



Speaking 4 the Planet 2025
Youth Week Video Competition

Climate Change: Take Action. Inspire Action.

Information and Support Package



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Competition Summary

1. Inner West Council is hosting an online Speaking 4 the Planet competition for youth in its LGA. This Information and Support Package is for those who register to join the competition. Register here: [Speaking 4 the Planet Youth Week Video Competition](#)

The package contains information about the competition category and the judging criteria; it also provides some links to articles relevant to the topic and a submission portal for entries.

2. Closing date for submissions is 31 March 2025.
3. The topic for the competition is **Climate Change: Take Action. Inspire Action**. This topic is linked to Sustainable Development Goal #13, but – as you know – many of the UN's SDGS have connections with climate change.
4. Competition category: Video. Maximum length is 3mins (with credits)
5. There are two age groups for the competition:
 - Youth – ages 12-16.
 - Senior – ages 17- 24.

Young people in these age categories are eligible to participate if they live, work or study in the Inner West Local Government Area.

6. Each age group will have first prize and runner up prize.
 - 1st prize in each age group includes a \$100 Westfield voucher and an S4P prize pack
 - 2nd prize in each age group includes a \$30 voucher and an S4P prize pack.
7. Participation is free for schools and students.
8. Research is vital. This package contains links to useful articles and programs and talks. All participants are encouraged to do their own research.
9. Participants are to produce videos that are original. They are also invited to make their work quirky.
10. Judges will use the criteria in this support package to judge each submission.
11. Prizes will be awarded for first and second places in both categories. All participants receive a certificate.
12. Please note that the videos may be placed on the S4P and Inner West Council websites and used for promotional purposes. Winning and other highly commended entries will be shared by inner West Council online to draw awareness to the themes and celebrate Youth Week. Council may display them in public places and at public events. The sponsors, Paddy Pallin and Xtreme, may also use them on their websites. Sutherland Shire Environment Centre may use them on its website and for its Annual Report. For all uses, the video creators will be credited. **By submitting your video, you acknowledge and agree to such uses of the videos.**

A statement from Inner West Council

The 2025 Youth Week Speaking 4 The Planet competition is a great opportunity for young people to use their voices to draw attention to this critical issue.

The climate crisis is an ongoing challenge and young people have long been at the forefront of campaigning to address this at a local and global level.

Through entry into this competition the winning video clips will be displayed by council in our online media, and in spaces where the messages contained can reach the broadest audience. It is an exciting way for young people to draw attention to the matters that are important to them.

At Inner West Council we have been working to do our part to address the climate crisis by aiming to become carbon neutral in 2025. We are working towards this through a range of initiatives including:

- becoming the first council to divest from fossil fuels in 2016
- purchasing 100% of our electricity from renewable solar sources since 2022
- reducing our electricity from street lighting by 39% since 2017/18.

Inner West Council constantly strives to be leaders in this space and considers tackling climate change as an issue of major significance.

We encourage all local young people passionate about climate action, to showcase their creative side through the creation for a short film that highlights the significance of this matter and the need for urgent action.

Good luck!

INNER WEST

Effects of Climate Change

More severe storms

Destructive storms have become more intense and more frequent in many regions. As temperatures rise, more moisture evaporates, which exacerbates extreme rainfall and flooding, causing more destructive storms.

Poverty and displacement

Climate change increases the factors that put and keep people in poverty, destroying homes and livelihoods.



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1. Purpose of this booklet

Climate change is serious. And serious actions are needed.

The 2025 Speaking 4 the Planet online competition gives you the chance to tell the world what you think. Your fears, your ideas, your hopes and the actions you are taking right now to help build a climate-friendly environment. You are invited to prepare and deliver punchy, quirky, creative and powerful videos that seek to influence the thoughts, emotions, and actions of viewers...and to inspire more and better actions!

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

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

You are strongly encouraged to research widely and build evidence-based and powerful messages.

“The future depends on what you do today.”—Mahatma Gandhi

“To achieve greatness, start where you are, use what you have, and do what you can.”—Arthur Ashe

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.

