

CLIMATE ACTION TOOLKIT

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BACKGROUND ON THIS TOOLKIT

Welcome! We are so glad you're here.

This document is a starter toolkit for taking climate action and provides **five key steps** for taking action on climate change.

This toolkit is focused on **global climate and sustainable development advocacy**.

This is a **living document**. We will continue to iterate and update it as the global climate situation evolves and new issues crop up. If you have any questions or suggestions for more resources to include in this document, please fill out this [form](#).

CONTENTS

[FIVE STEPS FOR TAKING CLIMATE ACTION](#)

[1. EDUCATE YOURSELF ON THE ISSUE](#) 

[2. CONTACT CLIMATE POLICY DECISION-MAKERS](#) 

[3. SPREAD THE WORD](#) 

[4. DONATE TO ORGANIZATIONS DOING THIS WORK](#) 

[5. CONSIDER A CLIMATE-RELATED CAREER OR SERVICE OPPORTUNITY](#) 

[WANT TO LEARN MORE?](#)

[MORE INFO ON CLIMATE REPARATIONS & LOSS & DAMAGE](#)

[GENERAL RESOURCES ON CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT](#)

FIVE STEPS FOR TAKING CLIMATE ACTION

1. EDUCATE YOURSELF ON THE ISSUE



What is the “issue,” you ask?

The 20 wealthiest nations have historically produced nearly 80% of the world's cumulative greenhouse gas emissions by heavily relying on fossil fuels for industrial growth.¹ The U.S. alone has produced 25% of cumulative GHG emissions, although we only represent ~4% of the world's population.² This disproportionate contribution to emissions has severe consequences for less developed countries. Despite contributing significantly less to historical emissions, these regions face disproportionate impacts from climate change. They endure extreme weather events, rising sea levels, agricultural disruptions, and biodiversity threats, worsening existing vulnerabilities and inequalities within these areas. As an example, extreme weather has caused two million deaths and cost approximately \$4 trillion over the last 50 years, with developing countries bearing the brunt of this burden.

What is sustainable development and how does it impact climate change?

Sustainable development encompasses meeting present needs while safeguarding resources for the future by balancing social, economic, and environmental needs. It aims for prosperity, equity, and well-being while considering environmental impact and addressing inequalities.

What are climate reparations and why are they important?

Climate reparations, a tool for sustainable development, aim to correct historical injustices caused by the Global North's GHG emissions and assist marginalized communities in the Global South most affected by climate change. They encompass providing financial, technological, and developmental aid to affected areas, aiming to restore environmental equilibrium, lessen climate-induced damages, and facilitate sustainable progress. Emphasizing accountability and fairness, this concept underscores the obligation of wealthier nations to assist those most impacted by climate change, promoting a just transition toward a more sustainable future for everyone.

What is the U.N. Loss and Damage Fund?

At last year's global climate summit facilitated by the United Nations, COP27, Global North countries agreed to commence with a loss & damage fund. This year at COP28, the

¹ [UN Facts and Figures](#)

² [Our World in Data](#)

United Nations Transitional Committee³ will be working to stand up the U.N. Loss and Damage Fund that will mobilize direct funding for climate reparations from the Global North to the Global South. The issue is recognised in Article 8 of the Paris Agreement, which says parties “recognise the importance of averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.”

In 2009 at COP15, wealthy countries agreed to mobilize \$100 billion in climate finance per year (summing to \$1.4 trillion over the past 14 years).⁴ Unfortunately, the 2009 goal has not been met and the current funding target for the Loss and Damage Fund (\$500 million) is only 0.5% of the \$100 billion value agreed upon at COP15.⁵ COP28 is a key moment for us to move our trajectory to a more climate-forward place. The Transitional Committee alongside our United States representatives will be the advocates for the Loss and Damage Fund to get actualized.

2. CONTACT CLIMATE POLICY DECISION-MAKERS

Why is contacting decision-makers important?

