



# A Climate Strike Toolkit for Workers

How to Support the Young People Who Are Striking to Save Our Planet



LABOR NETWORK  
FOR SUSTAINABILITY

August 2019

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To download this toolkit and other materials on the Climate Strike go to:  
[labor4sustainability.org/climatestrike](https://labor4sustainability.org/climatestrike)

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## INTRODUCTION

On August 20, 2018 a fourteen-year-old schoolgirl sat down alone in front of the Swedish Parliament with a sign saying “Student Strike for Climate.” Soon thousands of students around the world began joining her weekly actions. By March 15, 2019 one-and-a-half million students from 2,233 cities and towns in 128 countries on all seven continents joined the strike. Now Greta Thunberg and her fellow student strikers around the world are asking grownups to join the strikes—starting on September 20. This *Climate Strike Toolkit for Workers* tells how—and why—people can organize in their own workplaces to do so.

Earlier this year, Greta Thunberg and 46 other youth activists issued a call to everyone around the globe to join them in a massive climate strike on September 20th. The Climate Walkout will kick-off a week of mass, escalated actions between Sept 20-27. In most countries, the youth strikers have chosen Sept. 20th as their day of mobilization while in other countries they have chosen Sept 27th. In the US, the Youth Climate Strike Coalition has chosen the 20th and movement organizations in the US are following their lead. With school strikers calling on everyone— young people, parents, workers, and all concerned people—to join a massive climate strike on September 20th, workers in the US are well-positioned to help make this day as powerful as possible. Together, we will join young people in the streets to demand transformational action to avoid climate breakdown.



Greta Thunberg in front of the Swedish parliament in Stockholm, August 2018  
Photo: [Anders Hellberg, Wikipedia](#)

### This toolkit will address:

- Why should you join the climate strike?
- Can workers participate with or without a union?
- How can you organize for the climate strike?
- How should you talk with your co-workers about the climate strike?
- What should you do on the day of the climate strike?

- Can you be subject to punishment?
- Are there specific reasons workers should act on climate change?
- Who is supporting the climate strike?
- Will the climate strike have an impact?

The Appendix to this toolkit provides:

- Sample promotional materials
- Sample statements and resolutions
- Example of a Call for Student Strikes for Climate in the U.S.
- Other resources

The [Labor Network for Sustainability](#) is devoted to making a living on a living planet. LNS engages workers and communities in building a transition to a society that is ecologically sustainable and economically just.



Photos:  
School Strike 4 Climate



## WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN THE CLIMATE STRIKE?

School strikers are [calling on everyone](#)—young people, parents, workers, and all concerned citizens—to join massive climate strikes September 20 and a week of actions throughout the following week.

Youth strikers are [demanding](#) emergency action to avoid climate breakdown. They are demanding that governments immediately provide a safe pathway to stay below 1.5 degrees of warming. They are demanding an end to the age of fossil fuels.

People all over the world will use their power to stop “business as usual” in the face of the climate emergency. Young people hope this moment will show that they have the backing of millions of people who have a growing dread about the climate emergency but who have so far stayed mostly on the sidelines.

### The young people say:

It's been years of talking, countless negotiations, empty deals on climate change, fossil fuel companies being given free rides to drill beneath our soils and burn away our futures for their profit. Politicians have known about climate change for decades. They have willingly handed over their responsibility for our future to profiteers whose search for quick cash threatens our very existence.

Last year's UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's [special report on global warming](#) was clear about the unprecedented dangers of going beyond 1.5C of global warming. Emissions must drop rapidly – in the next twelve years we must create a completely transformed world.

But to change everything, we need everyone. It is time for all of us to unleash mass resistance – we have shown that collective action does work. We need to escalate the pressure to make sure that change happens, and we must escalate together.

So this is our chance - join us for the climate strikes and actions this September. People have risen up before to demand action and make change. If we do so in numbers we have a chance. If we care we must do more than say we do. We must act.

This is not a political action. It is people's self-defense against climate destruction. Climate change is like an advancing army that must be resisted. Survival is too important to leave to politicians and corporate executives.

## HOW CAN YOU ORGANIZE FOR THE CLIMATE STRIKE?

### FOLLOWING YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEADERSHIP & FINDING PARTNERS

Given the extraordinary youth leadership that has led up to the September 20th Climate Walkout, it is essential that adult workers participating in the Climate Walkout honor this history and work in respectful collaboration with the youth groups in their community.

Three of the major youth groups in the United States are:



Fridays fo  
Future USA



US Youth  
Climate Strike



The Sunrise  
Movement

You can find the contact details for these three youth-led organizations at the following links:

Fridays for Future: <https://www.fridaysforfuture.org/about>

US Climate Strike: <https://www.youthclimatestrikeus.org/contact>

Sunrise Movement: <https://www.sunrisemovement.org/hubs>

Please make sure that you are reaching out to these groups in your community!

You can find youth state coordinators at <https://www.youthclimatestrikeus.org/contact>

You can find local strikes at <https://www.youthclimatestrikeus.org/get-involved>

Find other local groups that are planning to participate. The [Sunrise Movement](#) and [350.org](#) are supporting the strike in many locations around the US.

