

Green Games 2021: RYCL Climate Week

Sept. 26- Oct. 2

The Green Games 2021: RYCL Climate Week with [Color Your School Green](#) is a challenge that aims to introduce students to climate crisis related issues and solutions, and to challenge them and their school districts to take action. **Students and schools participate by logging their actions in google forms linked for each day below.** View the condensed schedule directly below and the toolkit on the second page of this document.

Condensed schedule:

Day 1- Sunday, Sept. 26th: Brighton EcoFair: Come Visit RYCL at the Brighton EcoFair. Learn more about the EcoFair [here](#). [Log your participation for this day here](#).

Day 2- Monday, Sept. 27th: Meatless Monday: Did you know the impact meat has on the environment? Do you know how your food waste impacts the environment? Learn about how you can reduce your carbon footprint by eating less meat, try eating a meatless lunch for the day, as well as contribute to our meatless recipe book. [Log your participation for this day here](#).

Day 3- Tuesday, Sept. 28th: Art challenge: Envision a sustainable and equitable community! What would it look like to live in a community that is environmentally, economically, and socially just? Share your art (any medium!) with us and we will share it with the public. See examples [here](#). [Log your participation and submit your work for this day here](#).

Day 4- Wednesday, Sept. 29th: Environmental Justice: What is environmental justice and why is it important? Learn more by accessing our resources. Have you or your family experienced environmental injustice? Share your story. [Log your participation and/or submit your video for this day here](#).

Day 5- Thursday, Sept. 30th: Divestment Petition: The New York State Teachers' Retirement System has over \$4.5 billion invested in the fossil fuel industry and by divesting the fossil fuel industry is stigmatized making it harder for them to expand their future destroying industry. Learn more [here](#). [Log your participation for this day here](#).

Day 6- Friday, Oct. 1st: Take a stand against fossil fuels: Take a moment during the school day to recognize the protests that took place the week before on September 24th with a video. Then, join the Rochester Youth Climate Leaders and ask that the New York State Teachers' Retirement System invest in students' futures by divesting from fossil fuels. Join us on Friday, October 1st at 4:00 PM at the Rochester Teachers' Association and the NYSUT headquarters (30 Union Street) to thank them for supporting divestment. [Log your participation for this day here](#).

Day 7- Saturday, Oct. 2nd: Media Menu!: Share your favorite climate and social justice related movies, videos, books, and more and view what others recommend. [Log your participation and submit your work for this day here.](#)

Toolkit:

Meatless Monday		
Project	Description	Points
Recipe Challenge (Individual)	Pick a favorite vegetarian recipe or use the internet or cookbooks around your house to find a vegetarian recipe that sounds good and submit it through the form for the day.	1
Infographic on Food Choices (Individual)	Post these infographics or send out in a virtual school workspace to educate students about the impacts of eating meat. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tips for Meat Eaters • Food Choices and Climate • Diet Change and 1 Year Impact 	1
Eating a meatless meal (Individual)	Try eliminating meat from your lunch for one day, or don't eat meat at all today. It's incredible how such a small action reduces our carbon footprint by such a large amount.	1
More meatless options in the cafeteria (School-wide)	<p>1. Begin by reaching out to the cafeteria director or director of food services in your district. You may use this template email if you wish:</p> <p><i>Dear Mr./Mrs./Ms./Mx. [Fill in the name of the director here],</i></p> <p><i>My name is [insert your name here] I am reaching out on behalf of [insert name of your club]. We are concerned about the impact that meat based food has on the environment and we are interested in discussing the meatless options offered in the cafeteria with you. Are you available to meet with our club sometime soon to discuss with us more? We normally meet on [insert what day you meet] but we can arrange to meet on a different day if that is more convenient.</i></p> <p><i>Thank you,</i> <i>[Insert your name]</i></p>	1

	<p>2. Prior to meeting with the director, brainstorm some questions you want to ask them and make sure you know exactly what you would like to ask them to do. Beyond just learning about how the cafeteria system works in your district, it's important to ensure you make your ask clear. You may also want to access the Lobby Meeting Plan and Lobby Meeting Template to prepare for this meeting, depending on your comfort level.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Some questions you may want to consider asking: What is the process for the district to order and get their food?, How does the district decide what to serve?, How conscious is the district of providing meatless options in the cafeteria? Some examples of an ask for this meeting might be: Can the cafeteria offer more meatless options for students? Can the cafeteria offer only meatless hot lunch options one day a week? Would it be possible to have a meatless Monday as a part of our school's green week this year? <p>3. Rock your meeting! Even if the food services director is hesitant to take action, make sure you are clear about what you want and why it is important that they take action.</p> <p>4. Follow up. A key piece of any meeting is following up after the meeting with an email. Thank them for their time and continue the conversation about your ask. If they were hesitant to take any action yet, share again why reducing the consumption of meat based products is important to your group. If they agreed, ask what the next steps are to make the change happen and offer to help with anything.</p>	
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Art Challenge - Tuesday		
Project	Description	Points
Envision a Sustainable and Equitable Community! (Individual)	<p>What would it look like to live in a community that is environmentally, economically, and socially just? Share your art (any medium!) with us and we will share it with the public. See examples here.</p> <p>Environmental clubs can consider holding an art build to give students a social space to build their art in.</p>	1

Environmental Justice - Wednesday		
Project	Description	Points
What is Environmental Justice? (Individual)	<p>According to the EPA, “Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.”. Read more in Color Your School Green’s Environmental Justice document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📘 Environmental Justice 🎥 Environmental justice, explained 🎥 A Brief History of Environmental Justice <p>Introduction to</p>	1
Love Note to an Island (Individual)	<p>Many people have real life experiences with environmental injustice. Watch this video to see an example of someone’s experience with environmental justice: #Film4Climate 2nd Prize Short Film Winner "Love Note to an Island"</p>	1
Share Your Story (Individual)	<p>If you or someone in your family has experienced environmental injustice, please share it through an audio or video, or written account of the experience and attach it in the form.</p>	1

Advocacy Day - Thursday		
Project	Description	Points
Take Action! (Individual/School-wide)	<p>Creating a table in a lunchroom or in a hallway as students enter school is a great way to engage students who are willing to support fighting climate change with a small action. The best way to have students sign petitions is to have a computer or two at your table or have a QR code that students can scan with their phones. (Here is a website that generates QR codes.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Divest the New York State Teachers’ Retirement System petition: To learn more about the campaign to divest the NYS teachers’ pension fund click here and to access the 	1

	<p>petition click here. Divestment is selling a stock that had been invested in in the stock market. In this case, divestment means no longer investing in the fossil fuel industry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you attend a school where teachers don't receive their pension through NYSTRS, consider promoting this petition to stop a fossil fuel powered power plant.	
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