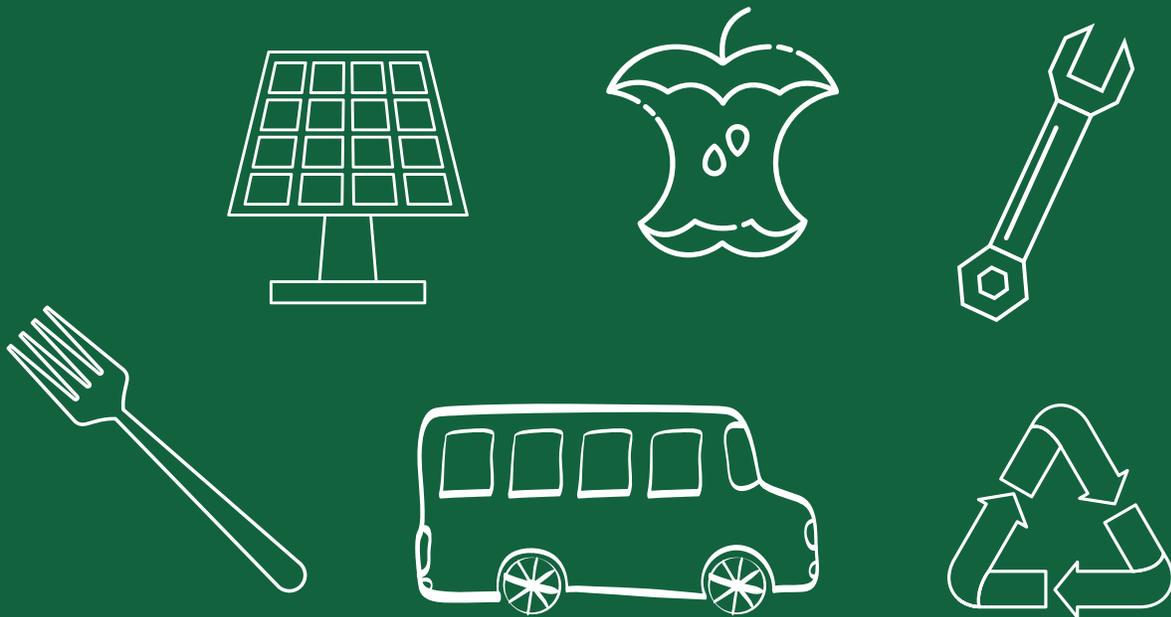


Resources for Student Climate Action Plans



**For students and participants of the Youth
Environmental and Sustainability Summit (YESS)**

By Julia Farawell
Sustainable Hudson Valley

01. Solar Energy Resources

Case studies to look into:

Augusta County, Virginia students (mentioned in presentation):

<https://securefutures.solar/solarbration-with-augusta-county-public-schools/>

Vanderbilt University solar campaign:

<https://tntribune.com/education/college/vanderbilt/vanderbilt-students-urge-school-to-use-renewable-sources/>

University of Southern California rally for solar:

<http://dailytrojan.com/2017/11/09/students-rally-use-solar-energy-campus/>

Educational resources for students:

Free online course on renewable energy (with focus on solar in schools):

<https://www.solarenergy.org/solar-in-the-schools/>

Greenpeace research on benefits of solar in schools:

<https://www.greenpeace.org/usa/repower-schools-100-renewable-energy-offers-schools-savings-health-learning-opportunities/>

How schools are lowering their operating costs with solar:

<https://blog.solect.com/blog/how-schools-are-lowering-operating-expenses-with-solar>

School solar panels costs vs. benefits:

<https://news.energysage.com/solar-panels-for-schools-how-k-12s-and-universities-can-benefit-from-solar/>

01. Solar Action Plan

As listed in the presentation:

Follow the Virginia students and write up a plan to present to your school administrators and/or community policymakers.

Create a coalition of students, teachers, adults and other community members who support installing solar at your school.

Conduct an energy investigation with the coalition (Green Schools Investigations).

If you know of local school districts with solar, ask to interview their principal and include this in your plan.

Schedule a meeting with your school administrators to present your plan

Green Schools publishes Investigations that can be conducted by students on their schools.

These Investigations include Energy, Environmental Quality (chemicals used on campus/ air quality/ transportation affecting health), Waste + Recycling, and Water.

Find the Green Schools Investigations here (they cost roughly \$33 to purchase the whole set):

<https://www.plt.org/greenschools/student-investigations/>

For residents of NYS Climate Smart Communities:

Public schools are run and funded by local government.

Many CSC Actions affect local government buildings and properties.

PE4 Action: Solar Energy Installation:

<https://climatesmart.ny.gov/actions-certification/actions/#open/action/49>

02. Electric Bus Resources

Case studies to look into:

Largest E-bus campaign in Virginia:

<https://cleantechnica.com/2020/01/12/largest-electric-school-bus-program-in-united-states-launching-in-virginia/>

Long Island E-bus pilot program:

<https://www.schoolbusfleet.com/news/736497/new-york-contractor-district-roll-out-4-electric-school-buses>

Vermont E-bus pilot program:

<https://energynews.us/2019/11/15/northeast/vermont-launches-electric-school-bus-pilot-with-volkswagen-settlement-funds/>

How E-buses help the utilities grid:

<https://www.fastcompany.com/90436347/electric-school-buses-are-an-ingenious-solution-to-help-utilities-build-more-battery-storage>

Electric School Bus resources:

Electric School Bus Campaign (NYS):

<http://electricschoolbuscampaign.org/>

Energy companies offsetting the costs of electric buses:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/22/business/energy-environment/electric-school-buses.html>

NY Electric buses feeding the power grid:

<https://news.bloombergenvironment.com/environment-and-energy/new-york-electric-school-buses-to-feed-power-grid>

02. Electric Bus Action Plan

As listed in the presentation:

Take an inventory of how many diesel buses your school uses.