Start meeting with other participants and reach out to diverse elements of your community.

Form a planning committee or network with them.



## SPREAD THE WORD

Talk to everyone you know—youth or adults—about the climate strikes, about what they've achieved already; and how adults can support young people.

Share with them your own reasons for wanting to see urgent climate action. Tell them about [Greta's message of climate emergency](#), or show them one of her powerful speeches:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VFkQSGyeCWg>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H2QxFM9y0tY>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FWsM9-zrKo>

Use the materials from the [Global Climate Strike Promo Pack](#), which include:

- Social media messages
- Videos
- Graphics for posters, flyers, stickers, buttons, and social media images
- Building your own #ClimateStrike stories and materials

Share this short video about the September climate strike:

<https://globalclimastrike.net/spread-the-word-climate-strike/>



## GATHER PLEDGES

Pledges to participate are being gathered nationally at <https://globalclimastrike.net>

You can also design your own pledge for people to participate in the action in your workplace or community.



## OPEN A DISCUSSION WITH YOUR EMPLOYER

Ask your employer at the least to agree to permit their employees to leave work or participate at work without punishment or retaliation.

Ask your employer to shut down for the day.

Ask your employer to do more to fight climate change. (see Appendix for Amazon workers resolution)



## MOBILIZE YOUR UNION

If you are a member of a union or worker center, find out if your local, state, or national union/organization has a position on climate change. If not, encourage it to pass one. (For union resolutions on climate, the Green New Deal, and the Climate Strike see the Labor Network for Sustainability at [labor4sustainability.org](https://labor4sustainability.org) )

Use organizing for the strike as an opportunity to educate your fellow union members. Ask to make a presentation to a meeting of your local. You will find a wide variety of materials to use on the website of the Labor Network for Sustainability at [labor4sustainability.org](https://labor4sustainability.org).

Make a plan for your union local/worker center to participate in the September 20 strike and pass a resolution to do so.

Organize your co-workers to turn out to participate.

Here are some additional ways that organized workers can support the Climate Strike:

## MESSAGES OF SOLIDARITY

- These can come from individual union and worker center leaders, local union executive councils, and central labor councils.
- Unions can post them on websites and Facebook pages, tweet and send them out on other social media.
- Share personal stories—like a video of individual union members each saying a few words about why they support the climate strike.

## SEND DELEGATIONS

- Members may not be able to strike, but leaders and staff can attend actions and be assigned to help prepare.
- Organize members who are not scheduled to work to attend—for example, janitors who work in the evening could come to an action in the afternoon.
- Union leave - when contracts allow for leave for union business, use this so that members can attend (and help in advance).
- Training programs—look for programs, like apprenticeship programs, that have groups of people who could attend.



## MATERIAL SUPPORT

- Donate money, food, transportation, and other resources.
- Assign staff (field, communications, legal) to assist in planning, organizing.
- Provide office space, photocopying, printing.
- Legal support if there are people risking arrest.

## POLITICAL SUPPORT

- Encourage elected officials to endorse, attend and speak out.
- Encourage city councils and similar groups to declare a Climate Emergency and endorse GND.
- Arrange legislative hearings into the impact of climate disruption on our communities.
- Reach out to allied organizations for their support.

## ACTIONS AT WORK

- Organize lunch-time (or, where possible, on-the-clock) discussions about climate disruption and what workers can do. Include an organizing ask; e.g.
  - Everybody pull out your phone and call your Congressional delegation;
  - Attend climate strike action after work;
  - Provide groups to get involved with - LNS, 350.org Sierra Club, etc.
- Meet with managers about dealing with climate change and safety and health—how outside workers respond to excess heat, protocols for handling climate emergencies, budget impacts of climate disruption, etc.
  - If possible, especially with public employers, make these open to the public and invite media.
- Occupation-specific events—for example:
  - Teachers bring curricula about climate change into their classrooms.
  - Health care workers hold trainings on dealing with the effects of heat, floods, etc.



Protesters march with signs along Market Street during the San Francisco Youth Climate Strike on March 15, 2019. Photo: [Intothewoods7](https://www.intothewoods7.com/), Wikipedia

# HOW SHOULD YOU TALK WITH YOUR CO-WORKERS ABOUT THE CLIMATE STRIKE?

You can start by approaching people one by one. You can also invite co-workers to a small meeting at work, at your home, in the parking lot, or wherever is convenient.



## INTRODUCING

You can simply begin by saying, “Can I talk with you about something very important to me?” Make it personal.

Share why you are going to take action. Think about what is personally motivating you: What do you want for the future? How are you already seeing the impacts of climate change in your community or work?

You can explain, “I am going to take action in the September 20 climate strike because....”



## ASK QUESTIONS: START A CONVERSATION

Ask them how they've seen the impact of climate change? What they want for the future?



## THERE IS A PLAN TO TAKE ACTION!

Share your excitement about the climate strikes, “Young people worldwide are calling for a global day of action. The climate strike will be on September 20<sup>th</sup>. It's important that we don't leave the young people to fight for future without the rest of us. We need to follow their leadership and participate. With the climate scientists saying we only have 12 years to turn this around and the energy from the students, the time is now!” Share your local plan or ask them to join you in coming up with a local plan.