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 – for humans and all species.

S4P events inspire young people to think creatively, critically, independently, and courageously; they create space for students to ask challenging questions. S4P creates opportunities for youth voice not silence. The sustainability changes that the world needs won't occur by following existing dogma and practices. New thinking is required. Youthful thinking is required. Speaking 4 the Planet is founded on the belief 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](#)

This 2025 S4P competition gives you a chance to step up and speak up about your concerns and fears, about your hopes and dreams and ideas, about the work that needs to be done to create a healthy, sustainable world. The competition moment also invites you to think about how you can help bring about such a world.

Here's [an article on the importance of speaking up](#)

And another article on the importance of public speaking: [Ideas, Inspirations and Incites - with Phil Smith - New Bush Telegraph](#)

Here are some links to great performances from previous S4P events.



[Mother Earth, Chloe. The winner of the first Performance Poetry category 2022.](#)



[Dance and art, Bayview Secondary College, Tasmania, in support of restoring Lake Pedder.](#)



[Rap for climate change from youth in Christchurch, New Zealand](#)

Use this S4P opportunity to tell the world what you think about the climate change urgency the whole world must face.

Use this competition also as a time of change for yourself.

Effects of Climate Change

Hotter temperatures

As greenhouse gas concentrations rise, so does the global surface temperature. Higher temperatures increase heat-related illnesses and make working outdoors more difficult. Wildfires start more easily and spread more rapidly when conditions are hotter.

Increased drought

Climate change is changing water availability, making it scarcer in more regions. Global warming exacerbates water shortages in already water-stressed regions and is leading to an increased risk of agricultural droughts affecting crops, and ecological droughts increasing the vulnerability of ecosystems.

Not enough food

Changes in the climate and increases in extreme weather events are among the reasons behind a global rise in hunger and poor nutrition. Fisheries, crops, and livestock may be destroyed or become less productive.

Loss of species

Climate change poses risks to the survival of species on land and in the ocean. One million species are at risk of becoming extinct within the next few decades.



3. Target audiences

This competition is for young people aged 12 – 24 who live, work or play in the Inner West Local Government Area. It has two age categories:

- 12 – 16 years.
- 17 – 24 years.

You may work in small groups (max 3 people) to prepare your video but you must only submit your entry in one category.

Participation is free.

4. Competition category

There is only one category in this competition: video.

All videos must focus on the competition topic, **Climate Change: Take Action. Inspire Action.**

Your video could be:

- Speech by an individual
- Conversation
- Drama
- Dance
- Performance poetry
- Artworks explained
- Writing explained
- Song
- Documentary
- Interviews

Make it original. Make it stand out. Perhaps even a bit quirky. Make it inspire.

Give it a title.

Videos can be anything up to but not longer than 3 minutes (including credits). The focus must be the competition topic.

Please read the copyright guidelines [here](#)

5. Judging criteria

Participants need to know that both content and quality of video matter. We can put that in the package. For example, an interview with a local person might have great content, but if the sound or image is poor, then the entry will score low. You want and we want good content and a good video.

Specialists in the fields of the various types of submissions will be found.

Be sure to read and understand these judging criteria

- before you start
- as you are developing your idea and video
- when you are finalising it.

It is acknowledged that not all the criteria will apply to your video. But the judges will do their best to use the criteria as they judge the diverse video submissions.

The video must be

- on topic
- within time frame (3mins).

Message and meaning

- clear in purpose, narrative and structure
- sophistication of the message and meaning
- mood enhances the narrative and message

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 piece

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)
- the extent to which the video inspires action

Film Techniques

- Transitions
effective editing
- Camera Work
variety of camera angles
effective use of camera angles
- Sound
consistent level
no wind distortion or feedback
dialogue clear and audible throughout
- Music
consistent level
no wind distortion or feedback
dialogue clear and audible throughout
copyright: any commercial music used must be owned by the school or a film participant
appropriate lyrics
- Level of music does not conflict with dialogue

Here are some public speaking tips: [Public Speaking Tips – Speaking 4 the Planet](#)

Here is an article that gives you [Tips on videoing yourself](#)

6. Submitting your work

To submit your work, please fill this form <https://forms.gle/DeQzDkyA2dGLzPwWA>

In this form, you are required to provide:

- Some basic information about yourself so we could know who you are (name, email, age, detail address, etc.)

