



Theme

Educate. Innovate. Transform: Youth Leading Sustainability Solution

1. Introduction

Youth For Earth (Y4E) 2026, a flagship youth engagement initiative under the International Conference on Sustainability Education (ICSE), builds on the campaign's strong legacy of translating sustainability education into real-world action. Anchored in the ICSE 2026 theme, **“Sustainability Education for Transformative Action,”** Y4E 2026 positions young people not merely as learners, but as active change agents shaping a resilient and equitable future.

Jointly led by Mobius Foundation and The Climate Project Foundation, Y4E 2026 provides a platform for youth-led, action-oriented projects that respond to today's most pressing environmental and social challenges.

2. Importance of Youth Action: Global and Indian Context

Globally and in India, youth action has emerged as a decisive force in addressing the climate and sustainability crisis. Recent outcomes from UN Summits on the SDGs, Conferences of Parties (COPs), and the Global Stocktake under the Paris Agreement consistently highlight that the pace of current action is insufficient and that accelerated, inclusive solutions are urgently needed.

Youth represent not only future stakeholders but present-day actors with the creativity, energy, and moral stake to drive change. In India, where young people constitute one of the largest demographic groups, youth action is particularly critical in responding to interconnected challenges such as climate vulnerability, resource security, urbanisation, and livelihoods. Empowering youth to move from awareness to action ensures that sustainability commitments are translated into locally relevant, scalable, and long-term solutions.

3. Transformative Impact of Youth For Earth (Y4E) 2026

Youth For Earth (Y4E) 2026 serves as a catalytic platform that transforms sustainability education into measurable, on-ground impact. By aligning with the ICSE 2026 theme **“Sustainability Education for Transformative Action,”** the campaign bridges the persistent gap between learning and implementation.

Y4E 2026 strengthens youth agency at the school, college, university, and community levels by providing structured opportunities for project design, mentorship, evaluation, and national recognition. The campaign empowers student leaders, youth collectives, and young innovators to

apply systems thinking, innovation, and leadership skills to real-world sustainability challenges. In doing so, it converts individual efforts into collective, community-driven action aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals particularly SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 15 (Life on Land), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). Through this approach, Y4E 2026 does not merely showcase youth initiatives; it institutionalises youth-led action as a core driver of sustainability transitions.

4. How Youth Will Be Motivated Through the Y4E 2026 Campaign

Y4E 2026 motivates youth by shifting the narrative from participation to ownership. The campaign inspires young people by recognising them as solution builders and implementers rather than passive learners.

Through experiential, action-based engagement, youth are encouraged to design, implement, and scale sustainability solutions within their schools, campuses, and communities. Visibility through national platforms, mentorship from experts, peer learning opportunities, and alignment with global agendas further reinforce motivation and long-term commitment. By connecting local action to global impact, Y4E 2026 instils a sense of purpose, leadership, and responsibility, empowering youth to believe that their actions today can meaningfully shape a sustainable tomorrow.

5. Global Rationale for Action: Inspiring Youth to Lead Change

The Global Stocktake adopted at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) underscores three critical gaps implementation, finance, and capacity-building calling for immediate and accelerated action at the community level, supported by education and innovation. Sustainability education must therefore evolve beyond knowledge dissemination to foster problem-solving, leadership, and locally rooted solutions with global relevance.

Y4E 2026 responds to this global call by translating international climate and sustainability commitments into youth-led, ground-level action. By integrating global priorities with local realities, the campaign inspires youth to act not out of obligation, but out of informed conviction. In doing so, Y4E 2026 becomes a bridge between global policy ambition and real-world transformation demonstrating that when youth are empowered with knowledge, skills, and platforms, transformative change is not only possible but inevitable.

6. Objectives of Y4E 2026

The Youth For Earth 2026 campaign aims to:

- Translate sustainability education into measurable action on the ground
- Empower youth to lead climate, biodiversity, and sustainability solutions
- Strengthen youth leadership, innovation, and systems thinking
- Promote youth-led projects aligned with national and global sustainability priorities
- Create a strong network of young sustainability changemakers

7. Key Focus Areas

Y4E 2026 will encourage youth-led projects in areas including:

- Climate action and resilience at the community level
- Circular economy and responsible consumption
- Biodiversity conservation and nature-based solutions
- Water, waste, and local environmental stewardship
- Sustainable campuses, schools, and communities
- Education, awareness, and behavioural change initiatives

8. Target Participants & Categories

Y4E 2026 welcomes participation from young people from India and South Asian countries under the following categories:

- **Junior Category:** School students (Students of class 8th to 12th students)
- **Senior Category:** College/Institute/University students (undergraduate or postgraduate students)

Teams must consist of a minimum of **five members**, with a designated mentor appointed by the Principal or Head of the Department (HoD).

Note: Funded projects and NGOs are not eligible for Y4E 2026.

9. Participation Guidelines

- **Project Focus:** Projects should prioritise physical implementation, ground-level work, scalability, and positive social impact.
- **Registration:** Mandatory registration for all teams; [no registration fee is applicable](#).
- **Project Timeline:** Projects undertaken between **February 2026 and July 2026** will be considered. Ongoing projects initiated after **October 2025** will also be eligible.
- **Social-Media:** Participating teams will be required to share project updates on social media using campaign-specific hashtags and tagging designated handles. A briefing session will be conducted for shortlisted teams.

10. Selection Criteria

Projects will be evaluated based on:

- Relevance to the theme and sustainability challenges
- Applicability and replicability
- Innovation and creativity

- Climate-positive impact
- Future potential and scalability
- Social impact
- STEM integration

11. Recognition & Awards

- **Cash Prizes (Top 5 projects in each category):**

- 1st Prize – INR 50,000
- 2nd Prize – INR 30,000
- 3rd Prize – INR 25,000
- 4th Prize – INR 25,000
- 5th Prize – INR 25,000

- **Certificates & ICSE Entry Passes:**

Winning teams will receive Certificates of Achievement and selected entry passes to attend the **8th ICSE 2026**.

- **Media Promotion:**

Winning projects will be promoted through the platforms of Mobius Foundation and The Climate Project Foundation India.

Copyright of winning projects shall lie with Y4E. Content may be used for promotional and outreach purposes.

12. Expected Outcomes

- Youth-led, scalable sustainability innovations
- Enhanced green skills and leadership capacities
- Strengthened pathways to green careers
- Community-level environmental impact
- Stronger SDG integration, particularly SDG 4 (quality education) and SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth).
- Expanded youth networks for long-term collaboration

13. Conclusion

Aligned with the vision of 8th ICSE 2026 and global sustainability commitments, Youth For Earth 2026 serves as a bridge between education, action, and impact. By empowering young people to move from learning to leadership, the campaign strengthens hope for a more sustainable, inclusive, and climate-resilient tomorrow.

When youth act, the future transforms.