

# ***WHAT WE BELIEVE***


POSITION PAPER - YOUNG PEOPLE + ENVIRONMENT



# **YMCA**








Every young person has  
the ability to contribute to  
reducing environmental  
degradation and its  
consequences.



*#Stand4youth*





Every young person  
should live in a sustainable  
environment.



#Stand4youth



Young People should be given opportunities to learn and advocate on environmental issues.



*#Stand4youth*





We should be an  
example of sustainable  
practices and respect  
for the environment.



*#Stand4youth*



# BACKGROUND

*Environmental degradation, sustainable development and the regulation of human impact on our planet will likely be the greatest challenges we face in the 21st century. The earth is the greatest resource that young people have yet we are destroying it.*

*Climate change, frequent storms, floods, droughts and unsustainable ways of production and consumption; none of these are problems of the future. They are already affecting young people, especially in vulnerable countries, in all dimensions of their lives, and will continue to do so.*

*Without sustainable environmental practices the situation will not change. The world will continue to get worse for present and future generations of all ages. We cannot afford to be moving backwards or even stay where we are.*

*The YMCA is, at heart, a youth organisation. We have the knowledge, reach and experience to help young people transform their reality—and our world—through empowerment.*



**#Stand4youth**





# WE COMMIT AND URGE

*Therefore, we commit ourselves and urge the international community, governments, businesses and the civil society at all levels to:*

*Set, commit and be accountable to ambitious goals in reducing environmental degradation and putting people's right to live in a sustainable environment at the forefront of any decision. **It is possible and necessary to do more than we do today.***

*Allocate the necessary resources for projects and initiatives that will reduce our human impact on the planet. **It is possible and necessary to do more than we do today.***

*Strengthen solidarity amongst nations in order to reduce the impact of unsustainable practices with special emphasis on vulnerable areas of the world. **It is possible and necessary to do more than we do today.***

*Be examples of sustainable practices. **It is possible and necessary to do more than we do today.***

*Involve young people in meaningful ways in finding solutions and in decision-making processes that have an impact on our shared future. **It is possible and necessary to do more than we do today.***



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# OUR POSITION

*We, the YMCA, are committed to protecting the creation and empowering young people. This is about who we are and is a call inspired by our Christian and ecumenical identity.*



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# A CALL TO ALL

*Our call is a call to all those concerned about our collective future on this planet, but especially to all young people, because the YMCA believe you have the potential and the ability to change the course of history.*



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# ***Framework for action***

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IT ALL MADE EASIER:

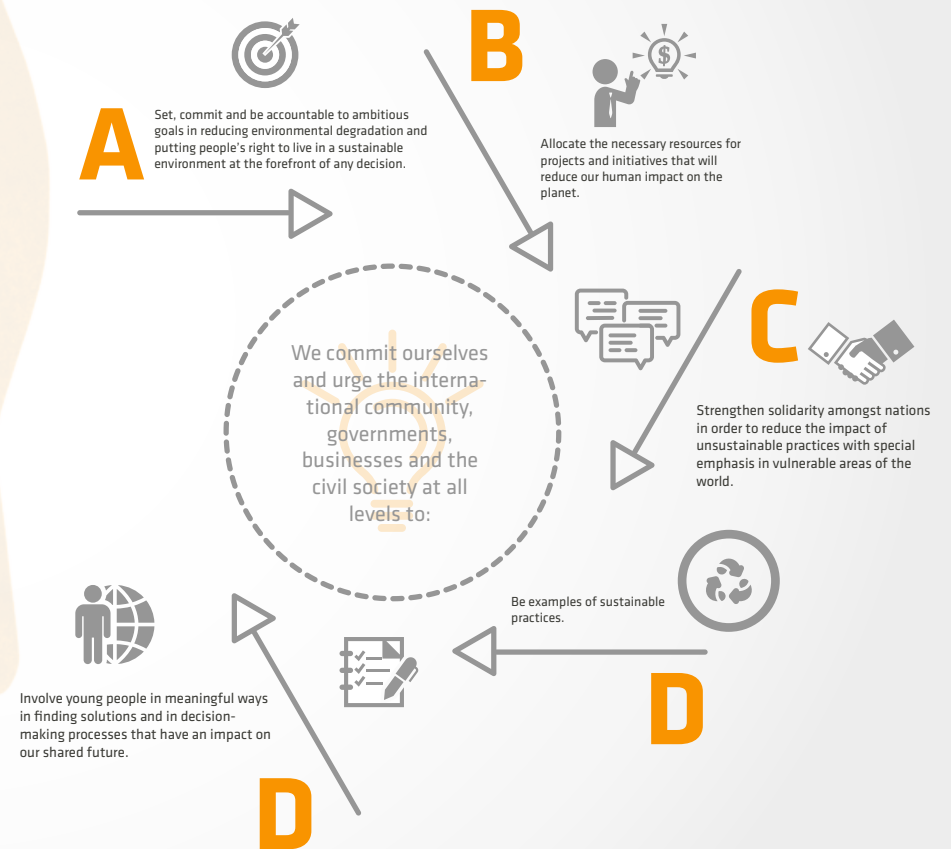
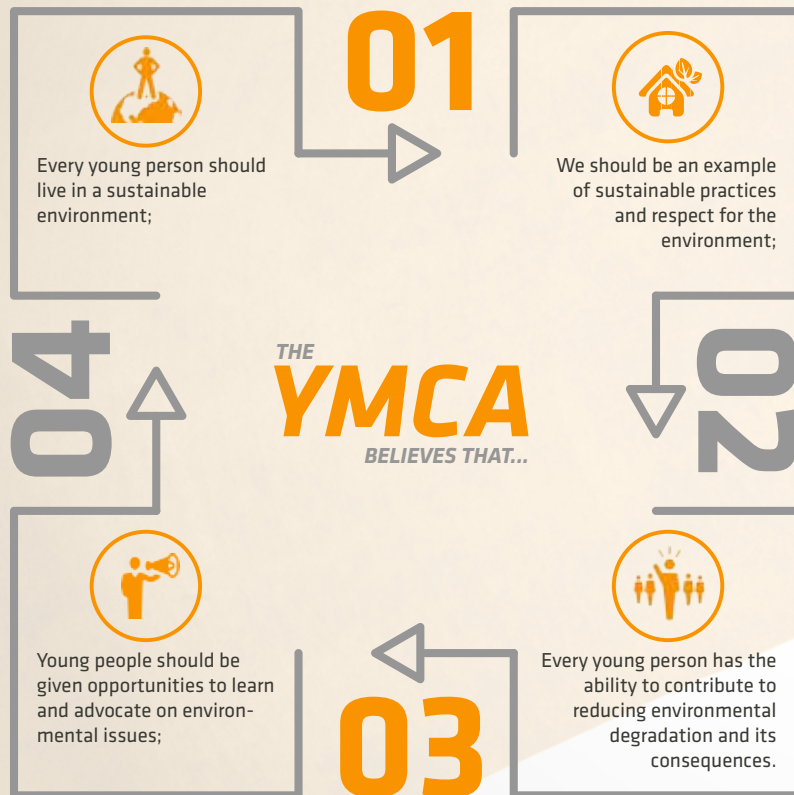
- WORLD YMCA PLANS
- TEMPLATE FOR NATIONAL AND LOCAL YMCAs





# YOUNG PEOPLE + ENVIRONMENT

## OUR BELIEFS AND POSITIONS





# PLANS AND GOALS

RESOURCE GROUP ON ENVIRONMENT - WORLD YMCA OFFICE GENEVA 2015-2016

## GOAL 01



Increase the presence and influence of young people in international decision-making on climate change related issues; advocate for increased environmental education and its funding; and to present youth organisations as partners of choice to implement programmes in this area.

**ACTION 1** - Guarantee youth presence within relevant international forums such as the UNFCCC, Green Climate Fund, ECOSOC and others.

**ACTION 2** - Ensure consistent inclusion in decision and outcome documents of:

- The need for environmental education
- Partnerships with youth organisations
- The need for increased funding for environmental education
- Participation of civil society in decision-making

## GOAL 02



Provide Learning opportunities around environmental issues, in order to develop and mobilise young leaders for initiatives reducing environmental degradation and promoting sustainable development.

**ACTION 1** - Develop and deliver an online training programme for leadership on climate change issues reaching 1.000 young people from at least 50 countries by the end of 2016.

**ACTION 2** - Select one environment project to offer to YMCAs worldwide along with dedicated consulting by the end of 2016.

# PLANS AND GOALS

TEMPLATE FOR NATIONAL AND LOCAL YMCAs

## GOAL 01



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## GOAL 02



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