Email *

Short answer text

You belong to the age group *

Youth: ages 12 - 16

Senior: ages 17 - 24

- A link to your clip which is uploaded publicly to your Youtube channel or your Google Drive account and a brief description about it. Please make sure that your uploaded clip is **PUBLIC ACCESS** so we can watch, download and evaluate.

⋮

Link to Entry

- Please use this field to send us a link to your competition entry, e.g. **Youtube link** or **Google Drive link**.
- Please **make your link PUBLIC** so we can access, watch/read and download. This is very essential!
- Your competition entry should be named. You are recommended to use this naming structure: "**First name Last name_Title_Climate Change**", e.g. "Phil Smith _ Trees need Life _ Climate Change".

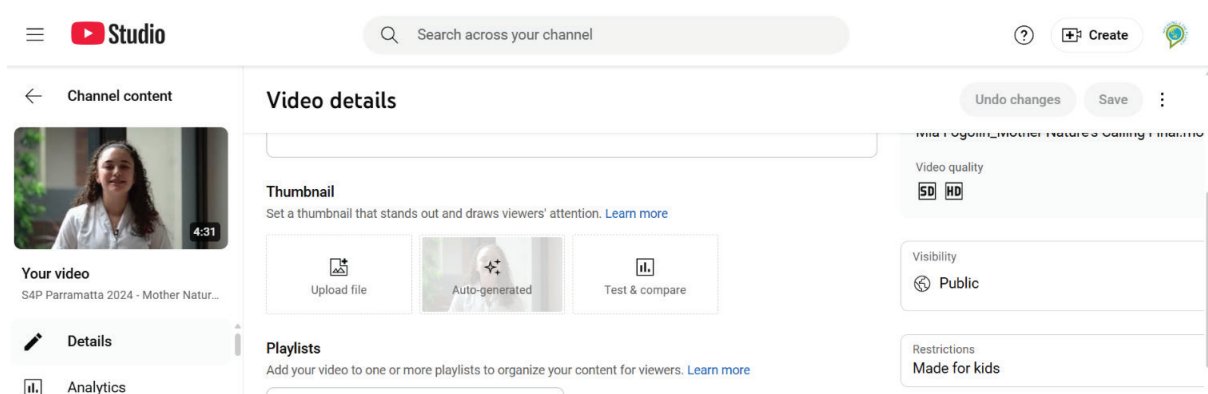
*Please fill your link here **

Short answer text

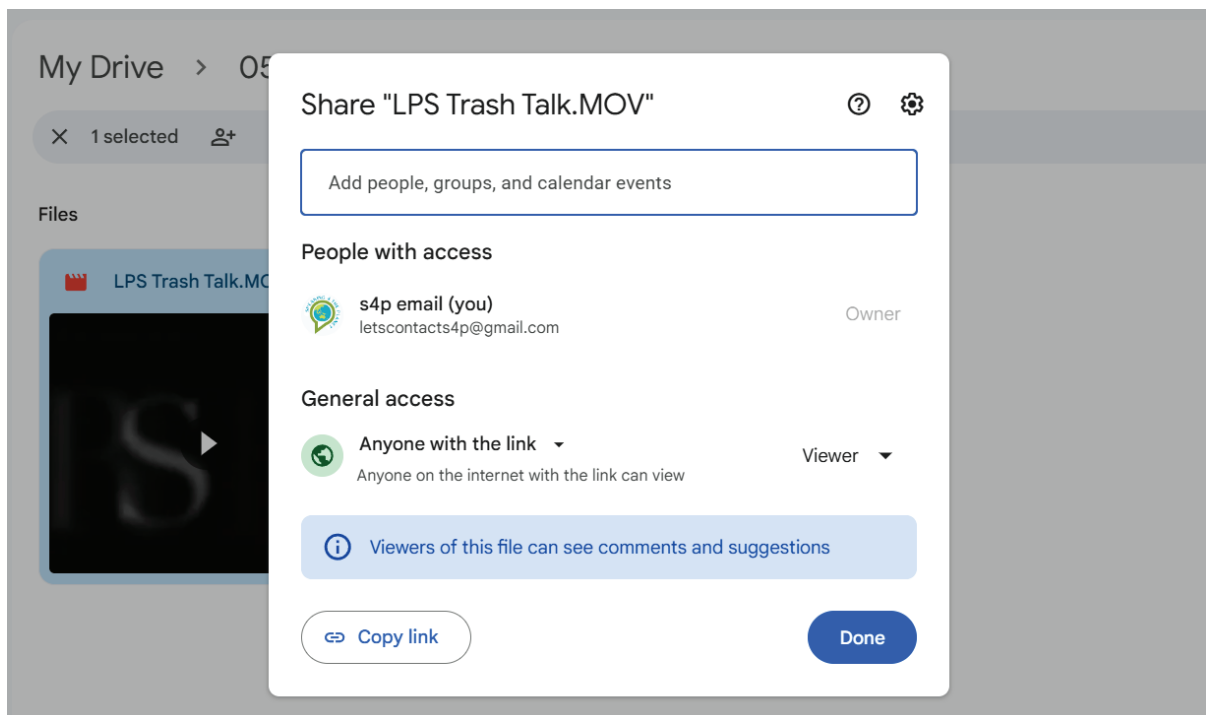
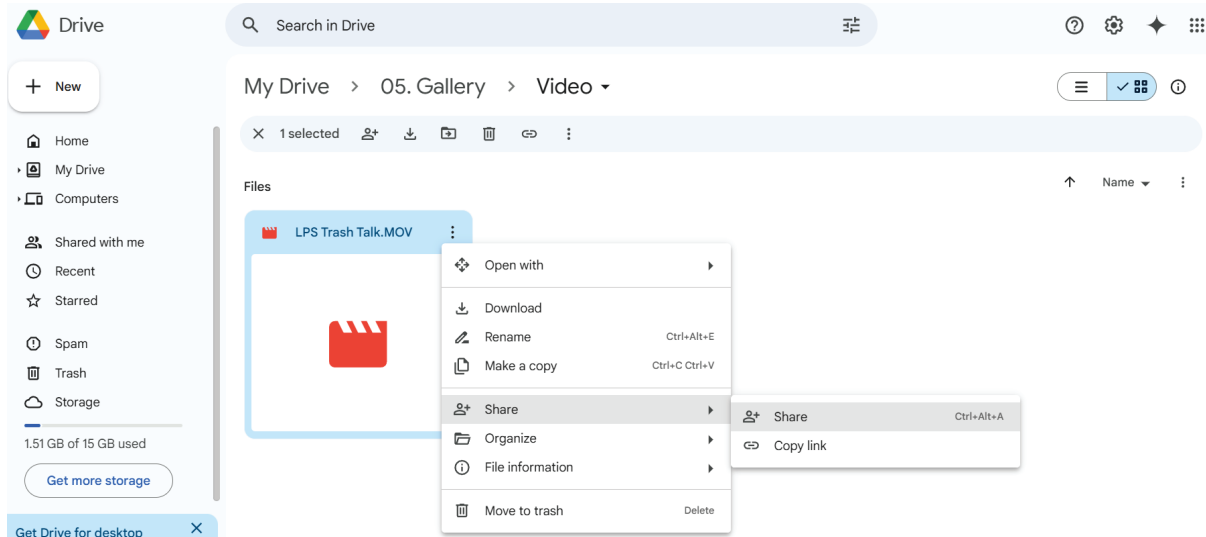
Please give us a brief description about your work (no more than 25 words) *

Short answer text

For Youtube video: this is where you choose to make your video visibility **PUBLIC** so we can watch.



