

# Edmund Rice Schools & Global Network Commitment to Combatting Climate Change and Ensuring a Sustainable, Compelling Future for All

## Official Statement

### Voice for Youth COY16

#### Introduction

We are a [group of 11 UK schools](#) and part of an international network of 100s more in 27 countries whose educational philosophy, established by the Christian Brothers, endeavours to promote global solidarity and offers a transformational education for justice and liberation. As a Catholic faith organisation, we look to the guidance of Pope Francis and the other church leaders who are urging us all to 'hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor'. Our Edmund Rice Global Network strongly advocates for and teaches a rights-based approach to environmental and social justice through ministries such as [Edmund Rice International](#), a human rights & justice NGO, the [Thomas Berry Forum for Ecological Dialogue](#), [Pratyek NGO](#), an Indian NGO for child and education rights with a global presence and Edmund Rice Justice Desks such as the [Edmund Rice Centre, Sydney](#). Our schools all have peace & justice and environmental groups which comprise keen activists with experience of participating in international forums where they have deepened their knowledge of the sustainable development goals, planned joint action campaigns to reduce waste and lead advocacy campaigns on social and ecological justice issues. One such affirmation of our commitment to action by schools in our network is the [Edmund Rice Education Australia Climate Crisis Statement](#).

Young people from our 11 UK schools are working together on [educational campaigns](#) that highlight the principal facts of Climate Change and the degradation of the Earth. They link in with other schools, human rights NGOs and social justice groups from across the global Edmund Rice network (covering the Americas, Africa, Asia and Oceania) to engage discussion about and advocate on the urgency of the situation we all face.

The Edmund Rice Network has been particularly active in engaging its community in COP26. We have been running workshops on COP26 for staff and students, lobbying leaders with environmental demands and have had an '[Edmund Rice Global Journey to COP26](#)' action campaign for the last 6 months, encouraging advocacy work and lifestyle changes across many countries. We provide [extensive resources](#) to staff and students in our schools on environmental issues.

#### Why we are making this statement

This is an opportunity that we have been given and that we need to make the most of. The COY Statement provides us with an opportunity to use our voices as a group of young people from schools in the UK and across our global schools' family to show leadership in the campaign for creating a cleaner, safer and more sustainable planet for all of us to occupy. We want to write this statement as we feel that this is now possibly the last opportunity for us to take decisive action in the fight against Climate Change. We feel that this climate emergency must be tackled with immediacy in order to let us, the younger generations, enjoy our world in the same way older generations got to do.

We want to open the minds of people who do not believe in the severity of the issue facing the globe, since we, the youth are the ones who will face the severe consequences of climate change. As climate change affects all life forms on Earth, we must take adequate actions before it is too late. We must ensure that the voice of the youth is heard, and we strongly believe that our opinions can bring about change.

We as the Edmund Rice Community look to governments to work together and with others, to make our common home a better place for the generations to come; to create a positive vision for 2050 where addressing climate change is not just an opportunity to stop burning fossil fuels, but also: to achieve cleaner air and water; to reduce food wastage, to ensure a just and equitable sharing of the earth's resources; and to protect the habitats we share with all other life on whose health we also depend.

### **Why the 'Edmund Rice Schools Community' deserves a voice on the issue of Climate Change and environmental degradation**

As a global organisation, we represent many different perspectives and can contribute to environmental activism in different ways. Those of us who are privileged with opportunities and education try to help give a voice to those who do not. We have a responsibility to share that information with others. We represent many advantaged communities as well as many other indigenous and some marginalised communities in developing countries. A proportion of our consultation group, as child street workers in Bolivia, spend many hours in the heat of the day and are exposed to extreme levels of air pollution caused by traffic. We deserve to be listened to.

