



Mobius Foundation

6th International Conference on Sustainability Education

Concept Note: Youth Conclave

“Youth are central in achieving a more sustainable and healthier planet. Young people have a special role in instigating change and action on the pressing global challenges. Equally, they are pivotal to finding innovative solutions that speak to local and global realities.”

--The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

The large and growing global youth population, particularly in the Global South including countries like India will increase stress on natural resources and demand for faster job creation. India has more than 50% of its population below the age of 25 and more than 65% below the age of 35. Youth and children are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change placing them at the epicentre of the climate emergency, sustainable development initiatives and a key audience for sustainability education.

Purpose

The Youth Conclave at the 6th International Conference on Sustainability Education is designed to engage and empower youth for climate action and will bring together leading youth voices, educators and ecosystem enablers in the area of sustainable development.

Keynote Address (two speeches of 5-7 mins. each)

The Youth Conclave will begin with two keynote addresses by prominent leaders within the youth and sustainability ecosystem. The keynote addresses will focus on the role of youth in climate action and serve as a motivational call for action for the youth community.

Panel Discussion (30 mins.)

Topic: “Greening Education: Practical Experience, Challenges and Opportunities Impacting Youth Engagement in Climate Action”

The panel will include three youth leaders and three educators from India. The discussion will highlight key motivations that drive youth towards leadership in sustainable development and how their early, high school and undergraduate education empowered them. The discussion will bring out key insights from youth leaders and educators on how effectively the existing curriculum design at the school and undergraduate level addresses sustainable development and environmental education and provide constructive recommendations on improvement areas.

Youth For Earth Prize Distribution and Winning Project Showcase (45 mins.)

This session will serve as the culmination event for the Youth for Earth (Y4E) Campaign. The ICSE session will highlight and distribute prizes to 10 winning projects from the campaign. Youth from winning teams will highlight key outcomes of their projects.

Background of the Youth for Earth (Y4E) Campaign

The Y4E campaign was launched in 2020 as a partnership between the Mobius Foundation and The Climate Reality Project. The campaign invites innovative, youth-led projects focused on sustainability and climate action. In 2024, the Y4E campaign will focus on **"Greening Education for a Sustainable Future"** which is the overarching theme of the 6th ICSE and acknowledges the imperative to reorient educational practices and systems towards environmental consciousness and long-term sustainability. The objectives of Y4E campaign are as follows:

- To encourage and involve young minds to develop and implement green action-based projects in their campus and communities
- To build the environment, sustainable literacy & leadership skills among young minds for taking and promoting green action
- To showcase and celebrate the positive impacts made by young change-makers in their communities and beyond
- To provide a unique platform for young sustainability leaders to network and showcase their innovative projects and ideas

The Youth for Earth projects will be evaluated by an eminent jury of educators. Winning projects will receive cash awards and will be showcased at the ICSE Youth Conclave