

Empowering and Engaging Youth Through Education

The consequences of climate change are existential threats facing our younger generations. They must be educated with the purpose of achieving adaptation (learning to live with the changes that have already taken place) and mitigation (reducing production of greenhouse gases).

The list of recommendations focuses on targeting young people 20 and under in Montgomery County. Our objective is to ensure that climate change is a well discussed topic in public schools, private schools, homeschools, Montgomery College and the general population. The majority of our recommendations and/or actions focus on elevating already existing climate change curriculum and related activities within the public school system and the County in general. Our strategy endorses a prompt change in resource allocation to normalize climate change education. Moreover, building capacity for youth to understand the mechanics and consequences of climate change, as well as actions they can take to help reverse global warming, is considered crucial to addressing the threat of climate change in our community. A pathway to realizing the full impact of the recommendations and/or potential actions are through the following goals:

1. Increase student education on climate change throughout the community, including a strong focus on empowering students
2. Increase climate change awareness in schools: public, private and homeschool settings
3. Encourage climate change education in the home setting
4. Incorporate climate change education in the youth's(students) everyday lives
5. Incorporate climate change education in students' extracurricular activities

Taking into consideration the climate emergency, most of the actions can be implemented on a short to medium timeframe (1-5 years). Youth are able to adapt to and help mitigate climate change but only if they experience curriculum and activities that address it.