We are a united group of very diverse young people who are educated to fight against global injustices and to stand up for earth rights. We, as a group of Edmund Rice Schools deserve to have a voice on these issues as these are the elements of our Founder's teachings. It is within our essential elements as a Christian Brother School to be stewards of our environment. We deserve to have a voice because we are the next generation of helpers, we are the ones who can impose a change on the dreadful course we, as a community are headed for. A healthy environment is needed for the good of everyone and we, as Edmund Rice schools, have the strong motive to live lives of service and to reach out where we see need; that current need being our planet itself. Some of the students in this group face particular problems caused by the lack of waste management in Asansol, India and water shortage in Cochabamba, Bolivia. Our voice matters because we, as young people, are the ones who will face the extreme consequences of global warming. By joining our efforts, we can reach a quicker and more effective solution. The Edmund Rice Community has always believed in raising their voice for much needed changes we also believe that every human

community, no matter its make-up, should have the opportunity to speak up for what it stands for. And us, this group of Edmund Rice pupils, deserves to be heard. We believe that we are the future of this planet and if we do not care about it, who will? We believe that changing weather patterns and natural calamities are all warnings of mother earth that we need to something about our planet right now.

### **Our Voice is made up of:**

The consultation group is made up of students from England, Bolivia, Uruguay, the USA and India. We represent the global Edmund Rice family in the regions of Europe, Oceania, India, West and South Africa, South and North America.

### **The Perspective we are giving:**

We are putting forward the perspective of high school students aged, on average 15-16 years old. We include; a vulnerable community of working children from Cochabamba, Bolivia, students who live in the developing world: from West Bengal and from Chandigarh in India, students from Montevideo Uruguay, U.S. students from the culturally diverse and densely populated Bronx and from New Rochelle in New York city as well as from high schools in UK the northern cities of Manchester, Birkenhead and Liverpool.

The consultation group was made up of ratio of girls to boys as: 3:10.

## **Rationale**

### **Environmental Conditions and Impacts of Climate Change in our communities, regions and countries.**

#### **Bolivia:**

Bolivia is notorious for climate change effects such as desertification, loss of soils, loss of biodiversity and drought. Drought has caused many communities to migrate.

The practice of slash and burn to create clear land for agriculture causes many huge fires. The loss of grasses and trees damages the ecosystems and threaten local communities. Up to two million hectares of forest have been destroyed by fire in recent years. Tropical Andean glaciers such as at Illimani in Bolivia are severely threatened and retreating quickly. Loss of habitat is adversely affecting wildlife populations, especially bird life. The destruction of forests has meant that endemic species such as the Blue-throated Macaw are now critically endangered.

Main impacts of climate change in Bolivia are: scarcity of drinking water for vulnerable communities, social inequity, catastrophic hail storms, deforestation in the West of the country, lack of protection for forests, droughts, pollution and new epidemics that are worsening due to increased temperatures.

#### **Region**

There is an absence of investigations and studies into climate change in the area of Cochabamba but the effects of climate change can clearly be seen and are lived and experienced daily.

Both construction and slash and burning of forest leads to landslides due to lack of root systems.

The climate has become unstable, this causes droughts in the areas of Angustura and Valle Alto de Cochabamba. On the other hand, flash floods are caused by intense rainfalls. The city gets flooded quickly; in just 20 minutes of intense rainfall recently drains and sewers collapsed and flooded the streets. The intensity of rainfall and drought is negatively impacting peasant farmers who provide the food for the region.

### Community

We suffer due to heat waves, droughts, fires and disease.

The city of Cochabamba is surrounded by mountains, this geographical position means that air pollution doesn't escape from the city. The pollution comes from a huge quantity of vehicles. Rubbish also builds up on the streets causing disease and pollution. According to the World Health Organisation: Cochabamba has the highest air pollution rates in Bolivia. Comparing 1, 600 world cities it points out that Cochabamba is one of the most polluted urban areas in this region."

Another big problem is rubbish dumps such as one known as Kara Kara. Regulations are not enforced about control of waste and the smells in the heat are noxious.

One of the most severe problems that effects the population of our community, families of the young working children who live in the peripheries of the town, having migrated from the countryside, is that they have no access to drinking water or to a drainage or sewerage systems.

The general lack of water results in a lack of green areas.

In the newspapers these reports were gathered; 'locals in these zones had to buy 2 barrels of *non-drinkable* water every two or three days. It is not sufficient, but they could not afford to buy any more. They need a water supply to be connected to keep down their outgoings and not to suffer due to this scarcity.'

