



JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER



"Failure is the opportunity to begin again more intelligently."
- Henry Ford

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES:

UNEP & The World Bank: Webinar on Green Energy Jobs

THE WORLD BANK
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UNEP
environment
programme

YEA!
youth &
education
alliance

**CONNECTING SUSTAINABLE ENERGY
BUSINESSES WITH EDUCATION**
- *Getting the Workforce You Need* -

THURSDAY 25 FEB 2021
7:00 A.M. (EST)

Registration

funded by ESMAP

This event will help employers and educators connect to prepare the workforce for the green economy. The clean energy transition is creating new job opportunities around the world. With the rapid expansion of renewables and energy efficiency, along with technology disruptions, the needed skill sets of tomorrow's workforce are going to be significantly different. How can the private sector connect with educational and training institutions to prepare the workforce for clean energy and the green economy?



Debra Rowe
(Moderator)

US Partnership for Education for
Sustainable Development

Erik Fernstrom
(Moderator)

The World Bank

Mari Nishimura
(Opening remarks)

United Nations
Environment Programme

Paul Nounba Um
(Closing remarks)

The World Bank



Rana Adib

Executive Director
REN21: Renewables Now

Lisa Jacobson

President
Business Council for
Sustainable Energy

TBC

Clean Energy Business
Council MENA

Olasimbo Sojinrin
Nigeria Country Director
Solar Sister



Fawzia Tarannum

TERI School of Advanced Studies

Prem Jain

University of Zambia

David Fernandez (TBC)

Singapore Management University
Business School

Jean-Christopher Carteron

Kedge Business School

Ken Walz

Madison College, CREATE
Renewable Energy Center

Cheryl Desha

Griffith University

Darlene Miller (TBC)

National Council for Workforce
Education

Hideaki Ohgaki

Kyoto University

Andreas Blom

The World Bank

This webinar is being organized by the World Bank's Energy team and the UNEP Education team

[Register here!](#)

The **intended audience** for this webinar includes businesses and organizations in the green economy and clean energy sectors, higher education institutions, and workforce developers.

This webinar will **provide two opportunities**: for private sector employers to share what businesses need in their new hires; and for employers and educators to streamline communications about curricula and recruitment.

The event will also discuss the policies, processes, and incentive mechanisms (within the private sector, education, and the labor market) required to support the development of the green workforce.

Find more about our work on Green jobs for Youth [here](#).

Webinar: Changing Curricula to Educate for Sustainable Development



Join the webinar on **Thursday, February 11th from 8:00 am - 9:00 am EST**

This event will be a sharing of successful precedents, key resources and a facilitated discussion about how to shift curricula to include education for sustainable development. Participants will predominantly be from higher

education but anyone interested in how to change curricula is welcome to participate. We will highlight success stories, quality strategies, challenges and solutions. Participant number is limited so please RSVP.

This event is co-sponsored by the Green Learning Network, UNEP's Youth and Education Alliance, Greening the Campus and the International Renewable Energy Agency. The webinar will be moderated by Dr. Debra Rowe on behalf of UNEP YEA!

[Register in advance for this webinar!](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. If you cannot attend, but would like to receive a recording, please register a well.

MOOC on Nature-based Solutions for Disaster and Climate Resilience



Nature offers many solutions to reduce the impacts of disasters and climate change, such as protecting forests on steep slopes, maintaining sand dunes along coastline and wetlands to buffer excess rainwater.

In this free-of-charge massive open online course (MOOC), find out how people around the world are building resilience to disasters and climate change impacts through nature-based solutions.

This course will help you understand how to apply these nature-based solutions that restore or protect natural or modified ecosystems and biodiversity and allow for their sustainable management.

This course is open to everyone, whether you have an environmental background or not and you can choose from any of your preferred languages including English, French, Chinese (Mandarin), Spanish, Arabic, Hindi, and Bahasa.

Watch the [promotional video](#) and check out the website: www.pedrr.org/MOOC

[Sign up for the online course here!](#)

AimHi Climate Course



Ready for a learning adventure? Get to grips with climate change by joining online educators AimHi for their four-part **Climate Course**. Engaging, inspiring, and totally interactive, the course is led by expert teachers, scientists, psychologists, and role models who are powered by curiosity (and want you to get curious, too).

