



# Journey to a Greener Future

INFORMATION AND SUPPORT PACKAGE



**Speaking 4 the Planet**

# **Journey to a Greener Future**

**Information and Support Package**

*A competition for young people in Burwood, City of Canada Bay  
and Strathfield Local Government Areas.*



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## Summary

1. Climate Action Burwood Canada Bay is taking the lead in bringing this 2024 S4P competition to the schools and students of Burwood, Canada Bay and Strathfield local government areas. The Information and Support Package below contains information about the competition categories and the judging criteria; it also provides some links to articles relevant to the theme.
  2. The topic for the competition is **Journey to a Greener Future**. All entries and performances must be based on this topic.
  3. The competition will be held on Wednesday 5 June, 2024 from 9.00-2.35 at Domremy College, 121 First Ave, Five Dock NSW.
  4. This competition is for high schools in the three LGAs: Burwood, Canada Bay, Strathfield. Participation is free.
  5. There are five competition categories:
    - **Speaking** – prepared speeches; maximum one entry per school to give a 3 minute speech.
    - **Writing** – prepared – 30 words; maximum two entries per school. Prose not poetry.
    - **Visual Arts** – prepared; maximum two entries per school
    - **Digital Art** - prepared; maximum two entries per school
    - **Drama** – prepared; maximum one group per school; up to 5 students in the group to deliver a 3-4mins performance.
  6. Registration is essential. Given the number of schools across the three LGAs, only **nine** schools can enter for the speaking and **five** schools the drama categories. All schools can enter the art and writing categories. Schools will need to register by Thursday 7 March by contacting Robin at [footprintscabcb@gmail.com](mailto:footprintscabcb@gmail.com)
- NOTE: Schools are not required to register in all 5 categories. Register only in the categories they wish to participate in.
7. Research is vital. This package contains links to useful articles and programs and talks. All participants are encouraged to do their own research.
  8. Participants are to produce or present items that are original. They are also invited to make their work quirky.
  9. Schools may wish to have their students perform or present their works at a school assembly.
  10. Participants give permission for images and/video of their entries (including performances) to be used in print form and placed on the websites and/or youtube channels of the following:
    - Speaking 4 the Planet
    - Climate Action Burwood Canada Bay
    - Burwood Council
    - City of Canada Bay Council
    - Strathfield Council

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With support from



<https://climateactionbcb.org>



<https://www.ssec.org.au>



<https://www.paddypallin.com.au>

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World Environmental Education Congress Secretariat



<https://weecnetwork.org>

Design and layout by **Petur Farkas**

# 1. Purpose of this booklet

Speaking 4 the Planet competitions create opportunities for participants to express their ideas for a better world. Participants are invited to prepare and deliver punchy, quirky, creative, and pointed submissions. They should seek to influence the thoughts, emotions, and actions of the audience.

This information package is designed to help participants prepare quality entries for the competition. It provides:

- Information on Speaking 4 the Planet and the competition categories
- Links to relevant websites
- Useful articles
- Judging criteria.

All participants are encouraged to research widely and build evidence-based, powerful, personal, and global messages.

## 2. Speaking 4 the planet: Changing the world, one presentation at a time

Speaking 4 the Planet (S4P) is an arts-based approach to sustainability education. It is a competition for secondary school students that invites students to express their views on matters related to the planet and the future – their future. S4P creates space and opportunities for young people to intertwine humanities and sciences, to philosophise about human actions, and to imagine a better world while standing deep in the science of the world they live in. Youth marches and student strikes are the very public faces of (climate change) protest. Speaking 4 the Planet is an equally powerful opportunity for students to speak up and advocate for a healthy future.

S4P events inspire young people to think creatively, independently, and courageously; they create space for students to ask challenging questions; and they provide opportunities for critical thinking about decisions made at various levels of government. S4P creates opportunities for youth voice not silence. Speaking 4 the Planet is founded on the view that science provides the information we need to achieve sustainability, and the arts deliver the vehicles for transformation. Science provides the data; the arts change the world.

Here's a video prepared to support the nomination of S4P for an international Earth Prize. It tells you more about the initiative and demonstrates some of the skills of the students.

[Advocates 4 the Earth - S4P - YouTube](#)

### 3. Competition categories and criteria

There are 5 categories in this competition. All works are to respond to the theme, Journey to a Greener Future. Judging panels will use the criteria below. Participants should use them in their planning.