### Gaps and challenges in national / regional governance and efforts to address environmental issues

- Water shortage. Population forced to buy barrels of non-drinkable water to survive. Access to clean drinking water is a human right.
- Air pollution. The children represented here are working for many hours in the streets of the most polluted city in Bolivia.
- The local authorities only look at environmental issues sporadically, there are no sustained efforts or strategic plans to improve the environment.
- On many occasions government use the issue of pollution for political propaganda purposes and in reality, they take little action to overcome or deal with these problems.
- Both the regional and national government place little focus on ecological issues or strategies in order to improve the lives of the regional or national population.
- We need new, unrestricted laws surrounding the conservation of water, the protection of our forests and protection of biodiversity in the different regions of the country.

### India:

## Environmental Conditions and Impacts of Climate Change in our communities, regions and countries.

- Weather changes. In India, many unusual things have been happening lately due to climate change; extensive rainfall in deserts, changing weather patterns, shortened winters resulting in loss of crops, migration of communities and many species becoming endangered. Nationally, the number of hurricanes that occur annually have increased leading to severe damage to the environment and wildlife of the affected areas. Due to untimely rainfall and storms, we lose wheat harvests which affects the entire nation.
- Another key issue that we face in our country is pollution and waste management. Our citizens across India continue to carelessly throw trash onto streets, into our lakes and rivers due to lack of education.
- Air pollution, water scarcity, falling groundwater levels, soil degradation are all issues that affect India.
- We have issues with intensive farming of monocultures, leading to Eutrophication. Our soil is polluted and degraded, and we suffer from the reduction of the ground water table.
- In some areas, the occurrence of flash floods and riverbanks overflowing is a common occurrence. On the other hand, some areas of the country face drought-like conditions and experience extreme heat waves. Rivers are being polluted; habitats destroyed. Deforestation in the name of development is devastating.
- We the citizens of India are facing the impacts of climate change such as intensive droughts, melting glaciers, deforestation, increasing malnutrition and other issues.
- Due to our poor waste management, we produce massive quantities of both the greenhouse gases carbon dioxide and methane, contributing to global warming and climate change. They are created when organic waste decomposes, and we have large areas of un-managed landfill sites.
- Our country produces about 150,000 metric tons of waste annually but only 80% of it gets collected and the worst part is that only 25% of it is processed.
- The industrial processes in India release artificial and new greenhouse gases like CFCs while automobile exhaust fumes lead to ozone degradation causing pollution.

### Region

- Recently the area of Asansol experienced unusual storms. This weather brought floods for the first time in my region and community (Asansol & neighbouring cities). This is a severe impact of climate change as this is normally a stable climatic area with no record of harsh weather.
- The effects of climate change span the physical environment, ecosystems and human societies including economic and social changes that we see in our local area.
- In our region we notice the weather pattern changing every year as the summers get longer and the winters shorter.
- In our country we experience extreme heat and many different types of skin issues due to the torn ozone layer above many regions in India. It is being caused by air pollution.

### Identify specific issues, gaps and challenges in national or regional governance or gaps / challenges in efforts to address environmental impacts.

- Though the warning systems of natural hazards is strong in our country, there are lack of ideas to stop the current situations, E.g., Wildfires and river water contamination.
- In my country, over 100,000 people die because of air pollution related diseases annually and the main reason for this as I believe is the negligence of the government to address the issue.
- There is a huge gap between what our leaders promise and what it eventually does.
- Illiteracy is another major roadblock in our road to becoming eco-friendly.
- There is no regulation in terms of the much-needed environmental actions required to be made by the government of India.
- Follow ups on environmental actions are evidently missing, and as a consequence, any efforts made tend to lose its sheen with time.
- A main challenge is changing the mindset of the people (government included), about the gravity of this situation and how inevitable it is.
- Education regarding the issue and changing people's mindset are the challenges our government fails to meet. There is a lack of education amongst young generations regarding environmental issues.

#### Uruguay:

### Environmental Conditions and Impacts of Climate Change in our communities, regions and countries.

- Loss of biodiversity associated with intensive agriculture and intensive livestock farming
- Uruguay has faced many more frequent floods and droughts over the past decade than in previous years
- In Uruguay, a lot of rubbish and pollutants are disposed onto beaches and into water systems, polluting our rivers
- In Uruguay, the excessive use of fertilizers and pesticides in crop production has affected the concentration of these elements in our watertable, promoting the growth of cyanobacteria.