Research the average commute time of students who take the bus. Calculate how many hours of diesel are burned per year.

If you live in NY, join the Electric School Bus Campaign. Start a chapter in your community.

If you don't live in NY, start a local Electric School Bus campaign for your state or area!

Write a letter to your administrators or local policymakers.

Have teachers, neighbors, your family, your friends' families and local activist groups sign it in support.

Present the letter at a local town board meeting or to school administrators.

For residents of NYS Climate Smart Communities:

There's no distinct action for CSC's to implement electric buses or electric school buses, but this action does talk about alternative transportation modes:

<https://climatesmart.ny.gov/actions-certification/actions/#open/action/77>

03. Food Resources

Case studies of school farmers markets to look into:

50 schools host farmers market in Las Vegas:

<https://www.ktnv.com/positivelylv/largest-student-run-farmers-market-hits-vegas>

Elementary and middle school students run farmers market in California:

<https://www.comstocksmag.com/web-only/capital-region-schools-get-their-own-farmers-markets>

Middle school students sell their garden-grown food at community market:

<https://www.wlbt.com/2019/05/22/blackburn-middle-school-students-sell-veggies-community-student-led-garden/>

SUNY New Paltz student-coordinated, on-campus farmers market:

<https://www.newpaltz.edu/sustainability/view-programs-and-progress/food/farmers-market/>

How to start a student-led farmers market - Resources:

Starting a new farmers market:

<http://sfp.ucdavis.edu/files/144703.pdf>

How schools and students can sell garden-grown food at their own farmers market:

<https://kidsgardening.org/create-sustain-a-program-school-farmers-markets-helping-kids-and-communities-grow/>

Academic article about students starting farmers market on university campus:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/19320248.2013.873007>

03. Farmers Market - Action Plan

As listed in presentation:

Create a school-wide or community-wide survey. Write a report to share the results with your school administrators and/or community policymakers.

If you live near farms, contact them, asking if they'd be interested in joining your Farmers Market. Include this in your report.

If your school has an environmental or gardening club, approach them about growing food on school grounds.

You could give away or sell your harvested vegetables at the school farmers market or a local farmers market, with approval from adults overseeing these operations.

04. Consumerism

Case studies to look into:

School gets rid of plastic and styrofoam TV dinner-style lunches:

<https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/education/2019/10/06/going-old-school-anchorage-school-lunches-are-getting-a-makeover/>

School switches to compostable plates:

<https://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2015/06/06/411986584/schools-say-ciao-to-plastic-lunch-trays-hello-to-compostable-plates>

Campaign to end styrofoam in cafeterias:

<https://apnews.com/8724033567414542a316627807354ff3>

Schools switch to reusable utensils in cafeteria:

<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/living-green/case-study-schools-move-reusable-utensils>

SUNY New Paltz Zero Waste Plan:

<https://www.newpaltz.edu/sustainability/view-programs-and-progress/zero-waste/>

Resources:

What can your school do?

<https://earth911.com/inspire/waste-school-cafeteria/>

Zero Waste school initiative:

<https://www.ecowatch.com/kids-plastic-lunch-2511102062.html>

04. Reduce Plastic in Cafeterias

As listed in the presentation:

Conduct a school-wide investigation to find out how much waste your school generates, as well as where that waste goes.

Think about recyclable alternatives to single-use, non-recyclable items in your cafeteria.

Create a school-wide campaign with other students to spread the word about single-use plastic in your cafeteria.

Or, start a "Last Straw" chapter in your school and community, for local businesses to participate in, too.

Present recyclable and compostable alternatives to your administration and/or school board.

Campaigns that exist:

Last Straw Rhinebeck (started by Hudson Valley high school students):

thelaststrawrhineb.wixsite.com/website

Break Free from Plastic:

<https://www.breakfreefromplastic.org/get-involved/>

Plastic-free July:

<https://www.plasticfreejuly.org/>

05. Waste

Case studies to look into:

Hudson Valley BOCES students fix items at their Repair Cafe:

<https://www.lohud.com/story/news/education/2019/05/03/sunday-boces-students-fix-broken-electronics-free-repair-cafe/3643782002/>

High school students run a Repair Cafe:

<https://www.montereyherald.com/2019/12/06/seaside-high-school-students-to-run-repair-cafe-next-week/>

Community Repair Cafe focused on reducing waste:

<https://dailygazette.com/article/2019/07/29/foss-repair-cafe-aims-to-reduce-waste>

Report on University + College-based Repair Cafes:

https://web.wpi.edu/Pubs/E-project/Available/E-project-042816-052929/unrestricted/repaircafe_D16_final_report.pdf

Resources:

Why Repair Cafes are important and sustainable:

<https://www.moneycrashers.com/repair-cafes-save-money-avoid-waste/>

Repair Cafes combat "throw-away culture":

<https://www.citylab.com/life/2018/07/how-repair-cafes-can-fix-our-throwaway-culture/564923/>

The multifaceted benefits of Repair Cafes:

<https://www.machinedesign.com/motors-drives/article/21832149/repair-cafes-inspire-handon-learning-reduce-waste-and-strengthen-community-bonds>

Sustainable Instagram Accounts:

@WasteFreePhD

@TheTrashWalker

@ZeroWasteChef

@TheZeroWasteGuide

@Rocket_Science

@NowhereAndEverywhere_

@PlasticPollutes

@EcoInspo

@PlasticInc.App

@RegenerativeOrganic

@FoodPrintOrg

@iFixit

@RepairCafeHV