For Google Drive video: this is where you choose to make your video public so we can watch.
Choose Share > Choose Anyone with the link can view



***Note:** If this introduction not clear enough for you, please do some simple search on the Internet to know how to make video public on Youtube and/or Google Drive.

*** Please note that** the videos may be placed on the S4P and Inner West Council websites and used for promotional purposes. Winning and other highly commended entries will be shared by Inner West Council online to draw awareness to the themes and celebrate Youth Week. Council may display them in public places and at public events. The sponsors, Paddy Pallin and Xtreme, may also use them on their websites. Sutherland Shire Environment Centre may use them on its website and for its Annual Report. For all uses, the video creators will be credited. By submitting your video, you acknowledge and agree to such uses of the videos.

Effects of Climate Change

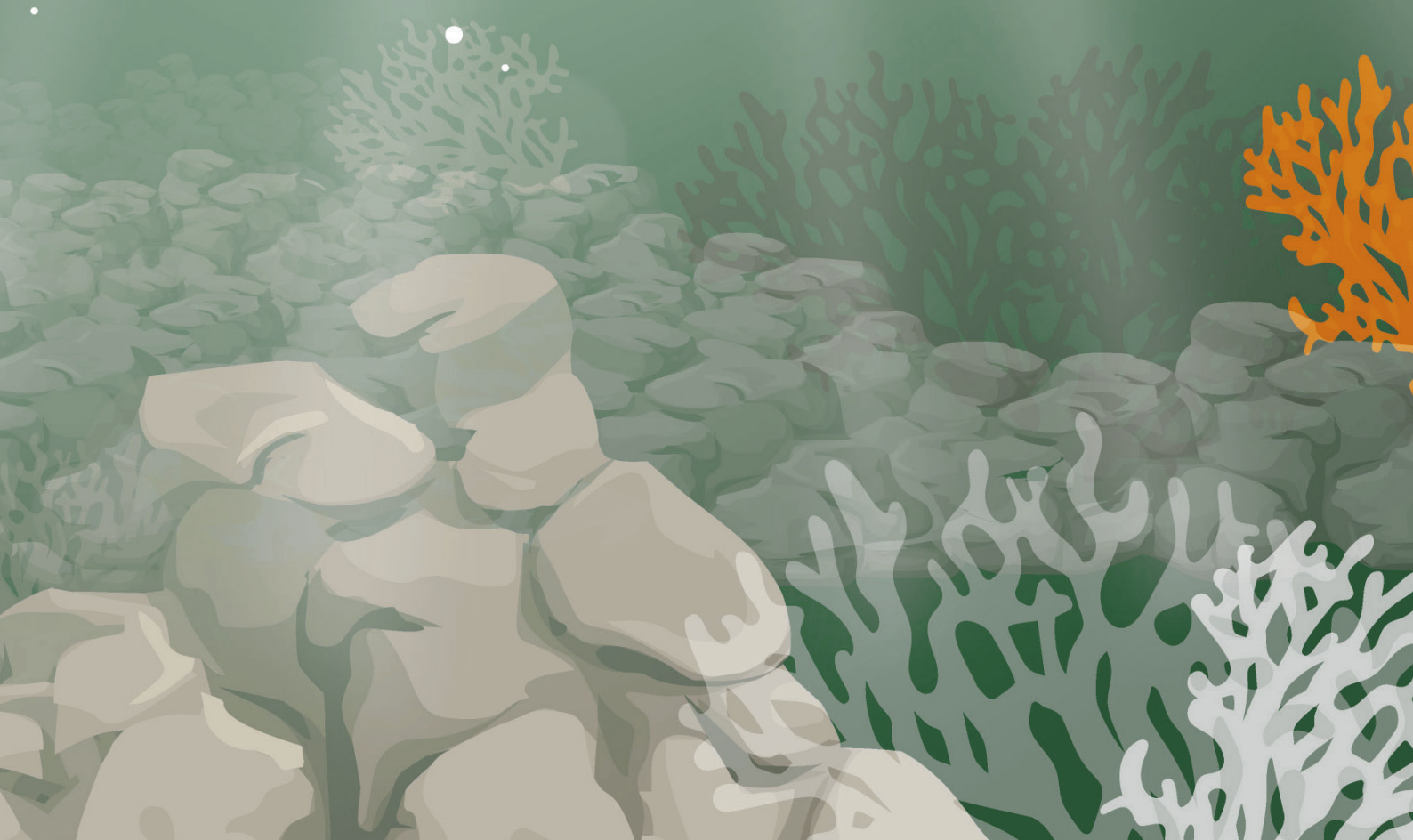
Coral reefs

Coral reefs are created by living creatures. Warming oceans caused by climate change are putting coral reefs in danger. Coral reefs are made by very fragile colonies of organisms that build skeletons around themselves.

Coral lives together with a certain kind of colorful algae. The algae make food using sunlight – a process called photosynthesis. The algae share the food with the coral, and in turn, the coral gives the algae a safe and comfortable place to live.

The two of them get along fine, living in clean, clear, shallow waters where the Sun shines through brightly. Fish and other sea creatures love coral too, because there are lots of nooks and crannies for them to hide in.