#### **SPEECH**

One student from each school is invited to prepare and deliver a 3minute speech on the competition topic. Speakers will need to clearly state the problem or issue being addressed. They will also need to make links between problems and solutions and use techniques of persuasion that can shift the way the audience thinks and feels about the issues.

The time limit is important. The speech is not to be read. Palm cards can be used but not read.

Here are some [public speaking tips](#)

Here's an article with good advice on public speaking [Communication habits that can undermine women's power – Speaking 4 the Planet](#)

#### **Judging criteria**

**On topic.**

**Within the time limit.**

**Idea:**

- Originality of idea.
- How the idea is developed.
- Encourages audiences to think or act.

**Content:**

- Clear communication of problem and solution that the idea is trying to address.
- Structure: coherent, logical, clear.

**Choice of style:**

- Engaging.
- Persuasive techniques.
- Body language appropriate to the speech.



## WRITING

Schools may enter 2 submissions for this category. Entries must be only 30 words on the topic of the competition and must be prose, not poetry. Writing can be fiction or non-fiction, can be expository, descriptive, narrative, persuasive, creative. Submissions that exceed 30 words will not be considered.

Submissions must be presented in a large font on A3 paper. All entries will be collected the week prior to the competition.

On the day, participants in this Writing category will have 30 seconds to talk about their submission. This can be read. Note that this brief presentation will not be judged as part of the submission.

Here's a tip for writing: [Tips for Better Writing – Speaking 4 the Planet](#)

## Judging criteria

### On topic

### Within the word limit

### Clarity of Purpose

**Accuracy** in spelling, grammar, sentence structure

**Literary style:** use of strong and effective literary techniques such as

- Vocabulary selection
- Sentence structure and sentence grammar
- Metaphors, assonance, personification etc

**Impact:** Does the piece move the mind or imagination of the reader and prompt a response?

*"I am one of the youngest women to have ever been elected to the NSW Parliament. Young people should never underestimate the power of their voices in calling for change and making a difference. I encourage our youth to have their say on decisions that affect them as we journey to a greener future."*

**Stephanie di Pasqua**, Member for Drummoyne in the NSW Parliament

*"My dream is for a world like that of my childhood, when the Earth was greener and climate change unknown. It's a future I want for my children, and for theirs, and for all generations to come."*

**Ken Enderby**, President, Climate Action Burwood/Canada Bay

## VISUAL ART

Schools may enter 2 artworks which must be related to the competition topic. Artworks can be paintings or drawings. Paint, charcoal, ink, graphite, pen, etc. may be used.

All entries will be collected the week prior to the competition. Your artwork needs to be accompanied with these details on A5 paper (max 100 words):

- name of the artwork
- short explanation / description of the artwork
- name of the artist
- school of the artist.

You may like to read this article about [how art can change the world](#).

### Judging criteria

Use these criteria in your planning.

#### Concept

- Visually engaging/entertaining
- Imaginative qualities evident
- Theme confidently investigated.