From the very start, you'll learn all about the current crisis, taking a closer look at what's going wrong and how to help. The course includes loads of digestible information, from pollution to ecology, and even discussions about human behaviour (why we act the way we do). By the end, you'll feel empowered to make a difference - and way more in the know.

[Sign up now!](#)

Oh, and remember to bring your questions. The AimHi teachers love a challenge.

UPDATES:

Playing for the Planet Alliance: Annual Impact Report Released



The [Playing for the Planet Alliance](#) has released the results of its first [Annual Impact Report](#). The report showcases the progress and commitments of the companies that founded the initiative with UNEP in September 2019, including Sony Interactive Entertainment, Microsoft and Google Stadia.

The report sets out the initiative's plans for the coming year and presents the key achievements of the Alliance, including the progress made by studios on decarbonisation as well as the 2020 Green Game Jam that reached 110 million people through activations placed in games made by 11 major studios such as Angry Birds and Subway Surfers.

International Green Gown Awards: 2021 Applications Now Open



[The 2021 International Green Gown Awards are Now Open.](#) Inspire and motivate your team, management and students to do more!

The International Green Gown Awards, supported by [UNEP](#), recognise exceptional sustainability initiatives being undertaken by universities and colleges around the globe. The Awards cover all aspects of educational institutions – from their teaching and research, leadership, buildings and food to how students can benefit the quality of life in the communities around them. The Awards provide the sector with benchmarks for excellence and are respected by Governments, funding councils, senior management, academics and students.

There are [five categories](#) institutions can apply to:

- *Benefitting Society*
- *Creating Impact - NEW for 2021*
- *Next Generation Learning and Skills - NEW for 2021*
- *Student Engagement*
- *Sustainability Institution of the Year*

The International Green Gown Awards Stage 1 is open to any university or college across the world. Apply today for an Award to open up new opportunities for your institution.

The deadline for applications is **March 31st, 2021.** [Apply now!](#)

Interested in partnering with the Green Gown Awards?

The Awards have a global reach and offer an opportunity to engage the world's **200 million higher and further education students** in the sustainability initiatives that can help them tackle a world characterised by rapid change and uncertainty.

There are Headline and Category Partnership Opportunities available - if you want to support but can't find a package to suit you, please [contact us](#)!

Learn more by [downloading the Green Gown Awards Partnership Brochure](#).

Reset Earth Campaign Launched



[Reset Earth](#) officially launched on World Education Day (24 January) with the full-length animation following three unlikely heroes: Knox, Sagan and Terran, in their quest to save the planet and ultimately themselves. Using the power of storytelling, this innovative animation aims to educate and inspire young people around the world to work together and explore options for collective positive action to keep protecting the ozone layer and solve current climate issues.

Background:

The ozone hole is far from fixed. As a result of the Montreal Protocol signed in 1987, ozone-depleting substances (ODSs) in the atmosphere are in decline but vigilance needs to be maintained. It is therefore important to educate the

younger generation, who may not be fully aware of the importance of the ozone layer, why it is so crucial for the existence of all life on the planet. [Reset Earth](#) will form the foundation of the Secretariat's education platform which will be further developed during the course of 2021. The platform is designed to be an education and information resource. Building on lessons learned from the recent COVID-induced online learning for many school-age children, the platform will provide innovative digital (and print) tools and assets for teachers and students alike.

The Reset Earth mobile game app will launch on February 10th, 2021 and is 100% advertisement free and free of charge.

GET INVOLVED:

Volunteer at COP26



Applications for volunteering at COP26 are now open and being taken by Glasgow City Council. You can find out more [here](#). Please do share with students/networks.

Expressions of Interest for involvement at COP26

The COP26 Unit has launched an Expression of Interest process for businesses, civil society, academia, trade unions, indigenous groups, young people and others to apply to get involved in UK Government managed spaces at the Summit in Glasgow 2021. This includes opportunities such as hosting of events, creative installations, and exhibition space - across both the Blue Zone and Green Zone. They will also be working with the High Level Champions team to share relevant content to support the Climate Action Zone.