But the algae cannot carry out photosynthesis in water that is too warm. The algae either die, or the coral spits it out. It's bad for the algae, the coral and the fish, because the coral lose their food sources and become weak and can die. This event is called coral bleaching, and it is a very serious problem in many ocean ecosystems around the world.



7. Prizes

Winners will be contacted by S4P or Inner west Council staff during Youth Week 2025 (9 to 17 April)

Winners will be announced on the S4P in April.

Inner West Council will publish the winners on its website and through its social media accounts. Winning works will be played online and at Council events and venues.

Each age group will have a first prize and a runner-up prize.

1st prize in each age group includes a \$100 Westfield voucher and an S4P prize pack

2nd prize in each age group includes a \$30 voucher and an S4P prize pack.

Once again, Paddy Pallin, a competition partner, will provide very practical items for first prizes.

Each participant will receive a certificate.

8. Resources.

All participants are urged to research the topic. This section contains some links to websites that will help in the preparation of submissions. Search for more.

Inner West Council

[Environment and sustainability - Inner West Council](#)

Check out Council's website for information and ideas on climate action.

Sustainable Development Goals

Inspiring actions are needed in all of these Sustainable Development Goals. Check out this specific goal and all the others. It's important to know that they are all connected!

Find the SDGs here: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

Achieving the SDGs requires the partnership of governments, private sector, civil society and citizens alike to make sure we leave a better planet for future generations.