#### **Region**

- In 2015 20,000 people were displaced from the Salto region in storms that caused widespread damage
- In our region, the biodiversity and ecosystems on our coastlines has been adversely affected and lost due to over-building and construction

#### **Community**

- Next to our school, there is a very polluted river (arroyo Carrasco) the issues of pollution in this water sources have not been addressed for many years

**Identify specific issues, gaps and challenges in national or regional governance or gaps / challenges in efforts to address environmental impacts.**

- Lack of education to young generations regarding environmental issues.

**USA:**

**Environmental Conditions and Impacts of Climate Change in our communities, regions and countries.**

- The polar ice caps melting can cause increasing water levels around the world and cause the displacement of many people living in coastal areas.

**Identify specific issues, gaps and challenges in national or regional governance or gaps / challenges in efforts to address environmental impacts.**

- Through huge political division we as a country are having trouble finding a common stance on climate change leading to the misallocation of funds. There are also huge stigmas or stereotypes regarding those who are for and against climate change.

**England:**

**Environmental Conditions and Impacts of Climate Change in our communities, regions and countries.**

- In England we face the problems of air pollution, traffic, waste and excess litter as well as loss of biodiversity and natural habitats through deforestation, use of green belt land for housing and industry and intensive farming methods that degrade soils and contribute to greenhouse gas emissions.

**Region**

- In our region we are affected by fly-tipping as there are not enough public bins or easy access to disposal of large household items for recycling/ reuse

**Community**

- In our community we experience high levels of air pollution due mainly to excessive traffic and being in a built-up area.
- We also live on the northwest coast. Our tidal river estuary and beaches are polluted due to industrial dumping of waste, plastics and other man-made materials in the water and unusual algal blooms due to rising sea temperatures.

**Identify specific issues, gaps and challenges in national or regional governance or gaps / challenges in efforts to address environmental impacts.**

- Some of our environmental challenges are not addressed due to a shortage of local council money. Following the pandemic, local monies are stretched, and many councils are finding it impossible to make ends meet. Unfortunately, it is often environmental targets that take the hit.

## Commitment

### **What do we want to see happen to address the issues raised in the previous section?**

#### **Education:**

- Global: A clear solution that all of our young people see is to increase the spread of awareness about the need to care for our planet amongst all sectors of the population, they need to be corrected in their behaviours in different ways. If this does not happen, people will continue, sometimes in a state of unawareness, to destroy their own environment.
- Global: We need to see many programmes to be held for addressing the issues and educating people about them. These need to be planned and agreed both internationally and nationally to come into effect over the next two years. If this does not happen ignorance and lack of care will lead to irreversible climate change, more disasters such as those outlined in the previous section and more suffering for the most vulnerable populations. More awareness campaigns need to be held with stricter surveillance on heavy industry. Non-compliance with regulations should be dealt with strictly. If this does not happen, people will not realise the amount of pollution they are causing, nor will big businesses change their ways.
- Bolivia: We would like to see ecological literacy as obligatory in the education system to enhance living standards.

#### **Pollution:**

- India: Electric cars should be more affordable and subsidised by governments. Also solar panels should be put in every house to reduce the need for polluting energy sources. This needs to be done in the coming 5 years to begin to address the serious issues of dirty energy use in India and to reduce the deaths from air pollution.
- England: 40% of our emissions in the UK are caused by individuals from home energy and driving. We want to see more renewable energy being used and more affordable for our world citizens, now is the time for action not next year, not next month or even tomorrow its today. If we don't start using cleaner energy, then the worst impacts of climate change will be irreversible by 2030.
- India: Install air filters and mist fountains at traffic intersections. Impose new emission standards for coal-fired thermal power plants, we must have an accelerated introduction of



cleaner fuel for the transportation sector, promotion of liquefied petroleum gas and incentives for better industrial efficiency. But more importantly, the faster we act on implementing these developments the better it is.

