is an effective pathway to sustainable development.

Millions of green jobs are now opening up in varied sectors: to help protect ecosystems and biodiversity; reduce the consumption of energy, water, and other natural resources and materials through high-

efficiency strategies; de-carbonize the economy; minimize or altogether avoid the generation of all forms of waste and pollution; for green buildings. According to a 2018 study by the International Labor Organisation, India's shift to a green economy could add 3 million jobs in the renewable energy sector alone by 2030. More people are needed in rooftop solar power generation jobs, manufacturing solar panel modules, inverters and converters, and end-use components for LED bulbs and energy-efficient pumps.

The foundation to ensure that more and more people take up jobs in the Green Economy (both rural and urban) rests on creating a climate literate population. Education has a crucial role to play in building the workforce for a new, greener economy. Education influences the knowledge, values, and behaviour of all individuals in our societies and builds the skills of current and future leaders. Research suggests that individual behaviour changes in food and waste, agriculture, transport, and heating can reduce 20-37 percent of emissions (~390-730GT); early studies also suggest that students who learn about climate action influence not just their own choices but those of their families and communities as well. Education systems should urgently empower young people with the knowledge, skills, and mindset to act on climate in their families and communities: 85 percent of youth globally believe they have a responsibility to tackle climate change, but over 40 percent are unsure of how to have an impact.

For the next generation of workers, we need to upskill incumbent workers and train the unemployed and disadvantaged youth. We face global competition on the green economy that will debilitate our effort to create the next generation of innovators and innovations and the jobs that come with them if we do not educate our students and workers. Furthermore, this time, given the ravages of climate change, we are competing for more than our own economic survival.

An educated workforce is a valuable hedge against global competition and as a driver of a massive green expansion as countries place greater emphasis on green jobs. As the world moves to reimagine how we manufacture, build, transport, operate, power, or fuel just about everything we use or do, we need fully integrated climate literacy to drive innovation and jobs in all sectors. Numerous think tanks and corporate research efforts point to this need for an educated and entrepreneurial workforce.

With this in mind, we ask governments at COP 26 to commit to compulsory, assessed climate education linked to civic engagement. It should become as fundamental as teaching reading and writing. It is necessary to integrate and embed climate literacy across all grade levels and disciplines with the necessary teacher training and support. Beyond the direct teaching of climate education, commit in parallel to enabling young people, especially those in vulnerable and historically marginalized groups that stand to lose the most in the climate crisis, with the skills and support to thrive in a greener world. Together these efforts will create the first generation of true climate literate and civically active citizens who will be able to make environmentally informed choices about how they live, work, and participate in government, and become the climate literate workforce needed to build a new, stronger, and more sustainable 21st-century economy.

## Agenda of the Session

Duration	PROGRAMME SCHEDULE
15:30 -15:32	<b>Opening remarks and Introduction:</b> <b>Neela Majumdar</b> , Sr. Manager, Projects Development Earth Day Network India. Neela Introduces Nick Nuttall
15:32 -15:48	Topic: The Importance of Climate Literacy in the Growing Green Economy <b>Nick Nuttall</b> : International Strategic Communications Director EARTHDAY.ORG
15:48-15:50	Neela Majumdar introduces <b>Ajay Mittal</b> , Director, Climate Change Programmes, Earth Day Network India, to moderate. Ajay Mittal introduces Prof Chetan Singh Solanki
15:50-16:05	Topic: Jobs in the Renewable Energy Sector – Skills Development for Youth <b>Prof Chetan Singh Solanki</b> , Founder Energy Swaraj Foundation and Advisor, Earth Day Network India
16:05- 16:20	Topic: Role of Youth in the Green Economy <b>Dr Renard Siew</b> , My Future My Voice EARTHDAY.ORG Youth Ambassador, Malaysia
16:20 -16:25	Video message from <b>Jenk Oz</b> , Founder of social enterprise 'Thred Media' My Future My Voice EARTHDAY.ORG Youth Ambassador, UK
16:25-16:30	<b>Participant's Questions. Answers addressed by Panellists. Vote of Thanks</b> <b>Ajay Mittal</b> , Director, Climate Change Programmes, Earth Day Network India