Collaboration works

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F9VzYWMGA6o>

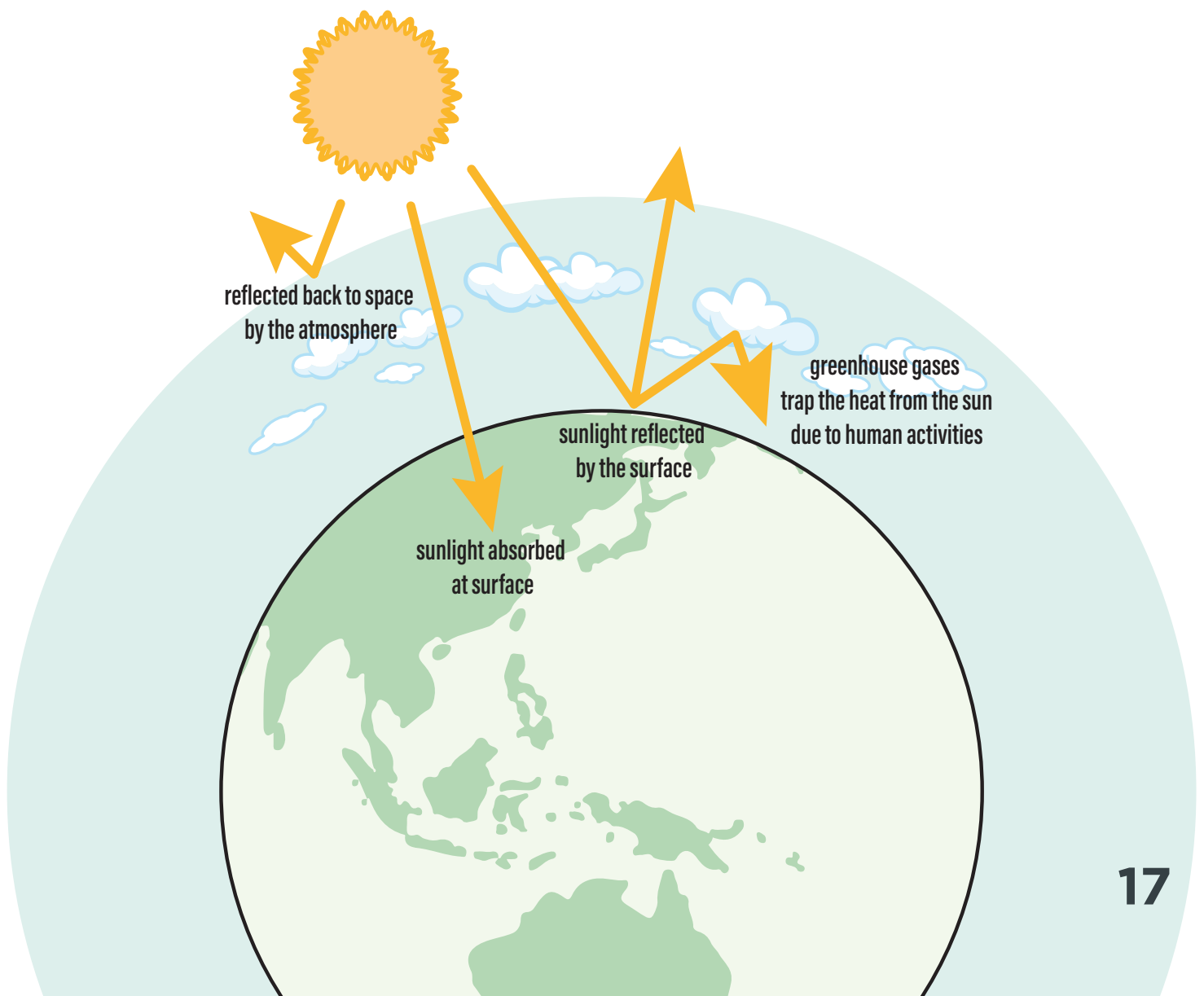
Do you feel as though you are able to make real change? In this talk, Kofi Hope, a social entrepreneur and change maker, explores the role of the individual vs the community. As the founder and former Executive Director of CEE Centre for Young Black Professionals and co-founder of Monumental, Kofi's work focuses on how to move towards a more fair and equitable city. Change is only a community away.

Greenhouse Effect 101

<https://www.nrdc.org/stories/greenhouse-effect-101>

By increasing the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, we're amplifying the planet's natural greenhouse effect and turning up the dial on global warming.

The greenhouse effect is a good thing. It warms the planet to temperatures that keep life on earth, well, livable. Without it, the world would be more like Mars: a frozen, uninhabitable place. The problem is, the voracious burning of fossil fuels for energy is artificially amping up the natural greenhouse effect. The result? An increase in **global warming** that is altering the planet's climate system. Here's a look at what the greenhouse effect is, what causes it, and how we can temper its contributions to our changing climate.



Dream. Dare. Determination.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FdM-J9Os9D8>

Esther van Duin is a Youth Representative of UNESCO. Here, she speaks about power and how to change the world. She discusses the importance of making sure all the voices in our society are heard. A young student passionately representing our generation, Esther strives to use her voice to stand up and make a change!

Why?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qp0HIF3Sfl4&list=PL1F16569EE00BEB48>

How Great Leaders Inspire Action: Simon Sinek presents a simple but powerful model for how leaders inspire action, starting with a golden circle and the question "Why?" His examples include Apple, Martin Luther King, and the Wright brothers -- and as a counterpoint Tivo, which appeared to be struggling.