- India: We would like to see that, in order to reduce air pollution, better promotion of public transportation, carpools, more cng vehicles and solar power. If this doesn't happen within a few years respiratory and heart problems will increase, putting further strain on already stretched health services.
- India: We want energy to be used more efficiently. We want to see the use of renewable energy sources by all governments as quickly as possible so that all communities have equal access to clean, reasonably priced energy. If this does not happen within 10 years, we will continue to have gas, oil and coal wars, leading to inequalities and also carbon emissions simply will not decrease to levels that will save the planet from the catastrophes that the IPCC reports warn of if the temperature rises above 4oC.
- USA : Clean energy: By 2032: replace combustion engines with electrical engines by building capacity and making them more accessible. Fund development for hydrogen fuel cells and hydroelectric power.
- Uruguay: In terms of pollution, it is extremely urgent and necessary that countries put carbon taxes in place, in order to decrease air contamination caused by factories.

#### **Waste:**

- Global: We want to see the replacing of disposable items with reusable items and also educating people about why to have this change is necessary. We cannot possibly continue at the current rate of production and consumption. We are pillaging the earth's resources and at the same time filling it with noxious waste. If this change of habit does not come about over the next 10-20 years we will have few resources remaining to us and waste will become impossible to manage.
- USA: Increase number of trash bins and recycling bins. Use the most effective methods in disposing trash. (Compressing our garbage: less space in landfills, less footprint) Providing incentives for companies, foreign and domestic. 100% of recycling should be recycled. Sort better so companies have more incentive to purchase. Compost all food waste to decrease methane release. This needs to be implemented with n the next 2 years as increased waste means increased carbon levels.
- India: A multifaceted approach on waste transfer and diversion in terms of more hygienic and efficient waste disposal management by 2025. Non-fulfilment of this would make it difficult for the citizens to control the increased number of cases of water borne diseases in India. By not staying on top of recycling and waste disposal, we are inviting harmful pests such as flies and rats into our community which can cause adverse health issues.
- We want policymakers to encourage people to love by the three Rs: Reduce Reuse and Recycle. The consequence is straight - if we do not follow these we contribute to landfills and we may not have a healthy planet for us to live on.
- We need effective management of hazardous wastes which contaminate land, air, and water and negatively affect human health and cause environmental disasters. Failure to do so will

result in the widespread of several diseases and viruses, it will also pose a threat to wildlife, who would innocently swallow the littered waste.

- Uruguay: We'd like to see our country develop programs referring to classification of waste. If this isn't done immediately, garbage dumps will become saturated and lose efficiency.
- Uruguay. We'd like to see our country implement a tax on people who dump rubbish out of its proper place to encourage people to do it correctly.
- Uruguay. In terms of waste, we would like to see a plastic bag tax implemented in all countries that form part of the United Nations. It is estimated that the United States throws out 100 billion plastic bags every year, generating 3.3 million tons of waste, if this does not happen, by 2050 there will be more plastic than fish in the sea. In Uruguay, the tax is \$0.35 USD.

#### **Carbon Reduction and Protection of Natural Habitats:**

- Global: A very important action is to address deforestation and lack of carbon sinks. A careful implementation of tree replanting is needed globally, the right trees in the right places to restore natural, endemic habitats and to allow trees to reduce the carbon emissions effect.

## **The Commitments of our Edmund Rice Community to address and to raise awareness of climate change and environmental degradation**

### **Waste / Pollution:**

- In our school communities in the UK and the US we have banned the use of single use plastic bottles and are switching to only re-useable bottles. As a school we have instituted filtered water bottle refill stations. We actively recycle plastic in accordance with our region's guidelines.
- England: We are turning our food waste into re-useable energy and only using sustainable companies to retrieve our resources and to recycle, such as the B&M waste plant.
- Uruguay: Our school has created a composting bin to reduce food waste and our carbon footprint.
- Uruguay: to reduce our waste, the school is recycling everything into 4 different containers so that it is easier to classify and re-use later
- England: our school composts all food waste from the staffroom in a composter in the grounds
- India: Our school conducts cleanliness drives to reduce waste which is also a major cause of climate change
- Bolivia: we have brought about improvement in the local area in terms of recycling.
- India: our school is proud to say that more than 100 children cycle to school or do carpools to reduce carbon emissions.]

### **Biodiversity / protecting nature**

- India: Our school has extensive grounds and half of the area is given over to natural plantation.
- India: Our is the only school in the city to have been on 100% solar power and led the way since 2017.
- India: Our school incorporates SDG goals in the into every lesson plan we do as part of our curriculum.
- Uruguay and UK: our school undertakes regular beach-cleans
- Bolivia: We work to incentivise the local community on tree planting.