## ASK

Ask: “will you join me?” Anything other than a clear yes is probably a no and just means that its worth continuing to organize them.



## ANSWERING QUESTIONS AND CRITICISMS

See the Appendix for materials that will help you explain about climate change and the strike.

People will undoubtedly have questions and raise problems about the climate strike. For questions and answers about climate change and what to do about it see

<https://www.labor4sustainability.org/do-it-yourself-gnd-qa/>

## WHAT SHOULD YOU DO ON THE DAY OF THE CLIMATE STRIKE?

The purpose of the climate strike is to show that millions of people are prepared to stop their “business as usual” to show their concern about climate and to demand action from governments and corporations. Youth are asking that people will leave their offices, their farms, their factories; that candidates will step off the campaign trail and athletes off the field; that movie actors will scrub off their makeup and teachers lay down their chalk; that cooks will close their restaurants and bring meals to protests; that retirees will break their daily routines and join in sending the one message our leaders must hear: Day by day, business as usual is destroying the chance for a healthy, safe future on our planet.

Be sure to let the media know what you are doing!



### WALK-OUTS

A group of workers leaving work to participate in strike-day activities may be the most powerful statement that “business as usual” must be halted.



### COMMUNITY ACTIONS

In every community there is likely to be a day of marching, direct action, speeches, press conferences, arrests, and mass public education. Organize people from your workplace to participate with signs, t-shirts, and other emblems identifying who they are.



### STAY-INS

You can also organize actions right in your workplace. It could be halting work for a time to have a meeting or discussion. Or it could be right before or after work or during a mealtime break. Use it as an opportunity to educate your co-workers and organize for the future.

## CAN YOU BE SUBJECT TO PUNISHMENT?

The people of the United States have the Constitutional right to freedom of speech and assembly. However, employers can often legally interfere with these rights. Workers may risk getting fired for striking and many unions risk legal repercussions if they try to organize such a strike without employer agreement.

Some actions, like participating as a group in a community event after work, are likely to be nearly risk-free. On the other hand, employers may try to punish workers who engage in an organized walkout from work. Actions like a lunchtime meeting or individuals calling in sick are likely to be somewhere in between. Different individuals have different ability to take risks. Try to organize a range of activities that allow everyone to participate while making the strongest possible statement. It is fine if some people hold an organized walkout, some call in sick, and some just show up for community events before or after work. Community allies can ask businesses to permit their workers to join the strike.

They can walk workers back to work afterwards to ask that they be allowed to return to work without penalty.

## WHAT ABOUT FUTURE ACTION?

A one-day action will not halt climate destruction. The purpose of the climate strike is to allow millions of people to show their commitment to climate protection and to lay the basis for their further action in the future.

September 20 will be the beginning of a week of climate actions all over the world, through to [September 27](#).

Many Student Climate Strikes have already been happening in the US and around the world and will continue to serve as a focus for the wider movement.

The climate strike is a way to organize ourselves to campaign for future climate strikes, a Green New Deal, and demands that government and corporations halt climate destruction.

After the September climate strike, keep your group together as a climate committee or network at your workplace. Keep in touch and network with student and other climate groups in your community and in other workplaces. Join future actions!

In order for this to happen, make sure that there are sign-up sheets at any action, in order to stay in touch with people who show up.

## CAN CLIMATE STRIKES CAN HAVE AN IMPACT?

One parent [describes the impact](#) of his 14-year-old son's climate strike in Iowa City, Iowa:

For 11 weeks this spring, my 14-year-old kid refused to go to school on Fridays, setting up a climate strike picket line in front of his school district building or the city hall in Iowa City, Iowa, where we live. A handful of other students joined him, including his older brother, as did a cadre of activist "grannies." The numbers picked up when former NFL football star and local school alumni Tim Dwight showed up with a solar-powered sound system.

Inspired by [Swedish student Greta Thunberg](#), who launched the strikes a year ago, the kids quickly joined a global network of climate strikers from Iowa to New York to Uganda to India and Australia.

In the end, my sons' weekly persistence paid off: The school district, which initially dismissed their efforts and told them to do something "productive," has agreed to [pass a climate resolution](#) that commits to dramatically reducing CO2 emissions and enacting a climate curriculum. The local city

council members, who once proudly defended their toothless climate plan, have agreed to update it and fall in line with the exigencies of a climate emergency.

The students' success in cracking business-as-usual policies should not be minimized. The climate strikes managed to accomplish more than any endless meetings or committees or recent movements by adults; they completely changed the climate narrative in our burg and forced adults to recognize the climate crisis as an emergency.

They accomplished this by reclaiming an old tactic that would have made my grandfather – a coal miner in the militant Progressive Miners Union—proud of his progeny: An uncompromising strike, with clear demands, and a fierce sense of urgency that made it clear they would never back down. They came back week after week, refusing to let administrators, board members or city staff ignore them.

