



LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH
United States, 2022

NATIONAL YOUTH
STATEMENT



National Youth Statement on Climate
Local Conference of the Youth United States of America 2022

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Disclaimer

This document reflects the collective views of the LCOY U.S.A. participants and commenters; it does not necessarily reflect the views of any specific individual contributor, organizing team member, sponsor entity, or implementing organization of LCOY U.S.A.





Executive Summary

The Local Conference of Youth United States of America 2022 (LCOY U.S.A.) was held in taken Lenni Lenape Native Land, now known as Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The event was hosted at Drexel University and The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University from the 23rd to 25th of September, 2022.

LCOYs are national youth-led conferences on climate officially endorsed by the Youth and Children's Constituency to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (YOUNGO), and have been hosted in 120 countries over the last 8 years. However, this was the first time a LCOY was held in the United States.

The Conference welcomed over 130 delegates both virtually and in-person, with an average age of 21 to 22 years old. The delegate group was composed of young people from 24 States, and included members of the LGBTQIA2S+, Native American, BIPOC, Latinx/e, Middle Eastern, Disability/Ability, AAPI, and African communities.

Five themes, those of Action for Climate Empowerment, Climate Adaptation, Climate Justice, Food Systems and Agriculture, and Health and Climate Change were discussed by delegates. Delegates also conducted supplementary events and dialogues to discuss critical issues faced by their communities and presented their work, allowing the facilitation of knowledge sharing.

The delegates co-created their demands, which are detailed in this National Youth Statement on Climate for the United States of America. This statement is submitted to the 17th United Nations Conference of Youth for its demands to be included in the Global Youth Statement, which will be presented at the 27th Conference of Parties being held in Sharm-El-Sheikh, Egypt from the 6th-18th of November, 2022.





Preamble

We the Youth,

Acknowledging that the land where the Conference that conceived this document took place in unceded Lenni Lenape native land, and recognizing that this is only one of the over 500 recognized yet underrepresented Indigenous communities in the United States;

Honoring the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), racialized Global South, Frontline Communities, most urgently and inequitably affected people and areas, and poor working class youth participants that joined us at the convening, as well as those who were not able to participate in person but whose experiences are represented in the statements and demands below;

Recognizing the need for meaningful youth participation in a cohesive climate action dialogue in the United States;

Noting the importance of creating a youth declaration in the United States in the form of a National Youth Statement, listing equitable and just demands for all communities affected by climate change;

Claiming our right to a livable Earth and sustainable future; a Just Transition away from fossil fuels for Frontline Communities, and Climate Reparations for people most impacted by the climate crisis here and abroad;

Honoring the urgent need to implement rights for Climate Refugees and honoring their homelands;

Upholding the values, history, and traditional knowledge of nature of all Indigenous nations and communities;





Considering the United States' position and capabilities in global and geopolitical scenarios, and the certainty that the predominant economic model is unsustainable and insupportable;

Acknowledging the demands for climate and racial justice made by women, BIPOC, immigrants, people with disabilities, members of the LGBTQIA2S+ community, and others in climate policies and implementation matters;

Denouncing the militarization, colonization, and active occupation of peoples and lands, especially Black, Indigenous, and People of Color in the United States, and the peoples of the Global South;

Understanding that the current exploitative relationship to nature and natural resources cannot be sustained any longer, and that our relationship with Mother Earth can and must be regenerative, not extractive;

Demanding that access to resources such as water, shelter, health care, appropriate nutrition, education and transportation are Human Rights required for a just, equitable, and sustainable world;

Highlighting the importance of protecting representative institutions in order to save the planet;

And *emphasizing* with certainty that not only the future, but the present, belongs to the youth, we demand:





Overarching Demands

1. Formalize accessible, representative, and democratic offices for youth engagement and inclusion, with an emphasis on people from Frontline Communities such as those from BIPOC or Global South communities in the decision making at every level of government and in consultation processes of all different agencies, by:
 - a. Creating a U.S. Youth Constituency to maintain consistent, representative, and inclusive communication and involvement in governmental affairs and decision-making spaces, at the federal, state, local, and territorial levels.
 - b. Providing resources through the federal government for state, local, and territorial levels of government to support the creation of these youth-led offices that will provide continual assistance in the advancement of youth-led engagement.
 - c. Electing a Youth Ministry, representing young people in the U.S. from each state and territory, to ensure that youth voices are heard at higher levels, which will facilitate communications between youth spaces and the federal government.
 - d. Compensating these youth advocates with a livable wage for their work, time, and expertise.
 - e. Ensuring that all spaces are occupied by elected youth officials, and permit office removal when necessary.
 - i. We note the Guam Youth Congress, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands Youth Congress, and the Los Angeles Youth City Council, as examples and a starting point for a youth-led, government-funded, democratic space.
2. The Biden-Harris Administration must declare a National Climate Emergency, which would allow the President to utilize his power to its fullest extent to create a pathway towards a Just Transition and climate adaptation plans that serve all U.S. residents, especially those in Frontline Communities.





- a. This declaration must allocate the necessary funding to research, develop, and implement solutions, climate reparations, and other steps, following suggestions and demands from this document, and the advice and counsel of the Youth Ministry and Constituency.
3. Local, state, and federal governments must institutionalize Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) of BIPOC and Frontline Communities (including youth) in decision making surrounding all current and future government climate mitigation, adaptation, and reparation plans.
4. The Biden-Harris Administration must lead by example and with ambition at the international level, with robust Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) set to mitigate warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, National Adaptation Plans (NAP), leadership in the contribution to the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), and the implementation of initiatives for climate reparations for the Global South.
5. The Biden-Harris Administration must go beyond its announcement to pledge contributions to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to support nature based solutions and Climate Justice in developing countries and confirm \$2 billion in contributions to the GCF.
6. The Biden-Harris Administration and Special Presidential Envoy on Climate John Kerry must issue a formal statement in support of Loss and Damage, and the U.S. Delegation to COP27 must negotiate accordingly to enact binding and equitable Loss and Damage-based actions.
7. All branches of government must denounce the role of the fossil fuel industry in politics by:





- a. Defunding and Deprioritizing False Solutions that are easily misused to perpetuate the power of the fossil fuel industry and harm Frontline Communities, namely technologies such as Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), Nuclear, Net-Zero initiatives, Hydrogen, among others.
 - b. Introducing strict legislation that bars elected officials from accepting funds from the fossil fuel industry.
 - c. Demanding that elected officials and the government end existing fossil fuel subsidies and create legislation that imposes taxation on fossil fuel imports/exports and usage, with these taxes going towards funding an equitable transition for the most urgently and inequitably affected people and areas.
 - d. Restricting the mineral extraction industry; petroleum, oil extraction, and all forms of fossil fuels industries; firearms industry; pharmaceutical industry; military industrial complex; and other industries with financial interests that continue to perpetuate systems of environmental and human abuses and corruption, from lobbying and financing political campaigns and politicians.
 - i. Establishing a moratorium on all fossil fuel expansion, including onshore and offshore drilling, transport, infrastructure, and deep-sea mining moratorium.
8. The U.S. must become a signatory of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. Regenerating and protecting biodiversity is essential to meeting the challenges of the climate crisis, and the U.S. must sign onto and ratify the biodiversity treaty to reflect this.





Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE)

International Demands

1. Establish, through the ACE Action Plan, a dedicated global platform for ACE that includes a mechanism to facilitate the mobilization of finance from public and private sources for ACE projects.
2. Establish through the ACE Action Plan an ACE Youth Focal Point, National ACE Youth Coordinator, or similar role, with the mandate and institutional support to further ACE implementation by youth on the national level.
3. Ensure the participation of all ACE National Focal Points (NFP), especially from Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States (as defined by the United Nations), in the annual ACE Dialogue and corresponding workshops to build the capacity of ACE NFPs.