First Follower: Inspiring a movement

The Dancing Guy

The first follower matters...as does the response of the leader!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fW8amMCVAJQ>

State of Environment Australia

Climate change and extreme events

<https://soe.dccew.gov.au/overview/pressures/climate-change-and-extreme-events>

Over the past 5 years to 2021, climate change and extreme weather events have highlighted the vulnerability of human society; ecosystems and biodiversity, including freshwater and marine systems and other natural resources; industry, crops and agriculture; and urban, rural and coastal communities. Climate shifts that affect temperature and weather patterns, increased frequency and severity of extreme events, and other climate-related changes such as sea level rise are all having profound effects.

In 2021, Australia updated its nationally determined contribution to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, affirming a target of net zero emissions by 2050.

The risks to Australia of a 3°C warmer world

<https://www.science.org.au/supporting-science/science-policy-and-analysis/reports-and-publications/risks-australia-three-degrees-c-warmer-world>

This report synthesises the observed impacts of climate change on Australia and the risk to our future of the current global trajectory of greenhouse gas emissions. It focuses on the consequences of 3°C of global warming in the absence of greater mitigation strategies for four areas of importance to Australia's future: our ecosystems, food production, cities and towns, and health and wellbeing. The impacts of those changes on the lives and wellbeing of Australians are discussed in detail.



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

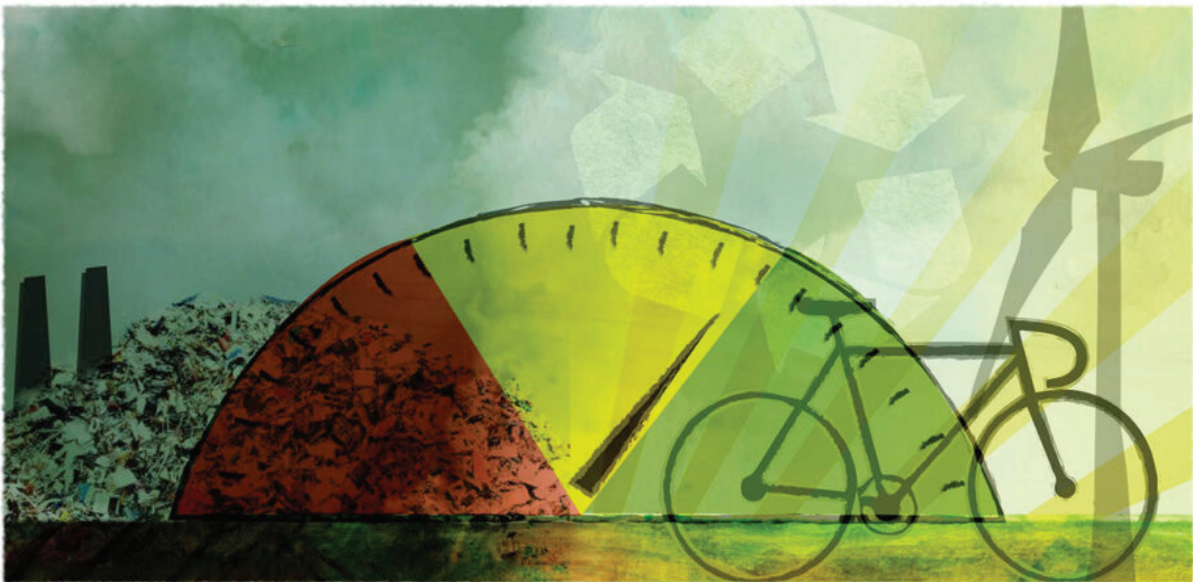
<https://sweden.se/climate/sustainability/10-ways-to-a-greener-future>

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.

Promising Signs we are Moving Towards 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:



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<https://www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au>



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



Cross the
Mountain.

<https://xtm.com.au>



Sutherland Shire
Environment Centre

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



World Environmental
Education Congress
Network

<https://weecnetwork.org>