Unlike the non-confrontational “Iowa nice” ways in our town, the kids were in-your-face frank, and openly shamed adults for their lack of action and ignorance. They showed up at numerous school board meetings and city council sessions, and spoke defiantly of a lack of transparency and honesty from the local leaders, and the missed opportunities for clean energy, soil carbon sequestration, local food and zero waste.

When a school administrator took my youngest son, Massimo, behind closed doors, berated him and told him to go back to class, my son told the administrator: “Do your job,” meaning make climate education part of the curriculum.

When the mayor and city manager lectured my kids that state laws prevented them from setting energy efficiency benchmarks, the students did their homework and found out that city staff was misinformed. A [local newspaper followed their leads](#) with state officials. The kids proved that the city's biggest carbon footprint—its buildings—could be strictly regulated for higher efficiency standards.

It's time for all parents to go on strike, as well.

## WHAT'S THE BACKSTORY OF THE STUDENT CLIMATE STRIKE?

Greta Thunberg recalls, she was always “that girl in the back who doesn't say anything.” She thought, “I couldn't make a difference because I was too small.” She added,

I overthink. Some people can just let things go, but I can't, especially if there's something that worries me or makes me sad. I remember when I was younger, and in school, our teachers showed us films of plastic in the ocean, starving polar bears and so on. I cried through all the movies. My classmates were concerned when they watched the film, but when it stopped,

they started thinking about other things. I couldn't do that. Those pictures were stuck in my head.<sup>1</sup>

Greta says she was “inspired by the Parkland [Florida] students” who had “refused to go to school after the school shootings” until gun-control legislation was passed. She failed to get other young people to join her, “so I went on planning the school strike all by myself.” She “painted the sign on a piece of wood and, for the flyers, wrote down some facts I thought everyone should know.” And then On August 20, 2018 she took her bike to the Swedish Parliament and “just sat there.” “The first day, I sat alone from about 8.30am to 3pm—the regular schoolday.” Then she posted what she was doing on Twitter and Instagram and it soon went viral. “On the second day, people started joining me. After that, there were people there all the time.”<sup>2</sup> Then journalists and newspapers started to come.

Word of Greta’s strike spread by news channels and social media and soon others were joining the Friday walkouts around the world. In December, 2018, Greta gave a speech to international climate negotiators meeting in Poland. “You say you love your children above all else, and yet you are stealing their future in front of their very eyes,” She added, “We have come here to let you know that change is coming, whether you like it or not.” A 13-year-old New Yorker named Alexandria Villasensor saw the speech on television, looked up Greta online, and decided to join her climate strike. “I am too young to vote and to lobby, but I can sit down with a sign and make my voice heard.” On December 14 Alexandria took a sign and sat down in front of the United Nations Headquarters. For the next eight weeks she repeated her action without being joined by a single other person.<sup>3</sup> But she hooked up with other students around the country and formed Youth Climate Strike US.<sup>4</sup>



**Bicycle in Stockholm with references to Thunberg: “The climate crisis must be treated as a crisis! The climate is the most important election issue!” (11 September 2018). Photo: Salgo60, Wikipedia**

<sup>1</sup> Jonathan Watts, “Greta Thunberg, schoolgirl climate change warrior,” *The Guardian*, March 11, 2019.

<sup>2</sup> Jonathan Watts.

<sup>3</sup> Sarah Kaplan, “How a 7<sup>th</sup>-grader’s strike against climate change exploded into a movement,” *Washington Post*.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.youthclimatestrikeus.org>

By early 2019 thousands of students in Australia, the UK, Belgium, the US, Japan, and elsewhere were joining the weekly strike. In Switzerland, more than 20,000 school and college students in 15 cities joined the action.<sup>5</sup> When Belgium's environment minister called the strikes a "setup" she was forced to resign and 20,000 kids poured into the streets of Brussels the next day. Fifteen thousand joined the strike in Australia.<sup>6</sup>

The students using social media to coordinate around the world set March 15 as a global day of action. From Australia and New Zealand to Asia, Europe, Africa, North America, and South America students joined the strike.<sup>7</sup> Greta Thunberg tweeted, "we have already passed way over one million students on school strike today. Over 2000 places in 125 countries on all continents. And we have only just started."<sup>8</sup> The ultimate tally was 1.4 million participants 2,233 cities and towns in 128 countries worldwide.<sup>9</sup>

Actions were planned in 100 locations in the US. In Port Angeles, WA, 25 high school students walked out of their classes and took up signs and banners about climate change.<sup>10</sup> In Washington, DC the lawn in front of the United States Capitol was crowded with hundreds of protestors chanting "No action, no future!"<sup>11</sup> In Asheville, NC five high school students addressed a rally of 200.<sup>12</sup>

Climate destruction represents an existential threat to all workers, as well as to the rest of humanity. And when workers strike they have a specific power – indeed, they can potentially bring the most powerful forces in society to their knees. Could climate strikes spread to workers? According to the ITUC unions in Australia, Belgium, France, Italy, the UK and elsewhere took part and many others are active in mobilizing their members.<sup>13</sup> The CFDT union in France called for every member to participate in the March 15 climate action.<sup>14</sup>

The most dramatic conjunction of students and workers occurred in Belgium. On December 2, 2018, sixty-five thousand people



Students march against climate change in Brussels on January 24, 2019. Photo: Bence Damokos, Wikipedia



School Strike for Climate in Wellington, New Zealand Photo: David Tong, Wikipedia

5 "Swiss youths strike for climate protection," January 18, 2019.