Domestic Demands

4. Design an ACE National Strategy by October 2023 that includes a Youth Plan for ACE implementation. The ACE National Strategy and Youth Plan should include, among other measures:
 - a. Requiring federal funding for training for teachers on climate education, government grants as an incentive to include climate change curricula in schools according to defined standards, and further actions organized within the 6 components of ACE.
5. Appoint a dedicated contact point in the White House for youth, such as within the Council on Environmental Quality, the White House Environmental Justice Advisory





Council, the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and other offices to support youth climate initiatives and elevate youth concerns and perspectives.

6. ACE National Strategy Components

a. Education

- i. Main Objective: Ensure all K-12 youth receive a quality climate education through a holistic and systemic approach, with the opportunity to specialize further in college and their careers.
- ii. Include, in this federally mandated curriculum, critical education on the historical context of colonialism, U.S. military-imperialism, and racialized capitalism which have led to the climate crisis.
- iii. Create a new national standard on climate education by 2024, and incentivize states and territories to adopt it through financial mechanisms.
- iv. Offer grants and loan programs for schools of all types to implement substantial systemic solutions focused coverage of climate policy, technology, advocacy, etc.
- v. Fund teacher training programs that address common pitfalls with communicating climate information in collaboration with relevant non-state actors.
- vi. Expand climate education coverage to highlight career opportunities, organizations to get involved with, and online resources on effective climate solutions.
- vii. Ensure all applicable textbooks express the urgency of climate change, including the environmental and social consequences of fossil fuel use, and provide a scientifically supported account of the current climate crisis with a focus on practical steps for climate action.
- viii. Leverage congressional power over state and territorial educational funding to ensure the integrity of climate education from conflicting interests and misinformation.





- ix. Promote divestment in institutions of higher education through state and territorial grants.
- x. Boost teachers' pay and school funding in marginalized communities to provide security from exploitation by conflicting interests.
- xi. Create a 5–9-person task force within the Department of Education specifically for oversight on implementing climate education and training at scale. Ensure its continual funding for at least 15 years.
- xii. Ask local, state, and territorial education boards to submit a report to Congress and the U.S. Youth Constituency every 3-6 months on the progress of their implementation of the proposed climate education curriculum, which should cover the above demands, including but not limited to correction of pitfalls, career opportunities and involvement, and the role of fossil fuel and other industries in the climate crisis.

b. Training

- i. Main Objective: provide the public with more opportunities to be personally involved in tackling the climate crisis.
- ii. Establish a \$20 billion Civilian Climate Corps in the budget of the next fiscal year, to provide clean energy jobs.
 - 1. Ensure that the Civilian Climate Corps has jurisdiction over existing agencies such as, but not limited to, the Departments of Energy, Transportation, Interior, and existing public land corps.
 - 2. Set a target to create at least 100,000 new jobs through this objective by 2030 if not supported by a Congressional bill, with special attention to supporting a just transition for workers and communities impacted by the loss of jobs in the fossil fuel industry and related sectors.
 - 3. Attract diverse applicants, especially youth, BIPOC people, those from low-income communities, and others.





4. Ensure that the majority of the benefits go to most urgently and inequitably affected people and areas.
 5. Work directly with Indigenous communities to emphasize Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) in all activities.
- iii. Create a diverse public service pipeline through the Office of Presidential Personnel, utilizing Direct Hire Authority where appropriate, that devotes full-time staffers to the hiring of young people into the government, at scale.
 1. The young staff person(s) filling this role should:
 - a. Have a background in youth organizing, youth engagement, grassroots organizing, or other fields directly related to building meaningful relationships with young people.
 - b. Have deep knowledge of both the research and practice surrounding youth voice, meaningful youth-adult co-creation, and how to mitigate tokenism in youth voice initiatives.
 - c. Seamlessly and effectively liaise with youth, external departments, and the media to capture the breadth of youth voice and reach.
 - iv. Highlight and expand efforts by the private sector and nonprofits to help young people become involved in effective climate action (policy, advocacy, technology, etc.).
- c. Public Awareness
 - i. Main Objective: Fill knowledge gaps that most of the public have on systemic climate solutions through all appropriate means, for example by increasing relevant staff in these areas.





