



## **EARTHDAY.ORG PUTS CLIMATE EDUCATION ON THE GLOBAL AGENDA CLIMATE EDUCATION = CLIMATE EQUITY**

Our calls for climate education have reached heads of state and leaders around the world, hundreds of thousands of educators, U.S. senatorial staff, state legislators, state superintendents, and thousands of global NGO's.

As COP28 kicks off, we wanted to remind everyone of EARTHDAY.ORG's (EDO) achievements in ensuring climate education is on *everyone's* agenda. It's been years of dedicated work, which started in October 1970 when President Nixon signed the Environmental Education Act. Present in the room that auspicious day was Gayle Hayes, the wife of our very own founder, Denis Hayes.

**We have been fighting for equitable and universal climate education ever since. Our work has accelerated in the last five years at a blistering pace but there's still much more to achieve. Here are some of EARTHDAY.ORG's highlights:**

### **2017:**

- Our theme '**Climate Literacy**' aligns with our role as a leading organizer of the **March for Science**, the inaugural march is held on April 22, 2017, in Washington DC with 600 other cities around the world marching alongside us. **More marches follow in 2018 & 2019.**
- COP 25, EDO and the governments of **Italy** and **Mexico** announce their support for climate education alongside The Vatican. They announce this initiative will begin in earnest on Earth Day 2020.

- **The Congregation for Catholic Institutes of the Holy See** chooses Earth Day 2020 as a preparatory meeting for the Global Compact on Education, launched by Pope Francis in May 2018.

#### **2019:**

- EDO launches the very first global campaign asking governments around the world to include, as a matter of urgency, the need for climate education in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

#### **2020:**

- EDO helps launch [The Joint Civil Society Statement of Climate Education Ambition](#), signed by an international alliance of labor and teachers' unions, green groups, youth, parents' organizations, and research institutes.

#### **2021**

- COP 26, EDO facilitates **The Climate Education Panel** at the pre-COP **Youth4Climate** event in Italy.
- EDO calls on G20 Education Ministers to back Climate Education.
- EDO is an official observer and lead partner in **Nature+ Zone Pavilion**.
- EDO helps launch the **Declaration for Climate Education** and secures the signatures of hundreds of parties aiming to bring climate education to the political agenda.

#### **2022:**

- COP 27, EDO launches the **Climate Education Hub**, the first-of-its-kind **Multimedia Education Pavilion**, to elevate ideas and actions to promote climate education and build the green economy.
- EDO forms the **Climate Education Coalition**, uniting 100+ major organizations, including the **International Trade Union Confederation's 235 million members and Education International's 65 million members**. With EDO's urging, they all sign our **open letter** - demanding COP 28 prioritizes climate education.

#### **2023:**

- COP 28, our leadership creates a large youth education coalition (the largest at Cop 28) that sees 60+ youth organizations

demanding **#Education4Earth**, culminating in a celebrity supported press conference (December 6).

- EDO (December 8) releases the definitive **Climate Education Report**, outlining how climate education should be implemented and why it is so important. The report will be updated annually and will become the 'go to' guide about climate education.
- EDO secures an [Opinion](#) Editorial in the leading specialist publication **Education Week**, which has a readership of 1.6 million. The piece was published on November 29, 2023.
- EDO writes and releases an **[EARTHDAY.ORG NDC GUIDE](#)**.
- Global Partnership for Education (GPE) supports our cause and releases an education-climate declaration.
- **EDO joins forces with UPS**, (United Parcel Service) calling on business leaders around the world to demand climate education be added to every school curriculum to create a green centric, work force ready to power the green economy.

All this work goes on concurrently as we inspire one billion people around the globe to annually mark Earth Day and support our significant causes, such as reducing plastic production by 60% by 2040. In line with this goal, we released our first of five reports on plastics in November, titled '**[BABIES VS. PLASTICS](#)**,' outlining how they are harming the people we love the most – our children. It was picked up around the world and secured over four hundred mentions, articles, and interviews.

Our reforestation campaign, [The Canopy Project](#), continues in earnest and has resulted in the planting of tens of millions of trees around the world. Furthermore, we are intensifying our [Fashion for the Earth](#) campaign to ensure 2024 sees an even more significant exposé of the fast fashion industry. Shining a light on its over-reliance on polyesters and other plastic-based synthetic materials, which contribute to the pollution of our oceans, our wildlife and ourselves.

As we look ahead to COP 28, we would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this progress and invite you to join us on our continuing

mission to ensure all children receive quality climate education and end the scourge of plastics.

Kathleen Rogers, President, [EARTHDAY.ORG](https://www.earthday.org)