### **Advocacy, Education and Awareness**

- India: Our Schools regularly takes part in ECO rallies and also has an eco-club consisting of the students themselves, we also have a large number of students who carpool or cycle to school
- Our school raises awareness through eco-projects that we run throughout the city.
- UK: Students and teachers in our schools learn about the SDGs, we have Youth Ambassadors that visit the UN and work on advocacy projects, including environmental work, throughout the year. Our students have participated in British Council global learning projects all based on environmental protection work
- India: Each class has a 'green corner' to educate and raise awareness
- Bolivia: we work energetically on joint projects with other schools on raising awareness of environmental issues amongst our population. We use exhibitions, demonstrate the problems and solutions, use video material and run workshops to inform people of the situation regarding climate change and how at the end of the day we are all affected by it and that it's the responsibility of all of us to work towards improving our world.
- UK: we have appeared in the local press to showcase the global learning our school has led on the SDGs and waste management.

### Energy

- India: Our school runs totally on energy saved by solar panels.
- India: Personally, my home runs on renewable energy (SOLAR) and also have a 1:1 ratio between the built-up area and the garden

## Demands

### 1. Demands from local, national decision makers

#### Waste:

- **India: Rules and regulations for each city, town and village to have a proper waste collection and management system**

Reason being: According to *India today* ([Government announces India's 10 dirtiest cities: Things you need to know - Education Today News \(indiatoday.in\)](#)) taken from the survey of "The 'Swachh Survekshan' is a survey commissioned by the Ministry of Urban Development, that's conducted by the Quality Council of India (QCI) to review the sanitation and hygiene conditions in 75 major municipals, including 53 cities with a population of above 10 lakh each and the state capitals. The survey commenced on January 5, 2016.

Asansol with some other cities like Dhanbad in the state of Jharkhand are some of the topmost dirtiest cities in India with the main reason being '*poor waste collection & management systems*', with the total average literacy rate of Asansol and Dhanbad being 83.30 % & 79.5 % respectively [Source [Asansol City Population Census 2011-2021 | West Bengal & \(Dhanbad Population, Caste Data Dhanbad Jharkhand - Census India\)](#)] A live example captured by me on 07/10/2021 at 6:30 am of the dumps of Burnpur Newtown (satellite town of Asansol) - [dumps of Burnpur Newtown nh16 connecting bypass](#)

- Therefore, the main demand being **“make waste collection and management systems better in these cities”**Consequences if goal not reached: Most of the waste would be toxic enough to contaminate the area and some other parts of the city and it would not even cause the environment and the nearby ecosystem to suffer but also lead to the rise of fatal diseases.
- **India: We demand shops charge for plastic bags** to drive down the use of single use plastic in our country.
- **Bolivia:** Better public policies on **eliminating and managing waste**.

#### Energy:

- **India:** We demand that our **country should switch to 100% renewable energy by the latest by 2030**. **Solar power plants in the desert** are the best alternative to coal power plants.
- **UK: We want to see more solar panel farms and wind turbine farms** across our country So that we can reduce our emissions we produce.
- **USA:** Aim to run on **clean energy by 2032**: Ensure the funding of research and development of geothermic power. Have **carbon neutral federal buildings**. (Solar) Solar is extremely under-utilized in the US. The technology exists - and is well established. Why is it not used to power infrastructure?

#### Transport:

- **UK:** 40% of our emissions are caused by individuals in the home and by driving alone. We want everyone to **commit to using more public transport and aim for using 100% renewable energy**.
- **Uruguay:** We demand the **development of more cycle paths** to promote the use of bicycles instead of cars, therefore reducing the carbon footprint.

- **Uruguay:** We also demand a **tax on the production of cars** running on fossil fuel and a **subsidy on electric cars**.
- **India:** We demand that the government should first **electrify all public transport** vehicles by 2025 and then ban all internal combustion engine powered cars from being on the road by 2030.

#### Protection of Land:

- **Bolivia:** we demand that the **felling of trees stops** completely in our country. The consequences of not doing this are going to be more flooding, loss of top soils, erosion and drought.