- ii. Emphasize practical actions regarding climate related public awareness campaigns (i.e. speaking up at public utility commission hearings, getting involved at the local level, organizations to connect with, etc).
- iii. Employ a conscious and evidenced based approach to work with rural residents to deploy clean energy infrastructure in communities that could benefit from net positive energy solutions.
- iv. Provide funds for technical education on renewable technologies to promote the self-sufficiency of all communities.
- v. Provide funding and create a task force to educate and spread awareness for ecosystem restoration and the importance of biodiversity for planetary and human health.

d. Public Access to Information

- i. Main Objective: Ensure that all Americans, regardless of their background, have access to essential information about the causes and solutions to the climate crisis based on non-partisan, current scientific data, employing experts when needed for their guidance.
- ii. Create publicly available, credible online information hubs that cover effective climate solutions.
- iii. This information should come from nonprofits, think tanks, and the private sector.
- iv. Invest in and publicize at scale the delivery of essential climate information in plain language in English and other common U.S. languages.





Climate Adaptation

International Demands

1. Support Indigenous Knowledge by partnering with Tribes to determine the appropriate representation needed and appointing minority scientists in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the committee drafting the National Climate Assessment, etc; use Indigenous Knowledge as a basis for the National Adaptation Plans and Communications.
2. Provide funding to compensate Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), Global South Scientists, and adaptation educators and facilitators to advance the implementation of education and training on climate risks and adaptation solutions.
3. Formally recognize that countries in the Global South, Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and other urgently affected areas have been negatively affected by high-emitting countries and demand that Loss and Damage payments be made to people in such communities in partnership with the territories they will be working with (including support for Climate Refugees):
 - a. Provide financial assistance for Global South countries to have the capacity to adapt to climate change through grants rather than loans, and create an avenue through which Global South countries can have their foreign debt forgiven.
 - b. Establish enforcement mechanisms with social and financial repercussions to ensure justice for Loss and Damages by high-emitting nations.
4. All countries should include Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) and youth, as defined by the United Nations, as well as national territories, in designing the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) (bottom-up





approach).

5. All countries, particularly high-income countries, must share intellectual properties and waive restrictions of country-owned green technologies, data, and adaptation research to strengthen warning systems around the globe.
6. U.S. leadership should push for urgent progress on GGA at COP27 this year, including by advocating for the creation of a public accountability dashboard on adaptation.
7. Climate reparations should be implemented in partnership with the receiving territories.
8. All NAPs should protect all territories and be created in partnership with the territories.
9. Acknowledge that within Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), there are communities that will not be able to adapt rapidly enough as climate imposed damages grow, and damages should not only be quantified in \$USD but also in regard to lives, nature, or culture lost.
10. Funds from the Adaptation Fund must be more accessible to small scale and local initiatives, such as by ensuring that Adaptation Fund recipients or granting partners are partnered with local, youth, and/or Indigenous communities.
11. Support the translation of all adaptation communications and plans into local languages.
12. Protect and actively restore nature to adapt to climate change and prevent additional loss in pursuit of a Just Transition (e.g. climate-sensitive ecosystems are not impacted to make way for renewable energy projects)





Domestic Demands

The greatest climate threats communicated by attendees include deadly tornadoes in new places, heat waves, wildfires, and flooding impacts to shelter, food, and water, being generally underprepared, and inactive/reactive actions creating False Solutions.

13. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) should set a well-adapted native ecosystem restoration standard for all localities depending on their native geography, area (size), population, and greenhouse gas emissions. Tree coverage must be implemented with FPIC in communities.
14. The EPA must tighten transparency requirements and close loopholes surrounding corporate carbon offsetting and actions/programs, especially carbon offsets used for tree cover. Trees planted under the proposed EPA regulation for city tree coverage must not be recognized for carbon offset schemes.
15. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) should be restructured to be more language-inclusive and accessible to communities with a focus on reducing the time between applications, easing restrictions on accessing loans and replacing loans with grants/compensation programs, and eliminating cost-match or cost-share requirements.
16. FEMA must hire local organizations to re-grant funds and redistribute wealth to ensure adaptation funding reaches the most disproportionately burdened communities in a timely manner.
17. The federal government must remove the disaster debt system and provide grants and/or compensation after disasters rather than loans.





18. The federal government must establish a national Loss and Damage finance fund that can deploy funds to communities not able to build back better or smarter from climate-induced disasters and cascading impacts.
19. In cases of managed retreat, federal and subnational governments should:
 - a. Increase funding to restore coastlines, rivers, and wetlands such as marshes, especially alongside Indigenous communities, to provide the best chance at adaptation before relocation.
 - b. In relocation situations due to hazards, allow local and Indigenous people to retain land and mineral rights.
 - c. In relocation situations, prioritize people over property/infrastructure and profit, ensuring implementing bodies work with affected communities to determine the most equitable solutions.
20. Federal and subnational governments should incorporate an annual re-evaluation of all adaptation policies and implementation efforts, inclusive of Frontline Communities, to gather results of these plans and ensure that their implementation does not result in the gentrification or displacement of BIPOC communities.
21. The Department for Education must develop and implement—in collaboration with groups representing diverse perspectives with an emphasis on those of BIPOC, LGBTQIA2S+, and other urgently affected groups—a solutions-oriented climate change curriculum in K-12 schools that is interdisciplinary, spans across grade levels, and emphasizes community project-based learning and environmental justice.
22. The Department of Education should share guidance on not penalizing students for participating in climate activism.





23. The EPA should establish a requirement for cities and counties to develop and implement climate adaptation plans inclusive of Frontline Communities. The locality must re-evaluate the plans annually to adjust for actual climate impacts.
24. Congress should incorporate consideration for climate impacts and risks in all federal funding requests.
25. The EPA and Department of Transportation should enhance access to free, filtered water fountains in public places across the nation, such as at public transportation stops and parks to increase heat preparedness.
26. FEMA should work with subnational actors to increase access to clean and safe spaces following disasters and extreme weather events, such as cooling centers.
27. State governments should establish state/territory-wide emergency alerts, such as heat advisory, energy reduction, and action opportunities information, to plan for all hazards, to be accessible to the local community.
28. Federal and state governments should support Indigenous wildfire protection efforts, such as prescribed burning done in partnership with Indigenous leaders, with federal funding.





Climate Justice

Overarching demands

1. Indigenous people must have a formal space within formal decision-making processes.
 - a. Work directly with Indigenous nations and communities to rematriate their lands.
2. Provide Indigenous Peoples with the resources, authority, and sovereignty to steward their land and resources. Enact initiatives including but not limited to Land Back and reparations.
3. Include qualitative data and community knowledge in decision-making processes.
 - a. Numbers do not tell the full story of climate injustice as do the stories of those who experience it.
 - b. Ensure that quantitative and qualitative data matches peoples' experiences by studying alongside communities and requesting their knowledge, experience and input.
4. Address the different lived experiences of peoples of diverse backgrounds including, but not limited to, LGBTQIA2S+ individuals, individuals of lower socioeconomic classes, people of different genders, BIPOC, people with disabilities, and many others, while actively creating intersectional spaces for diverse stakeholder engagement, such as the diverse Youth Ministry and Constituency.

Domestic Demands

5. Actively reform socioeconomic and educational systems and infrastructure to include, protect, and empower marginalized communities (LGBTQIA2S+, low-income, women, BIPOC, people with disabilities, and many others).