#### Skill in production

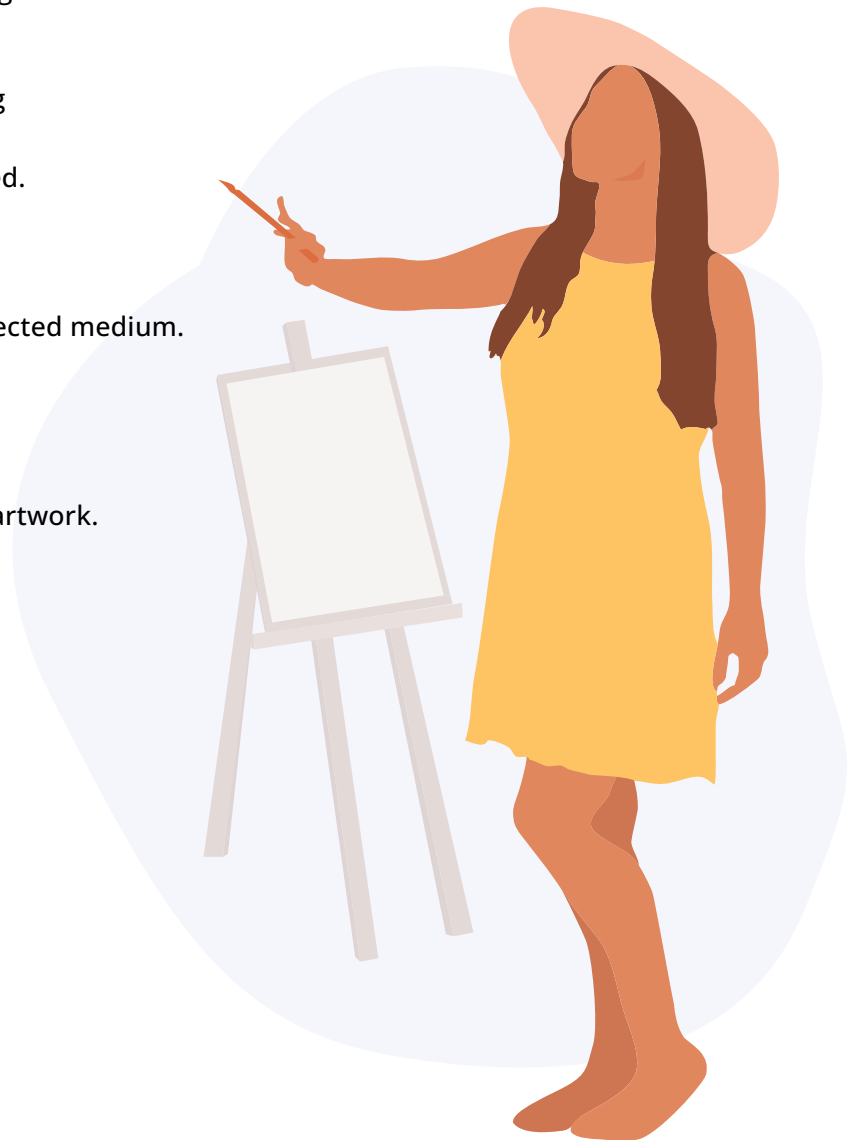
- Technically accomplished
- Skilful interpretation via a selected medium.

#### Resolution

- Successfully resolved
- Clear communication of ideas
- Creativity evident in finished artwork.

#### Impact/Meaning

- Clarity of message
- Makes an impact on viewer





## DIGITAL ART

Schools may enter 2 digital artworks which need to be related to the competition topic. Digital artworks can be any artwork that draws upon digital technology as an essential part of its creative process. Digital art encompasses a wide range of techniques, including digital drawings, paintings, illustrations and animations.

Note two things:

- Photography will not be included in this category.
- If any equipment is required to display the artwork, this must be provided by the artist.

All entries will be collected the week prior to the competition.

## Judging criteria

Use these criteria in your planning.

### Concept

- Visually engaging/entertaining
- Imaginative qualities evident
- Theme confidently investigated.