They are expecting demand to be high, and opportunities will be limited and so they are encouraging organisations to come together with collaborative proposals with a focus on profiling the voices of those most impacted by climate change. To support this collaborative approach, they will be encouraging stakeholders to connect with each other via the [COP26 LinkedIn platform](#).

How to apply: Further guidance and a link to the online form can be found [here](#). A downloadable PDF guidance pack can also be found [here](#).

Eligibility criteria: The Presidency is keen to showcase businesses and organisations who have set ambitious net zero commitments by 2050 or earlier, with a credible short term action plan to achieve this, including [Science Based Targets](#) and joining the [Race to Zero](#). Full details can be found in the links above.

Deadline: The Expression of Interest process closes at **17:00 GMT on Friday, March 5th, 2021**.

Global Goals Teach In



The fourth annual [Global Goals Teach In](#) has launched and will take place **February 22nd – March 5th, 2021!**

The annual campaign calls on educators to pledge to include the [UN Global Goals for Sustainable Development](#) (SDGs) in their teaching and learning throughout the two weeks. The 2020 campaign saw over 300 educators reach 25,000 students in discussion around the SDGs and their relevance to their subject.

All educators are invited to [pledge now](#) using the online form to incorporate the SDGs in their teaching, learning and assessment throughout the Teach In, and share with their colleagues. To **add some friendly competition, weekly updates will be released with a leaderboard** of the institutions that are reaching the highest % of their students with the Teach In, and the institutions with the highest number of educators who have pledged.

According to the latest SOS-UK research, [83 per cent](#) of students would like to see sustainable development actively incorporated and promoted through all courses, and the Teach In is a great springboard for meaningful engagement in this area.

To take part, educators pledge to include the SDGs in their teaching, learning, and assessment in one or more of their courses during this week. This happens through case studies, debate, discussion, group work, or simulations relating to topics included within the SDGs. Ideally, students learn about the SDGs in a way that's relevant to their course.

The Teach In is suitable for all educators, from all forms of education and all disciplines. We welcome teachers, lecturers, trainers and anyone else to take part!

You can find out more at <https://sustainability.nus.org.uk/sdgteachin>. If you have any questions, please contact Rachel Soper, Senior Project Manager for Education at SOS-UK at rachel.soper@sos-uk.org.

Solve Climate By 2030



Solve Climate By 2030 is a project run by the [Center for Environmental Policy at Bard College](#) in New York, USA with support from the Open Society University Network.

They are recruiting universities worldwide to participate in [Solve Climate By 2030](#) on April 7th, 2021. Last spring, they organized [50 same-day University hosted webinars on climate solutions and a just transition](#). This year, they are expanding to at least 100 universities worldwide.

