

Localizing Climate Justice Conference

Concept Note

I. BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

The Localizing Climate Justice Conference (LCJC) is being co-organized by the former Mayor of Salt Lake City, Jackie Biskupski, and the Core Team of youth climate activists behind the Global Youth Climate Action Declaration (GYCAD) movement and is co-sponsored by the Global NGO Executive Committee.

The virtual conference will span two days, **Friday, September 25th & Saturday, September 26th**, taking place in the morning to early afternoon Eastern Standard Time on both days in order to accommodate a wide range of global time zones and to ensure maximum participation from the Global South. All panels and conference events will be **free of cost** to all wishing to participate.

The conference will consist of six panels, each focused on a few thematic policy impact areas from the Global Youth Climate Action Declaration. The panel themes include the following:

- Youth and Public Mobilization
- Infrastructure, Cities, and Local Action
- Industry Transition and Accountability + Energy Transition
- Resilience and Adaptation + Nature-based Solutions
- Mitigation + Climate Finance and Carbon Pricing
- Capacity-Building, Education, and Awareness

The emphasis on climate justice was intentional: we can not expect to make the immediate and long-term changes necessary if the actions we choose to make do not include and address the struggles and lives of all people. Our movement forward into a sustainable and environmentally healthy future must be urgent and community-led, with the well-being of our local communities and our most underrepresented or vulnerable populations as a top priority.

The LCJC will convene mayors, other policymakers, youth climate activists, and major stakeholders from around the world in the movement for climate justice in order to spotlight local approaches to climate reform & create space for an ongoing dialogue between policymakers and their constituents on the subject of climate change.



II. CONFERENCE STRUCTURE

The following schedule is a tentative outline of conference programming. Order of panels are subject to change between now and mid-August based on speaker availability. All times are in Eastern Standard Time (GMT -4)

Day 1: September 25, 2020

10am -11:30am: Opening session and Panel 1 {Youth and Public Mobilization}

11:30am -11:35am: Break

11:35am -12:35am: Panel 2 {Infrastructure, Cities, and Local Action}

12:35am -12:40pm: Break

12:40pm - 1:40pm: Panel 3 {Industry Transition & Accountability + Energy Transition}

1:40pm - 1:45pm: Wrap Up for Day 1 and info for Day 2

1:45 pm - 3 pm: Breakout rooms on panel topics from Day 1

Day 2: September 26, 2020

10:00am -11:00am: Panel 4 {Resilience and Adaptation + Nature-based solutions}

11:00am -11:05am: Break

11:05am -12:05pm: Panel 5 {Mitigation + Climate Finance and Carbon Pricing}

12:05pm -12:10pm: Break

12:10pm -1:10pm: Panel 6 {Capacity-building, Education, and Awareness}

1:10pm - 1:45pm: Closing Session and launch of GYCAD Global Ambassador Program

1:45pm - 3pm: Breakout rooms on panel topics from Day 2

III. PARTICIPATION

Participation from a wide range of sustainability experts, youth climate activists, and policymakers is anticipated. Participants are encouraged to ask dynamic, engaging questions of the panelists and to share their perspectives in the breakout sessions following each day of conference programming. Breakout sessions, held via digital platform, will be an opportunity to dive deeper into the content discussed in thematic panels from throughout the day and to discuss questions prompted by moderators.



IV. BACKGROUND ON THE GYCAD

The Global Youth Climate Action Declaration, **GYCAD**, contains a set of 77 key climate policy demands which have been co-created, defined, and refined by young climate activists from around the globe. The intention of the GYCAD is to both serve as a knowledge platform and as a climate policy toolkit which empowers people to make climate action a tangible reality in their home communities. It can be signed and read at gycad.org.

The mantra of the Core Team of organizers behind the GYCAD's ongoing advocacy efforts is:

“knowledge is power”

Through utilization of this platform, anyone can be equipped with the knowledge to approach their legislators with specific climate policy demands.

The GYCAD was first drafted during the 2019 UN Climate Summit by a group of global youth united in their call for meaningful and specific policy action to address climate change. It was initially created by climate activist who attended the summit to serve as an independently crafted outcome document in the absence of a formal outcome document which would subsequently spread like wildfire throughout global youth climate advocacy channels for further input. In a rapid 48 hours, hundreds of young people had provided their input, an editorial team had been established, and a first draft approval process was well underway.

Following the initial version of the GYCAD, the newly established Core Team embarked on a three-month global consultation and revision process where in-person dialogues and online events held space for further input from climate experts and youth activists across multiple continents with regards to the document. The goal now of the Core Team is to continue this revision process on an annual basis in order to permanently establish the platform's relevance and utility to those looking to be part of the climate policy discourse.

**Global collective action
rooted in local impact.**



Since its genesis, the GYCAD has been shared at the UN General Assembly, and the Core Team has hosted multiple side events at COP 25 in Portugal, co-organized and co-hosted the UN 75 dialogue on Climate Change & Resilient Communities, and continues to advise GYCAD strategic local implementation meetings on the ground around the globe.

The Core Team is composed of deeply passionate young people ranging from high school to PhD students and young professionals. Independently, the members are affiliated with a myriad of NGOs, UN subsidiary bodies, and institutions. They seek to uphold the GYCAD's intended purpose as a living, intersectional policy toolkit that is not owned by any single one of us but instead belongs to everyone as the collective youth voice on climate policy reform.

V. EXPECTED OUTCOMES & DOCUMENTATION

The conference will be recorded via an online meeting platform. Documentation will include tangible recommendations for expanding upon the GYCAD in its upcoming revision cycle, as well as a post-event survey asking participants to share more in-depth about their localized visions for climate justice. Conference recordings will serve as digital outcome statements and will be promoted via social media. Post-conference videos will be created to further the message of the conference discussions and enable a larger audience to interact with the conference material following its conclusion.

VI. FURTHER INFORMATION

Please direct all further questions and inquiries to:

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