### Skill in production

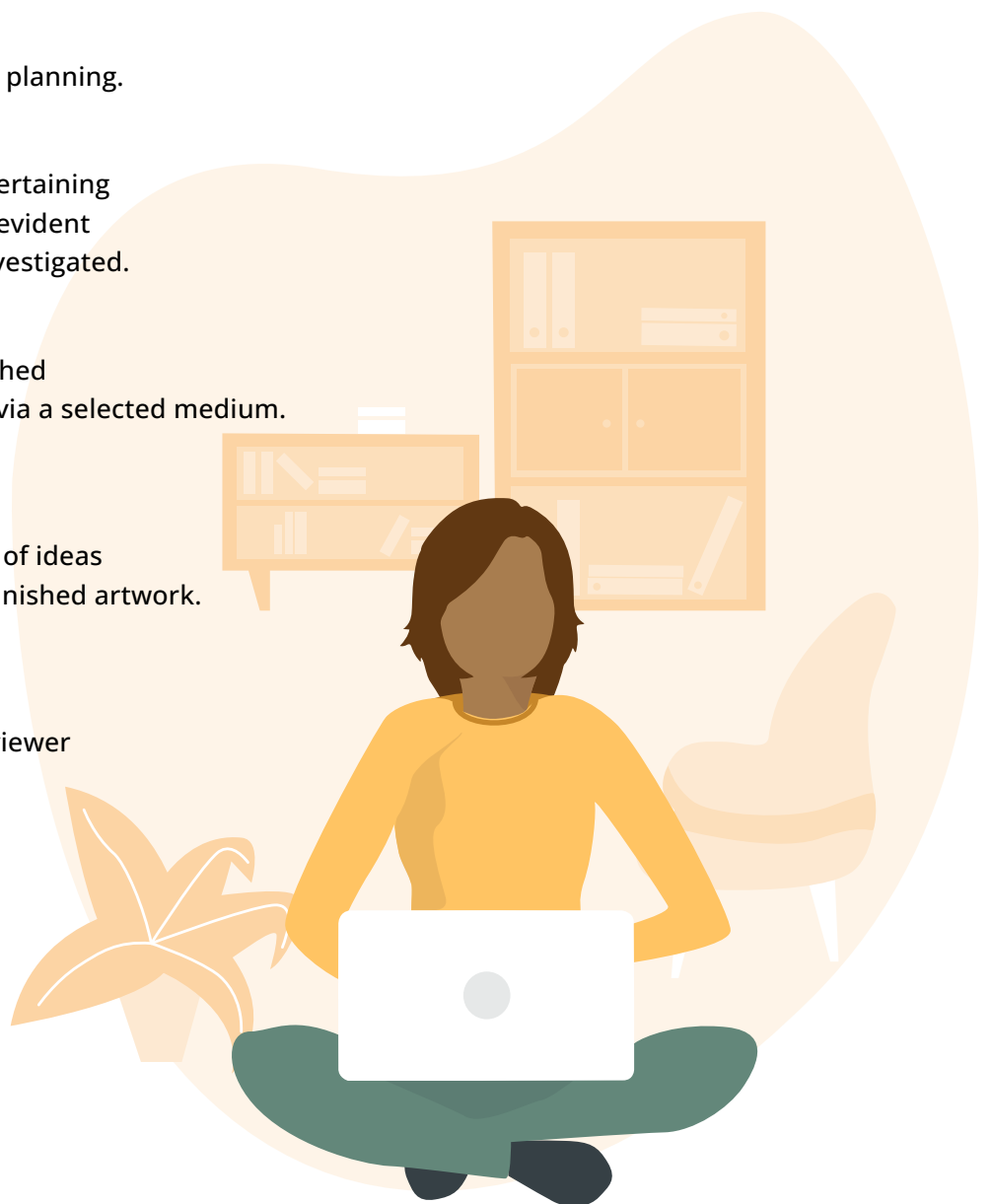
- Technically accomplished
- Skilful interpretation via a selected medium.

### Resolution

- Successfully resolved
- Clear communication of ideas
- Creativity evident in finished artwork.

### Impact/Meaning

- Clarity of message
- Makes an impact on viewer



## **DRAMA**

Schools may enter only 1 drama performance. A team of up to 5 students can perform a short piece that expresses a point of view about the topic. The maximum performance time is 4 minutes. The performance must keep within the time limit.

Students are required to wear black or grey, and each drama team can bring one prop.

Performances can use music but no visuals, no PowerPoints or scenery backdrops.

Note: some time will be given on the day to do final preparations for the performance.

Theatre and drama can change people's minds and hearts. Theatre makes it possible for the members of the audience to empathize with the characters. Theatre can make the impersonal suddenly personal. It can help us understand and process complex emotions, learn empathy and understanding for others, and explore different perspectives and experiences.

Here's an article (with videoed interviews) considering if drama can change the world.

<https://howlround.com/can-theatre-change-world>

Here's a short talk on How Theatre can Change the world

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F1Yg9sA5lxw>

### **Judging criteria**

Use these criteria in your planning.

#### **On time (max. 4mins)**

#### **On topic**

#### **Performance Skills**

- Ability to use voice, movement, timing and use of space effectively (as appropriate to the style of the piece).
- Ability to realise and sustain role or character as appropriate to the piece.

#### **Message and meaning**

- Clear intention and dramatic meaning.
- Sophistication of the message and meaning.

#### **Group Equity and Time limit**

- Each performer equally contributing to performance.
- Ability of performers to work collaboratively.

#### **Innovation and Flair**

- Originality of the piece, characters, situations and ideas.

#### **Audience Engagement**

- The extent to which the audience was entertained by, or made to think about, the issue presented.
- Appropriateness of the performance for the audience (choice of style and dramatic conventions).