6 Sarah Kaplan

7 "Climate strikes held around the world – as it happened," The Guardian, March 15, 2019.

8 Greta Thunberg (@GretaThunberg), quoted in "Climate strikes held around the world – as it happened."

9 "School Climate Strikes: 1.4 million people took part, organizers say," The Guardian, March 19, 2019.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/mar/19/school-climate-strikes-more-than-1-million-took-part-say-campaigners-greta-thunberg>

10 <http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/news/port-angeles-students-take-part-in-climate-protest/>

11 Shreeya Agarwal, "No action, no future," The Diamondback, March 17, 2019. <http://www.dbknews.com/2019/03/18/umd-worldwide-climate-change-protest-strike-washington-dc/>

12 <https://mountainx.com/news/asheville-students-join-in-global-youth-climate-strike/>

13 ITUC, "Students strike now for the jobs of tomorrow," <https://www.ituc-csi.org/Fridays4Future-Worldwide-15March>

14 "Climate strikes held around the world – as it happened."

demonstrated to demand the government take action on climate. On December 29, 2018 two Belgian girls, inspired by Greta Thunberg, announced a school strike for climate. Two weeks later three thousand striking students marked through the streets of Brussels. Meanwhile, Belgian unions launched a “Fight for €14” campaign, modeled on the American “Fight for \$15” campaign, against government wage restrictions. On February 13, 2019 a general strike forced the government rescind the restrictions.

According to one Belgian activist,

Early in the morning of the general strike, students entering their sixth week of school strikes visited the picket lines to express their solidarity. The day after that, a new group of trade unionists and working Belgians called “Workers For the Climate” showed up to support at least fifteen thousand youngsters in a fresh march through the streets of Brussels, while many thousands more showed up at protests around the country.<sup>15</sup>

On March 15, in the Belgian cities of Antwerp, Bruges, Liege, and Brussels blue- and white collar-workers across the Flemish-Francophone divide and from rival unions joined the student strike. The spokesperson for one large trade union said, “This is the first time we have had a political strike together with young people. Maybe we’re at the beginning of a new era. I hope so. Everyone talks about the climate now. Everyone is aware of it, thanks to the students.”<sup>16</sup>



Protesters march with signs along Market Street During the San Francisco Youth Climate Strike, March 15, 2019. Photo: Intothewoods7, Wikipedia



Students hold a climate strike in downtown Cleveland, Ohio on March 15, 2019 (Public Square). Photo: Vince Reinhart, Wikipedia

<sup>15</sup> Jos D’Haese, “Belgium’s Hottest Winter,” *Jacobin*, March 11, 2019. <https://jacobinmag.com/2019/03/belgium-students-strike-climate-global-warming>

<sup>16</sup> “Climate strikes held around the world – as it happened.” Mar 15 2019.



## APPENDIX: RESOURCES

### STATEMENT BY GRETA THUNBERG AND 46 YOUTH ACTIVISTS:

[Take this as your formal invitation: Strike](#)

**Today, we are out on the streets again, in huge numbers,** in 110 countries, at over 1350 events, demanding that governments immediately provide a safe pathway to stay below 1.5 degrees of warming. We spent weeks and months preparing for this day. We spent countless hours organizing and mobilizing when we could have just hung out with our friends or studied for school.

**We, children and students, don't feel like we have a choice:** It's been years of talking, countless negotiations, empty deals on climate change, fossil fuel companies being given free rides to drill beneath our soils and burn away our futures for their profit. Politicians have known about climate change for decades. They have willingly handed over their responsibility for our future to profiteers whose search for quick cash threatens our very existence.

We have learned that if we don't start acting for our future, nobody else will make the first move. We are the ones we've been waiting for.

**Once again our voices are being heard on the streets, but it is not just up to us.**

We feel a lot of adults haven't quite understood that we young people won't hold off the climate crisis ourselves. Sorry, if this is inconvenient for you. But this is not a single-generation job. It's humanity's job. We young people can contribute to a larger fight and that can make a huge difference.

**So this is [our invitation](#).** Starting on Friday 20th September we will kick start a week of climate action with a worldwide strike for the climate. We're asking you to step up alongside us. There are many different plans underway in different parts of the world for adults to join together and step up and out of your comfort zone for our climate. Let's all join together; with your neighbours, co-workers, friends, family and go out on to the streets to make your voices heard and make this a turning point in our history.

**This is about crossing lines - it's about rebelling wherever one can rebel.** It's not about saying "Yeah, what the kids do is great, if I was young I would have totally joined in." It just doesn't help, but everyone can and must actually help.

During the French revolution mothers flooded the streets for their children. Today we children are fighting for ourselves, but so many of our parents are busy discussing whether our grades are good, or a new diet or what happened in the Game of Thrones finale- whilst the planet burns.