Engaging with climate policy decision-makers is vital for climate action since they have the power to enact measures that can help us avert a climate crisis. By expressing concerns and advocating for sustainable measures, individuals can influence policymakers to prioritize climate-related legislation, fostering meaningful change and accelerating efforts to combat climate change on a larger scale.

Who are the key decision makers?

A key decision-maker is anyone who has a seat at the tables where climate policy is being decided or who has the ability to influence policy decision-making. In this case we have identified the following individuals:

- United States Presidential Envoys for Climate
 - *John Kerry (Special Envoy), Sue Biniaz (Deputy Envoy), and Rick Duke (Deputy Envoy), Christina Chan (Transitional Committee Member)*
 - Email: climatecomms@state.gov

- Foreign Affairs & Relations Committee Leaders in Congress
 - *Senator Ben Cardin (Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chair)*
 - Phone: (202) 224-4524
 - Email: See email form on Cardin’s [website](#)

³ [Transitional Committee](#)

⁴ [Carbon Brief](#)

⁵ [NYT: A Win and a Warning Ahead of COP28](#)

- Representative Michael McCaul (House Committee on Foreign Affairs Chair)
 - Phone: 202-225-240
 - Email: See email form on McCaul's [website](#)
- Senator Tom Carper (Environment & Public Works Committee Chair)
 - Phone: 202-224-2441
 - Email: See email form on Carper's [website](#)
- Senator Brian Shatz (Member of Senate Dem's [Special Committee on the Climate Crisis](#))
 - Phone: 202-244-2934
 - Email: See email form on Shatz's [website](#)

What do you tell them?

We've developed a flexible phone script and email template to use for your advocacy work. Simply change the indicated fields and call and email away!

PHONE SCRIPT

Hello, my name is [YOUR NAME] and I'm from [LOCATION]. I'm calling [OFFICIAL'S NAME] today to express my support for the actualization of the United Nation's Loss and Damages Fund, and to urge the U.S. to commit to increasing its funding commitment.

The disparity in greenhouse gas emissions, with the wealthiest nations contributing the most and smaller nations bearing disproportionate burdens, necessitates an equitable approach to funding. This fund is pivotal in aiding developing nations in climate mitigation and adaptation, allowing them to pursue sustainable development. By fulfilling our commitment to the Paris Agreement, the Loss and Damage Fund aligns with the United States' stance on climate resilience.

I implore the Biden administration to devise strategies across agencies to contribute to this fund. Specifically, the U.S. must commit to contributing its portion of the annual \$100bn agreed upon in aid to developing countries at COP15.

I urge [OFFICIAL'S NAME] to advocate for a fair and equitable approach to funding that is aid rather than a debt-based approach.

EMAIL TEMPLATE:

Hello [OFFICIAL'S NAME],

My name is [YOUR NAME] and I am a constituent from [LOCATION]. I am writing today to express my support for the actualization of the United Nation's Loss and Damages Fund, and to urge the U.S. to commit to increasing its funding commitment

The disparity in greenhouse gas emissions, with the wealthiest nations contributing the most and smaller nations bearing disproportionate burdens, necessitates an equitable approach to funding. This fund is pivotal in aiding developing nations in climate mitigation and adaptation, allowing them to pursue sustainable development. By fulfilling our commitment to the Paris Agreement, the Loss and Damage Fund aligns with the United States' stance on climate resilience.

I implore the Biden administration to devise strategies across agencies to contribute to this fund, leveraging taxes on oil and gas companies' profits, encouraging private and philanthropic investment, and incrementally enhancing resilience and emergency funding. Specifically, the U.S. must commit to contributing its portion of the annual \$100bn agreed upon in aid to developing countries at COP15.

You can learn more about the U.N. Loss and Damage Fund [here](#). I urge [OFFICIAL'S NAME] to advocate for a fair and equitable approach to funding that is aid rather than a debt-based approach.

*Thank you,
[YOUR NAME]*

3. SPREAD THE WORD

What are some ways to get the word out?