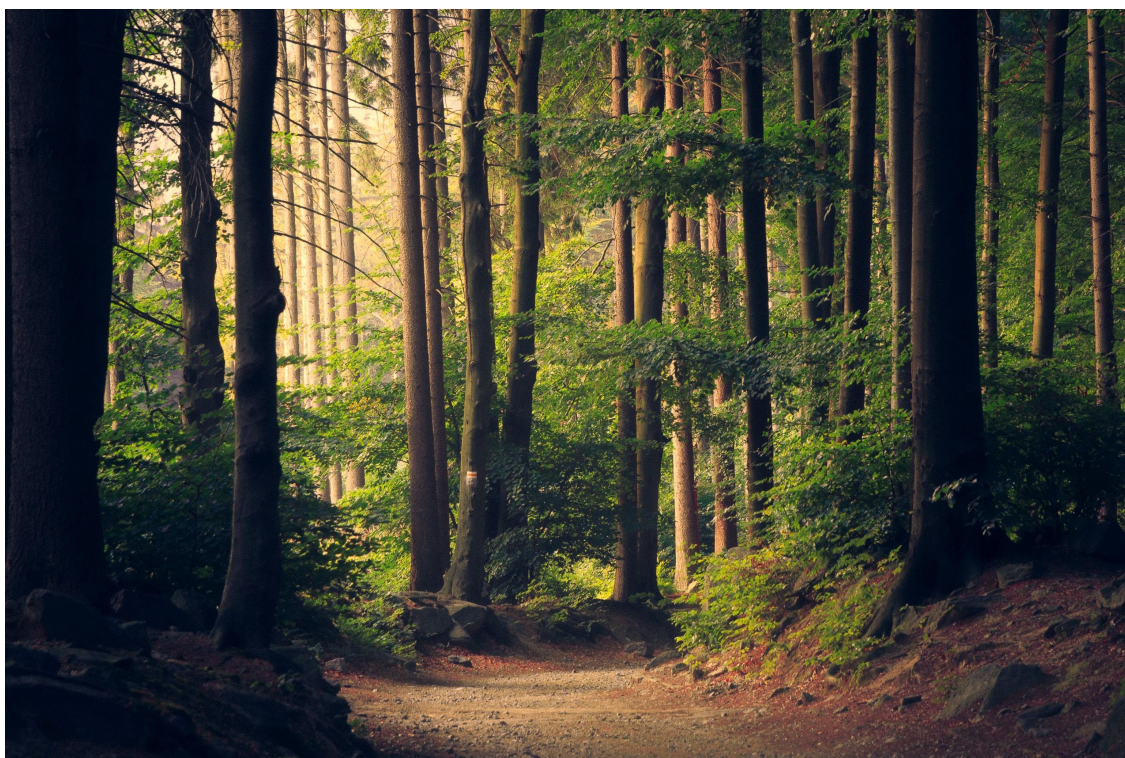
This is a very simple ask that can be accomplished by a faculty member and a student or colleague by organizing a webinar on or around April 7th, 2021, on the topic of Green Recovery / Climate Solutions / Just Transition. Your impact will be much larger as part of a global initiative in coordinated climate education. The goal is to reach 100,000+ students through this work, plus an

ongoing global social media campaign called #makeclimateaclass.

They also have opportunities for students to join a free, online internship on Social Media for Climate Action in support of this initiative

If you would like to learn more about this opportunity, please contact the [Project Director, Dr. David Blockstein](#) via email at solveclimate2030@gmail.com.

Global Youth Survey for the World Youth Report: Improving Youth Wellbeing and Mental Health



The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) is preparing the next edition of the **World Youth Report**, which will focus on **youth mental health and wellbeing**. This critical and timely report places significant emphasis on youth lived experience and bringing young people's voices to the forefront. It will bring together new data, insights and lived experience to chart a progressive agenda on the determinants of youth mental health including issues such as housing, education, family and society. Central to this report will be the experiences and perspectives of young people themselves.

They have now launched the Global Youth Survey for the World Youth Report: Improving Youth Wellbeing and Mental Health: The Role of Inclusive Social

Policies, and would like to gather your views on these topics. Your unique contributions and inputs will play an indispensable role in ensuring the report is grounded in the perspectives and realities of young people and help shape the next steps for this work.

The survey is now live in all six UN languages and will be open until 14 February 2021.

[Take the Survey HERE](#)

Join the Youth Consultations:

This youth consultation mechanism for the report includes focus groups on specific topics, including those identified by young people themselves.

The focus groups being planned at the moment include the following topics:

- Employment, unemployment, precarious employment and mental health
- Inequality and mental health - Family influence on mental health
- Digital environment and mental health
- Positive experiences of acceptance (specifically LGBTQI+)
- Structural barriers in education
- Any other topic young people might put forward

We are working toward including in the report young people from groups or with experiences that are often not heard. These may include: LGBTQI+, indigenous youth, young people with disabilities, young people facing work and descent-based discrimination, youth with experience in the justice and welfare systems, experience in conflict zones or disaster and humanitarian situations, young migrants or refugees, young people facing gender-based discrimination experience, young people with child labor experiences and transpathways.

Interested in joining any of the focus groups or suggest one?

[Fill out this form!](#)

Get In Touch With Us

We would love to hear from you - What would you like to hear more about in these newsletters? Let us know and we'll do our best to share content to your

liking. And if you have any interesting calls to action, research asks or helpful information to share with others around the environment / sustainability / higher education theme, please don't hesitate to send them to carina.mutschele@un.org and we will select a few to include in our next newsletter.

Stay Safe Everyone!

Best,

The Youth, Education and Advocacy Team



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