This moment has to happen. Last year's UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's [special report on global warming](#) was clear about the unprecedented dangers of going beyond 1.5C of global warming. Emissions must drop rapidly – so that by the time we will be in our mid- and late-20s we are living in a completely transformed world.

**But to change everything, we need everyone.** It is time for all of us to unleash mass resistance – we have shown that collective action does work. We need to escalate the pressure to make sure that change happens, and we must escalate together.

So this is our chance - join us for the climate strikes and actions this September. People have risen up before to demand action and make change, if we do so in numbers we have a chance. If we care we must do more than say we do. We must act.

This won't be the last day we need to take to the streets, but it will be a new beginning.  
[We're counting on you.](#)

[Fridays for Future](#)

## SAMPLE DRAFT CALL TO CLIMATE ACTION

### CT CLIMATE CRISIS MOBILIZATION

### A CALL TO CLIMATE ACTION FOR THE WEEK STARTING FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 20



Dear Friends and Allies,

As you are aware, the climate crisis is already upon us. Warming temperatures, rising seas, and melting ice caps are creating stronger and more destructive storms, destroying crops and farmland, increasing the threat of drought, famine, and disease, and displacing millions of people. Right here in Connecticut we have experienced the destruction wrought by storms like Irene and Sandy, powerful

tornadoes, and damage from drenching rains -- all of which are predicted by climate scientists to increase in the U.S. Northeast. We need big societal change. And to change everything, we need everyone. Greta Thunberg, pictured above, has called the world to action, recognizing that only a mass mobilization will force the world's governments to act in time. And here in Connecticut we have heard the call.

Around the world, communities most affected by the fossil fuel industry and by climate change are mobilizing around their plight. In coastal cities like New York, grassroots organizing propelled the city government to declare a Climate Emergency. The Puerto Rican Legislature has committed the island to transitioning to 100% renewable energy by 2050. Countries such as Ethiopia, The Gambia, and the Philippines are on track to meet their Paris Climate Accord Goals. Thousands of young people from Sweden to Chile, from South Africa to the Ukraine, from San Francisco to Sydney joined the Global Climate Strike in March. The mobilization has already begun. Building on the work begun by our own youth here in the state, let's really bring this mobilization to Connecticut.

Following the leadership of young people, we are looking to bring together broad and diverse groups of people to help plan a week of actions to call attention to the climate crisis. Our actions will also call for environmental justice, for social and racial justice, for economic and immigration justice, as these are all connected to our fight to maintain a livable Earth.

The Connecticut Climate Crisis Mobilization has come together to help plan a week of action kicking off with The Youth Climate Strike March on the steps on the Capitol on September 20th. We need your help to make that event as big and impactful as possible. We also need your ideas and energy to help plan and carry out events during the whole week of action, in your town, your school, your workplace, your house of worship.

In addition to a unified mobilization at the Capitol on Sept. 20, we will support actions during the week of Sept. 20th-26th such as (but not limited to):

- Campus climate strikes
- Work site expressions of support for climate action and just transition.
- Events in opposition to new fossil fuel infrastructure and power plants
- Community action against polluting power and waste facilities
- Action to expand mass transit and reduce transportation emissions that are choking our urban communities
- Faith-based activities to bear moral witness
- Defense actions against the deportation of climate immigrants and refugees
- Any and all other activities calling for a just and fair society

We invite you to join us in this Connecticut Climate Crisis Mobilization. We propose to provide central access to information on all the demonstrations for climate justice and equity planned by Connecticut organizations during this global week of action.

If interested in collaborating with our group, please reach out via email at [C3Mobilization@gmail.com](mailto:C3Mobilization@gmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you and please forward this call to everyone you think would like to be involved in the struggle.

In Solidarity,

Connecticut Climate Crisis Mobilization

**Endorsing Organizations:**

## EXAMPLE OF A CALL FOR STUDENT STRIKES FOR CLIMATE IN THE U.S.<sup>17</sup>

### OUR MISSION

We, the youth of America, are striking because the science says we have just a few years to transform our energy system, reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, and prevent the worst effects of climate change. We are striking because our world leaders have yet to acknowledge, prioritize, or properly address our climate crisis. We are striking because marginalized communities across our nation – especially communities of color, disabled communities, and low-income communities – are already disproportionately impacted by climate change. We are striking because if the social order is disrupted by our refusal to attend school, then the system is forced to face the climate crisis and enact change. With our futures at stake, we call for radical legislative action to combat climate change and its countless detrimental effects on the American people. We are striking for the Green New Deal, for a fair and just transition to a 100% renewable economy, and for ending the creation of additional fossil fuel infrastructure. Additionally, we believe the climate crisis should be declared a national emergency because we are running out of time.