## 4. Judges

For each of the five categories, there will be a panel of three judges. Each panel will be comprised of:

- Category 'expert' e.g. a Toastmaster for the Speaking, a theatre director for Drama
- Climate 'expert' eg. member of a climate group
- Council representative from one of the local Councils

The judges will use the criteria included in this package to assess each entry/performance.

## 5. Prizes

As this is a competition there will be prizes for the winners of each category. In Speaking 4 the Planet 2023 we were very fortunate to have the support of a number of businesses. Prizes were donated by Paddy Pallin, Bunnings, Westfields Burwood and Officeworks. There will be similar support and prizes for Speaking 4 the Planet 2024.

## 6. Journey to a greener future

Any journey towards a more sustainable world will require careful thinking about where we are heading and how we will get there. We also need to consider who takes the journey, who leads the journey, what support is needed for success.

Some of these answers are found in the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (<https://sdgs.un.org/goals> ). Achieving the SDGs requires governments, private sector, civil society and citizens to travel the paths together. Paths because...context matters. And cultural, social, political, environmental, economic and personal contexts vary across countries and regions.

*"My vision is to make a real difference to the wellbeing of our community. Wellbeing is physical, mental, social, economic and of course, environmental. I am inspired every day by the energy and optimism of young people who intrinsically understand that we cannot be healthy as a society without a healthy planet for them to inherit".*

**Jason Yat-sen Li MP, Member for Strathfield**

# 10 tips to reduce your carbon footprint

## ■ Switch it Off

Turn off lights and unplug devices when you're not using them.

## ■ Climate Control

Keep your temperature system on a moderate setting while you're in the room, turn-off the heat and AC when you're not home. Use your windows wisely!

## ■ Stop Buying Your Water in Plastic

Get a reusable water bottle and keep it filled and with you at all times.

## ■ On Your Plate

Eat more food that is grown or made locally and less red meat. Make grocery shopping lists before you go to the store to prevent buying things you don't need.

## ■ Phantom Power

Did you know that many electronics continue using energy even when powered down? This is true of any charger, television, printer, etc. Use a power strip to easily unplug these electronics when not in use.

## ■ Recycle, Waste Less

Keep stuff out of the landfill. Sell items you no longer use to thrift shops, have a yard sale, or donate them to charity. Recycle or repurpose everything you can't get rid of.

## ■ Drive Less, Fly Less

Use alternative transportation bus, train, carpool, or bike. Incorporate walking or biking to some of your regular short-trip destinations.

## ■ Loaded Laundry

Only do full loads of laundry and use the bright colors cycle whenever possible.

## ■ Shorter Showers

Try to take shorter showers. The less hot water you use, the less energy is needed to heat the water.

## ■ Switch to CFLs

Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) use 75% less energy than incandescent and last up to 10 times longer.



*A carbon footprint corresponds to the whole amount of greenhouse gases (GHG) produced to, directly and indirectly, support a person's lifestyle and activities. Carbon footprints are usually measured in equivalent tons of CO<sub>2</sub> during the period of a year, and they can be associated with an individual, an organization, a product or an event, among others.*



## 7. Resources

All participants are urged to research the topic. This section contains numerous links to articles and websites that will help in the preparation of submissions. Participants are encouraged to do their own research as well.

### **Australia as a leader 🇦🇺**

<https://www.acf.org.au/stopping-nature-destruction-five-ways-australia-can-be-a-global-nature-leader>

Australia is home to incredible nature, places and wildlife found nowhere else on Earth — but sadly we are a world leader when it comes to nature destruction.

Our land and marine environments are unique and globally important and we have an obligation to look after them, ensuring they are healthy and here to stay for generations to come.

Around the world, a million species are threatened with extinction, and Australia is at the centre of the nature destruction crisis.

### **Planetary Health**

<https://www.planetaryhealthalliance.org/planetary-health>

Planetary Health is a solutions-oriented, transdisciplinary field and social movement focused on analyzing and addressing the impacts of human disruptions to Earth's natural systems on human health and all life on Earth.