- a. Make climate and democracy education accessible to marginalized communities, as a required national standard.
 - i. Reconstruct education funding streams to increase school funding, teacher pay, and resources, especially in underfunded communities.
 - ii. Grant experiential education funding to K-12 schools in disadvantaged communities.
 - iii. Provide education on climate and democracy that encourages self and community advocacy.
 - iv. Ensuring schools are a safe place by reducing threats of gun violence, substance abuse, and police presence that plague communities by introducing after-school recreational activities, safe spaces such as community centers, sports and art programs, physiological support, etc.
 - v. Include the Department of Education under climate education programs within Justice40 initiatives.

6. Accountability and transparency of governmental and other formal institutions and systems through the creation of youth and Frontline Community councils that actively co-create policy.

7. Demilitarize Frontline Communities and removal of man camps practice associated with Indigenous lands and resources.

8. Increase the inclusion of youth and marginalized communities in NDCs.
 - a. Recognize youth and marginalized communities as stakeholders in the climate movement.
 - b. Involve youth and children in the drafting and implementation processes of more equitable and inclusive NDCs.

9. Provide land and water sovereignty and rights by working with Indigenous communities.





- a. Establish consequences beyond economic sanctions for those in violation of those rights.
 - b. Treat violations against the Earth, species and bodies of water the same as violations against people.
10. Work towards an inclusive and Just Transition from high-emissions jobs to greener industries such as by providing equitable and inclusive access to resources and skills-based learning.
11. Environmentally sustainable, electric, high-density public transit and rail networks should be provided by the government at no cost to low-income individuals and communities.
12. Loss and Damage: Climate reparations need to recognize the damage that has already been inflicted in communities, taking into consideration:
- a. Reparations cannot be limited to financial penalties. This must also include but not be limited to public apologies, the return of cultural artifacts, and the inclusion of Frontline Communities in governmental bodies.
13. Create sustainable development plans for neighborhoods that address the history of racial segregation in the housing market such as redlining, gentrification, policing, and lack of economic development for poor communities:
- a. Ensure that neighborhoods do not lack basic fundamental needs and receive the necessary funding and support for access to clean water, healthcare facilities, access through roads and public transportation, parks and gardens, community centers, etc.
 - b. Improve waste disposal and sewer systems for all communities.





14. Pledge support and resources to communities with racialized infrastructure such as but not limited to red-lined districts, gentrified neighborhoods, reservations, food deserts, and areas with inadequate public transport; with emphasis on community involvement in implementation.

International Demands

15. Incentivize a Global-South-country-led approach to standards for offshore companies in their own regions, without the interference from Global North countries and other unequipped parties.
16. Develop fair and just green industries:
 - a. Empower and provide sovereignty and autonomy while prioritizing the needs of IPLCs to make their own decisions, manage their own natural resources, and hold exploitative companies accountable.
 - b. Prioritize support for companies that are using sustainable technologies, permanent transition, ethical production and business practices.
17. The U.S. Senate should ratify the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and adhere to all provisions regarding the environmental protection and Indigenous stewardship of Indigenous lands.
18. Completely remove all forms of U.S. occupancy from all U.S. ‘territories’ and require representation from the occupied areas in advising on withdrawal.
 - a. Amend U.S. policies that have created and continue increasing Democratic backsliding in other countries.
 - b. Completely remove all forms of U.S. occupancy from the Okinawa area and respect critically endangered Iriomote cats, which are being hurt and killed with





tanks.

19. Recognize the irreversible damages done to countries and communities in the global south and Indigenous communities.
 - a. It is economically possible and it is the responsibility of those aided by policy to support those harmed by policy.
 - b. Include the environmental discount rate in economies, specifically in Global North economies.

20. Climate funds cannot become climate debt. Global North countries and other responsible parties need to take accountability and responsibility without ignoring the long term effects of indebting countries they have harmed and continue to harm.

21. Increase the accessibility of climate activists/advocates to enter the U.S.
 - a. COVID-19 vaccines and other factors are used as barriers, disregarding other countries' experiences.
 - b. The U.S. is host to international organizations key in shaping the global system, such as The United Nations, The World Bank, The International Monetary Fund, etc.; yet, entering the country has multiple financial and logistical requirements, rendering it inaccessible to many, and leaving international people out of crucial conversations and spaces.
 - c. Specialize visa process/application for youth environmental activists and advocates to increase accessibility, in the same capacity that other professions and specialties are provided this aid.