### OUR DEMANDS

#### GREEN NEW DEAL

- An equitable transition for marginalized communities that will be most impacted by climate change
  - The implementation of any measures to curb climate change must be considerate, and actively working against, the impacts of climate change on marginalized communities-- communities of color, impoverished communities, disabled communities, and LGBTQ+ communities-- who are at the frontline of all climate-related disasters
  - Encourage dense affordable livable cities prioritizing community stability and countering displacement. Ensure access to safe and adequate housing for all;
  - Respect and follow all treaties with First Nation communities and protect the food sovereignty and intellectual property of First Nations, as well as ensuring appropriate, culturally competent training programs for tribal colleges and collaborations between tribal and state colleges to provide education for the green economy.
  - Invest in education and training for inmates regarding renewable careers, and invest grassroots transformative justice to move away from the unjust prison system and the school-to-prison-pipeline, and outlaw private prisons and the forced labor of prison inmates
  - Support green job training programs in the transition from prison to work.

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<sup>17</sup> <https://www.youthclimatestrikeus.org/platform>

- Address the effects of the climate crisis on various communities within the United States with an emphasis on front-line, marginalized communities by allowing them to create committees that can apply for governmental aid in climate-related disasters while also helping to prepare said communities to mitigate climate-related damage;
  - Ensure a just transition for all front-line communities by ensuring that the transition is led from the community level and by prioritizing solutions that eliminate community-level threats via equitably distributed investments to historically disadvantaged communities;
  - Protect and enforce land and sovereign rights of tribal nations; honor and protect treaty rights, and free prior and informed consent for Indigenous nations, in keeping with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
  - Remove entrenched racial, regional, ability, and gender-based barriers to income and wealth; create a public bank to finance a transition for the benefit of all Americans
  - Invest in affordable and accessible renewable energy, such as solar gardens etc.
  - Respect Indigenous women, Indigenous queer and trans women, women of color, and queer and trans people of color and protect them from assault, sexual violence, and trafficking
  - Acknowledge the term “climate refugee” and welcome all climate refugees including; war refugees, communal/gang violence refugees, and natural disaster refugees.
  - Work together with other wealthy nations to be prepared to welcome climate refugees and provide safety and accommodation for them in international solidarity.
- An equitable transition for fossil-fuel reliant communities to a renewable economy
    - Respect the contributions of fossil fuel workers
    - Invest in local renewable energy, community based industries, and local living wage jobs for transitioning fossil fuel workers
    - Invest in local communities so they may clean up the lands and waters polluted and damaged by fossil fuel extraction/infrastructure/shipping/export
    - Switch to clean renewable energy and clean industrial processes
    - Reskilling of their employees for new clean, local energy industries

- Provide fully paid quality healthcare for their workers and families who have been made unhealthy by working for extractive and toxic industries.
- Diversify local economies with a particular focus on communities where unsustainable industries hold control over the labor market; ensure workers can partake in the energy transition through workplace democracy, control and ownership;
- 100% renewable energy by 2030
- Upgrading the current electric grid
- Investing in green technology and developments
- No creation of additional fossil fuel infrastructure (pipelines, coal plants, fracking etc.)
- The creation of a committee to oversee the implementation of a Green New Deal
  - That has subpoena power
  - Committee members can't take fossil fuel industry donations
  - Accepts climate science

#### **A halt in any and all fossil fuel infrastructure projects**

- Fossil fuel infrastructure disproportionately impacts indigenous communities and communities of color in a negative way
- Creating new fossil fuel infrastructure would create new reliance on fossil fuels at a time of urgency
- Therefore we ask to end the construction of any additional fossil fuel infrastructure immediately

#### **All decisions made by the government be tied in scientific research, including the 2018 IPCC report**

- Reducing GHG emissions by 50% by 2030, and 100% by 2050
- These facts need to be incorporated into all policymaking decisions

#### **For declaring a National Emergency on Climate Change**

- This calls for a national emergency because we have 11 years to avoid catastrophic climate change
- Since the US has empirically been a global leader, we should be a leader on climate action
- Since the US largely contributes to global GHG emissions, we should be leading the fight in GHG reduction

### **Compulsory comprehensive education on the impacts of climate change and the importance of climate justice throughout grades K-8**

- K-8 is the ideal age range for compulsory climate change education because:
  - Impressionability is high during that developmental stage, therefore it's easier for children and young adults to learn about climate change in a more in-depth manner, and retain that information
  - Climate change becomes a nonpartisan issue, as it truly is because it's based solely on science and human experience from the beginning
- Promoting community stability through empowering local leadership and decision making through ensuring accessible high-quality, culturally competent and science-based curriculum on climate change as well as by giving local communities authority over the standards, programs, and investments established within them

### **Preserving our public lands and wildlife**

- Diverse ecosystems and national parks will be very impacted by climate change, therefore it's important that we work to the best of our abilities to preserve their existence
- The earth's animals are intrinsic to its existence, and with the onset of a possible 6th Mass Extinction we must protect wildlife and their habitats at all costs

### **Keeping our water supply clean**

- Clean water is essential for all living beings, when we pollute our water supply, or the water supply of someone else, it's a violation of an essential human right



## **MASSACHUSETTS TEACHERS ASSOCIATION NEA, CLIMATE STRIKE RESOLUTION**

**MOTION** That the MTA delegation to the 2019 NEA Representative Assembly propose a national teachers strike in support of the Green New Deal.