- Spread the word on Social Media: Support the activist Utilize platforms like Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook to share information, statistics, and calls to action regarding climate change.
- Organize Events: Host or participate in rallies, marches, or community events centered around climate advocacy to raise awareness.
- Educational Workshops: Conduct workshops in schools, community centers, or online forums to educate others on the importance of climate action.
- Write Op-Eds or Blogs: Share your thoughts and knowledge on climate issues through articles in newspapers, online blogs, or personal websites.
- Engage Local Communities: Speak at town hall meetings or engage with local groups to discuss climate-related concerns and advocate for policy changes.
- Collaborate with Organizations: Partner with environmental groups or nonprofits working on climate issues to amplify your advocacy efforts.
- Support Campaigns and Petitions: Join or start campaigns and petitions advocating for specific climate-related policies or actions.
- Use Art and Creativity: Express messages through art, music, or other creative means to capture attention and engage audiences.

- Educate and Encourage Sustainable Practices: Promote sustainable living practices among friends, family, and your community to collectively reduce carbon footprints.

4. DONATE TO ORGANIZATIONS DOING THIS WORK



If you have the means, donating can be a great way to support research and solutions and amplify advocacy efforts. The list below comprises organizations doing work on all aspects of the climate crisis:

- [The Nature Conservancy](#)
- [Greenpeace](#)
- [Sierra Club](#)
- [Southern Environmental Law Center](#)
- [World Wildlife Fund](#)
- [Natural Resources Defense Council](#)
- [Environmental Defence Fund](#)
- [World Resource Institute](#)
- [350.org](#)
- [Rocky Mountain Institute](#)
- [Majorityaction.org](#)

5. CONSIDER A CLIMATE-RELATED CAREER OR SERVICE

OPPORTUNITY



Considering a career in a climate-related field can be rewarding both professionally and personally, offering opportunities to make a meaningful difference while contributing to a more sustainable world. The list of opportunities below is by no means exhaustive, but meant to get you started if interested in the space:

- [SEI Climate Corps Fellowship](#)
- [The Rachel Carson Council Fellowship](#)
- [American Climate Corps](#)
- [Environmental Defense Fund - Climate Corps](#)
- [ClimateBase Fellowship](#)

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

MORE INFO ON CLIMATE REPARATIONS & LOSS & DAMAGE

- ◆ Explainer videos on [Climate Reparations](#) (12 min) and [Climate Justice](#) (10 min)
- ◆ Article on the United State's [current position](#) on climate reparations
- ◆ Article from the [U.N Environment Programme](#) explaining purpose and goals of Loss and Damage Fund
- ◆ Paper from [Brookings](#) on the case for climate reparations
- ◆ Short piece from the think tank [Center for American Progress](#) (CAP) on what the U.S. must bring to the COP28 Loss and Damage negotiations

GENERAL RESOURCES ON CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

❖ *Read*

- George Washington University has compiled a list of 54 resources to stay informed on climate change news and events. Check it out [here](#).
- [How to Avoid a Climate Disaster](#) by Bill Gates
- [Doughnut Economics](#) by Kate Raworth
- [The Intersectional Environmentalist](#) by Leah Thomas
- [A Terrible Thing to Waste: Environmental Racism and Its Assault on the American Mind](#) by Harriet A. Washington
- [Climate Justice: A Man-Made Problem With a Feminist Solution](#) by Mary Robinson
- [Race for Tomorrow](#) by Simon Mundy

❖ *Listen*

- [How to Save a Planet](#)
- [The Climate Denier's Playbook](#)
- [A Matter of Degrees](#)
- [Outrage and Optimism](#)
- [Climate Rising](#)

❖ *Watch*

- [2040](#)
- [An Inconvenient Truth](#) + [An Inconvenient Sequel](#)
- [Kiss the Ground](#)
- [Fire in Paradise](#)
- [I Am Greta](#)
- [Adapting to a Changing Climate \(UNFCC\)](#)