### **Electric buses and buzzing bees – Sweden is on the way to climate neutrality.**

<https://sweden.se/climate/sustainability/10-ways-to-a-greener-future>

Several cities across Sweden are rolling out emission-free electric buses. An electric bus is defined as a bus that runs solely on electricity and has a battery for energy storage. Using renewable electric power in public transport contributes to improved air quality, reduced noise for the city's inhabitants and reduced negative environmental impact.

### **Acting together for a greener future**

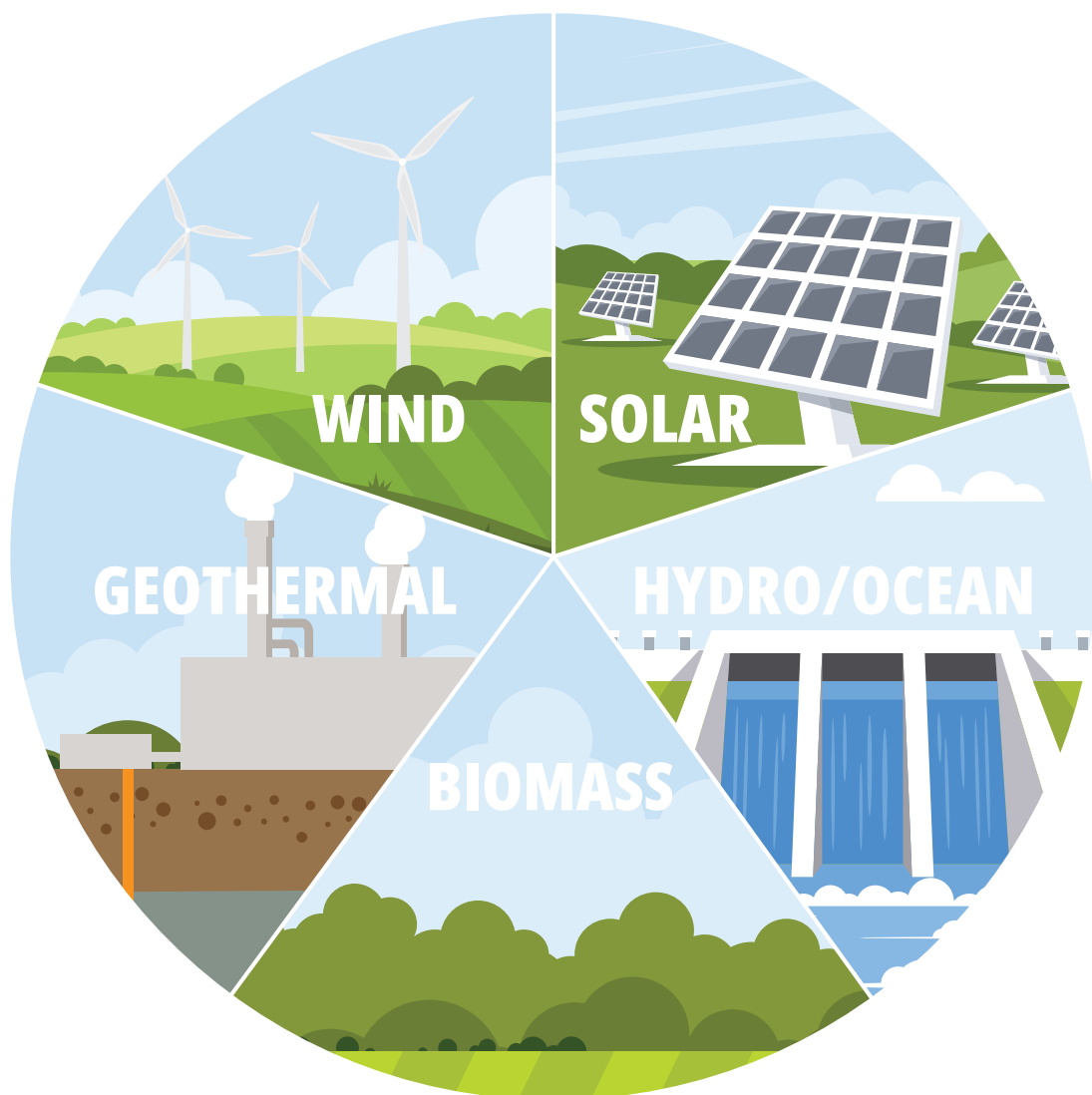
[https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/russia/acting-together-greener-future\\_en](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/russia/acting-together-greener-future_en)

This site provides information on European Union policies, news, cooperation and projects.