**SUBMITTER'S RATIONALE** The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recently issued a report arguing that, by the year 2030, carbon emissions must fall to 45% below 2010 levels. The UN Environment Executive Director said, "It's like a **deafening, piercing smoke alarm** going off in the kitchen. We have to put out the fire."

In 2016, we, the Massachusetts Teachers Association, framed the expansion of charter schools as an "existential threat." Right now, we're framing our campaign for fully funded schools as a fight for "the future."

### **WHAT ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE?**

Well-funded district public schools or not, "the future" is mothers burned alive in wildfires. Fathers drowned in hurricanes. Child refugees whose homes have slipped underwater begging for dry land. Families starved from drought and famine, murdered in resource wars. Students home sick with long-ago plagues reemerged from arctic ice.

### **CAN YOU HEAR IT? DEAFENING. PIERCING.**

And still, we go about our days. We teach our classes, buy our groceries, wonder if our lovers will think of something special to get us for our birthdays.

How can we continue to be role models for our students as the smoke alarm goes off—deafening, piercing—if we fail to make every effort to usher them to safety? How will we face our grandchildren as the planet we left them goes up in flames? "I'm sorry," we'll tell them. "I was too afraid. Too hopeless. Too busy."

### **OR, MAYBE WE WILL TELL THEM A DIFFERENT STORY.**

Maybe, when our grandchildren ask us how the Green New Deal was won, we can say it started with students—and then with us. That when the teachers went out on strike in 2019, others followed. First the nurses, then the hotel workers. Next came the TV writers, the teamsters, and the flight attendants. A general strike shut down the whole country until Congress passed a Green New Deal that the president signed into law. Millions of Americans soon started at the kinds of green jobs-with-justice that reshaped this country and saved the planet. We faced the crisis, wrestled emissions to net-zero, and put out the fire.

The few will continue to benefit from our fossil-fuel economy while the many suffer. Unless we stop them. There are more of us than there are of them. If only we'd remember that. If only we'd act like it.

Which side are we on? And what are we willing to do about it?

## SHAREHOLDER RESOLUTION ON CLIMATE SUBMITTED BY AMAZON EMPLOYEES

### ITEM 11—SHAREHOLDER PROPOSAL REQUESTING A REPORT ON CLIMATE CHANGE TOPICS

#### Beginning of Shareholder Proposal and Statement of Support:

Resolved: Shareholders request that Amazon's Board of Directors prepare a public report as soon as practicable describing how Amazon is planning for disruptions posed by climate change, and how Amazon is reducing its company-wide dependence on fossil fuels. The report should be prepared at reasonable expense and may exclude confidential information.

#### Supporting Statement:

Amazon is both affected by and contributing to climate change. What is Amazon's plan to respond to climate change?

Science has established that climate change is causing overall increases in extreme weather intensity and frequency. Scientists are increasingly measuring climate change's contributions to individual weather events. Disruptions from climate change will increase and intensify without urgent action curtailing further warming. 2018's National Climate Assessment predicts hundreds of billions of dollars in annual economic losses in the United States, Amazon's largest market.

Extreme weather exacerbated by climate change poses great risks to Amazon's workers, customers, and infrastructure, and already impacts Amazon:

- June 2016: An AWS data center in Sydney, Australia went down during severe weather, which broke rainfall records.
- June 2017: Phoenix's airport cancelled flights during a record-tying heat wave. At 120 degrees, airplanes struggle to take off and land. Disrupted flights are expected to occur in more cities serviced by Amazon Air.
- Early 2018: Cape Town, South Africa is the site of Amazon's planned "AWS Africa" expansion. Facing severe drought, residents took drastic action to prevent a "day zero" when the city's taps would run dry.
- March 2018: A data center supporting AWS suffered a power outage during Superstorm Riley, disrupting Amazon Alexa.
- August 2018: Forest fire smoke enveloped Amazon's Seattle headquarters, where workers wore face masks to protect their health.

- September 2018: Flooding from Hurricane Florence disrupted production at the plant manufacturing 20,000 vans for Amazon's delivery service.
- November 2018: A tornado in Baltimore smashed an Amazon fulfillment center, ruined its merchandise, and killed two workers.
- November 2018: California's Camp Fire temporarily shuttered Amazon's Sacramento fulfillment center, delaying deliveries.
- November 2018: As part of "HQ2," Amazon selected Long Island City, Queens, which flooded during Hurricane Sandy.

Amazon is not a mere victim of climate change—its operations contribute significantly to the problem. The overwhelming scientific consensus is that burning fossil fuels is the major driver of climate change. To limit warming to the safer levels governments committed to in the Paris Agreement, scientists estimate that the world can only burn a fifth of existing fossil fuel reserves. Multiple industries will have to modernize to meet this mandate. Coal still powers Amazon data centers. Diesel, gasoline, and jet fuel still power package delivery.

Many of Amazon's peers, including Google, UPS, Walmart, and Target, have reported on climate change plans. Amazon's report could include time-bound, quantitative metrics for transitioning off fossil fuels at the speed and scale necessary to meet targets in IPCC's latest climate science report. Amazon can follow its leadership principle on "Ownership" to consider long-term climate risks.