#### Production and Consumption:

- **USA: Increase sorting of recyclable material** so that companies are more incentivized to purchase recyclable waste. Demand that companies be responsible for their own waste (if they produced, sold it, or used it any way for financial gain, then they must accept the returns of packing material and used products). We want this done properly and well by 2032.

#### Education and Empowerment:

- **India:** schools to implement **tree-planting projects** such as <https://swachhbharat.mygov.in/challenge/swachh-desh>
- **USA:** In the United States, the responsibility "districts" determine the school curriculum. It is **imperative that we include climate education as a part of that curriculum** through the science department.
- **UK: Implement Youth conferences across the UK that are designed to educate young people** (divided up into primary / secondary ages) ran by local young people so as not 'lecture' but engage our young people. They should **involve active climate activists** so there is real on hand experience to benefit and learn from. We would like to see these set up as soon as possible but no later than 2025. We could measure these by monitoring attendance, conducting and measuring outcomes.
- **Uruguay: Environment education** is crucial and should be **compulsory in both public and private education through workshops**. Students are the future of the country they need to be aware of climate change to face the problem in the most effective way. We demand the programs to begin as from next school year (March 2022).
- **Bolivia:** we demand more **widespread policies on environment and social welfare** both for urban and rural areas of the country to improve the wellbeing of our entire population.

- **India: We demand regular seminars in schools that address the calamity that climate change** can bring, how to bring about change within your communities and how to monitor that change. Mass awareness is an important tool for educating. **Produce literature on various technologies** like solar, wind, bio-mass etc. Organize various activities related to science popularization including organizing science quizzes, state level science exhibition, science tours and competition on scientific models amongst the school / college students.
- **India: Campaigns about waste management** should be held in all towns. The campaign should go to every house targeting at least **20 houses a day** and educating them about waste management. It needs to be done in various ways to target those who have little education or are illiterate. It needs to be done and completed over the next 5 years.

## 2. Demands from UN Climate negotiations and diplomatic efforts – What you want to see happen to address these issues

- **Make a global rule for maximum average emissions** according to the various types of industries and activities taking place in every country.
- **Implement a waste management monitoring system** so that oceanic waste sources can be tracked down to the countries producing it to control the depletion of the various ecosystems and putting a halt to or reducing global warming.
- Encourage **global funding for research and development of geothermic power.**
- Implement a **drive on funding for public transportation**; making it more reliable and convenient so people will renounce the use of private vehicles.
- Globally, **negotiations should be pushing that products should have a requirement by 2025 to be biodegradable or recyclable**, if not they become waste in an oversaturated pool of useless trash.
- In order to decrease land pollution, more taxes on demerit goods, also known as harmful goods. One example of a harmful good is plastic bags that are in supermarkets. Policy makers should be insisting that all governments impose a tax on these bags in order to **decrease the consumption of these plastic** bags. One example of a country that created a tax on plastic bags is Uruguay, which established the minimum that markets should charge at \$4 UYU, or \$0.092 USD, although most markets charge a price close to \$15 UYU or \$0.35 USD.

This tax had a great impact on decreasing land pollution, as studies show, plastic bags consumption decreased by 80%. All countries should impose a plastic bag tax of a minimum of \$0.10 USD per bag by the end of the year 2023.

- Climate negotiations should address **tackling air pollution through carbon taxes**. If we could implement this tax globally, say at a minimum of \$10 USD per tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> by the end of 2023 and increased by \$5 USD every year until it reaches \$50 USD we would raise global funds for cleaning up the planet, funding clean energy sources, providing funding into eco-friendly industry and technology.
- **Public information on elimination pollution of land, air and water**. As there is no 'quick fix' to this problem and to encourage all citizens in each country to become more personally responsible, we demand that diplomatic efforts are made to persuade all those countries represented at COP26 to use have adverts and hoardings, social media and any popular means of communication to benefit the planet rather than be harnessed by consumerism. We all know the power of the media, of social media platforms and of advertising so why not use it for the global good? Spreading awareness about the ill effects of the pollution and of the scarcity of our natural and non-renewable resources will wake up the world to irresponsible and greedy behaviours.
- **Encourage global education drives in schools around the environment**. This should include regular whole days away from the normal curriculum that involve all students in environmental cleaning up activities and advocacy work on sustainability, protection of ecosystems, **'future-proofing our planet' education**.