## The path to a greener future begins in our cities

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/03/path-to-a-greener-future-begins-cities/>

Data doesn't lie - and what it tells us is that cities consume 78% of the world's primary energy and generate more than 60% of all carbon emissions, with the biggest contributors being buildings, energy production and transport. It has been suggested that changes in individual and corporate behaviour brought about during the COVID-19 pandemic, such as an increase in remote working and less international travel, could boost efforts to fight climate change. This would be welcome news - but recent studies indicate the net impact of COVID-19 on global warming will be negligible unless much more aggressive, far-reaching and sustained actions are taken. This means not only taking a hard look at our daily routines and business practices, but also rethinking and transforming the physical places where we live and work — with people's experience, public health and sustainability objectives at their core.



Renewable Energy Sources

**Sustainability - now is the time to change the world**

<https://www.europeanfiles.eu/climate/sustainability-now-is-the-time-to-change-the-world>

Moving to a greener and more sustainable society is a must as the challenges of global warming, environmental degradation and resource depletion become increasingly pressing.

**Promising signs we’re moving toward a more sustainable world**

From enhancing transparency to taking lessons from catastrophe, people are working hard every day to pull our planet back from the brink.

<https://ensia.com/voices/7-reasons-the-world-will-be-sustainable/>

Every day, news headlines and science reports reflect a world increasingly impacted by unsustainable trends and catastrophic climate events. Oceans are becoming more acidic, with [devastating results on coral and connected ecosystems](#). The air in major cities is full of dangerous particulates. Crop-growing regions for key commodities are shifting. Sea levels are rising.

In the face of all this, it’s easy to wonder, “Are there still meaningful choices and pathways toward a more sustainable planet?” Thankfully, the answer is that disaster is avoidable. There are at [least seven areas or trends](#) where the needle can be and is being moved toward a more sustainable planet:



**The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

**Sustainability is a journey, not a destination**

<https://www.futuretracker.com/post/sustainability-is-a-journey-not-a-destination>

Sustainability is a practice and an ethos for how we engage with the world; it's not a series of rules or regulations. Learn how to reap the benefits of true sustainable development.

**5 Easy Steps on Starting Your Sustainable Living Journey**

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/5-easy-steps-starting-your-sustainable-living-journey-neliah-nyambane>

Sustainability is a buzzword that you have probably heard more times than you would care to admit. The term is loosely used for so many meanings but among them, the most important is environmental sustainability.



**Sustainable Transport Hierarchy**



According to the “[UN World Commission on Environment and Development](#)” sustainability calls for living practices that do not compromise the ability of future generations to utilize the current natural resources.

If you are keen on living mindfully owing to the current concern for environmental issues, you can start your sustainable living journey, in 5 easy steps.

### **Sustainable, Sustainability**

<https://greenaumatic.com/en/esg-en/how-does-your-journey-begin/#:~:text=Sustainable%20development%20is%20development%20that,to%20meet%20their%20own%20needs>

I find the words “sustainable” and “sustainability”, used by many companies today, confusing. In company communications, marketing messages, these words are called randomly. Companies want to show how “sustainable” they are on almost every website. But what do these words really mean, and why don’t we use the correct terms for what we want to convey? If we want to promote useful initiatives to improve the world, we must measure the right elements, report them unambiguously and use them correctly. But I feel that the overuse of the words “sustainable” and “sustainability” is confusing and hinders progress more than it does good.

### **Sustainability a journey, not a destination**

<https://www.theguardian.com/sustainability/blog/sustainability-journey-destination>

[Sustainability](#), I have come to realise, is a journey not a destination.

Once on it, we are constantly uncovering more layers and interconnections between everything we do and the rest of the world.

Sharing our journey and experiences, learning from and supporting each other, is a key foundation of our humanity, and this is no different for the individuals who make up businesses and organisations.

### **10 tips for a successful sustainability journey**

<https://www.techtarget.com/sustainability/feature/Tips-for-a-successful-sustainability-journey>

Just as with any journey, a sustainability journey requires understanding some keys to success.

Many organizations are struggling to build sustainability programs and implement more environmentally friendly practices. Furthermore, some companies have exaggerated their sustainability records, a practice known as Greenwashing.