22. Increase funding and job training for accessible, free public transportation - including by enhancing access in BIPOC communities, and road repair to support resilience and alternative methods of transportation.





Food Systems and Agriculture

International Demands

1. The U.S. should support the establishment of an institutional framework with modalities to guarantee the realization of the outcomes on-ground, as the future of ‘Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture’ (KJWA).
2. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, ‘Agroecology’ is a holistic and integrated approach that simultaneously applies ecological and social concepts and principles to the design and management of sustainable agriculture and food systems. The U.S. should endorse ‘Agroecology’ as an agricultural solution to climate change, during KJWA negotiations.
3. The U.S. should work with Black and Indigenous communities to support the role of Afro-Indigenous and Indigenous farming practices and the principles of ‘Afroecology’ and ‘Stewardship’ for landscape restoration.
4. The U.S. should push the discussion of topics such as measurement metrics, implementation mechanisms, land and Indigenous stewardship, consumption, food loss and waste, food systems approach and other topics not included yet, in the future work of Koronivia.
5. The U.S. should re-envision a ‘Global Sustainable Agriculture Pledge’ similar to the Global Methane Pledge from 26th Conference of Parties (COP26), but using the Climate Club framework.
 - a. It should cover all subsectors: farm soils, fertilizers, meat consumption, rice production, food waste, and ending deforestation.





- b. Under the Climate Club, joint penalties such as carbon border taxes apply to countries that miss their sectoral mitigation targets. Also, exclusive economic benefits apply for all countries that join the club, such as favored trading status and early access to essential new climate mitigation technologies.
- c. Leverage the club mechanisms to increase domestic action, especially on beef and dairy consumption
- d. Each country part of the club sets up a non-partisan 5-7 person task force to monitor implementation of the targets.

Domestic Demands

6. The U.S. should set aggressive mitigation targets across the entire agricultural sector, including but not limited to reduction of beef and dairy subsidies, increase of soil carbon and organic matter content, lowering national food waste ratio, and ending deforestation. To achieve these goals, it should:
 7. Issue a moratorium on building new factory farms. Also explore all policy options at the federal level to retire old ones early.
 8. Phase out concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) nationwide by 2035, with a just transition plan from livestock farmers and ranchers.
 9. Phase out the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers nationwide by 2035.
 10. Require government funded events and institutions to buy and serve majority plant-based catering by 2025, setting the example for the private sector.





11. Require schools to buy and serve a majority of plant-based catering by 2025, emphasizing nutritious and diverse plant-based foods and nutritious protein-alternatives across the nation, while acknowledging the culture and tradition of communities.
12. Repurpose all subsidies for industrial agriculture, especially beef and dairy. Instead invest in sustainable options such as alternative proteins through means like tax credits and microfinancing to small scale food producers, and eliminate all loopholes.
13. Significantly reduce the “green premium” or more expensive price of climate friendly products through means such as reducing soft costs across the supply chain and production processes.
14. Subsidize sustainable farming practices such as hydroponics and vertical farming.
15. Create a federal pilot program that supports farmland transition and farm succession planning to young and BIPOC farmers that are oriented towards working on climate, racial, and economic justice.
 - i. Recognize that these communities are stewards of the land who already implement strategies that contribute to soil health, food access, the health of biodiversity, and landscape restoration.
 - ii. There is a need to uplift the Justice for Black Farmers Act and a need to dismantle systemic oppressive policies that are harming Black communities.
16. Expand conservation programs funding and programmatic changes as listed in the Agriculture Resilience Act.
17. Include the THRIVE Act in the farm bill that allows for a path for young people to transition to land stewardship careers.





18. Rematriation of land: provide funding to support healthy and sustainable Indigenous food systems where community members, families, and farmers bond together to create a network of Indigenous farms that establish healthy food systems by strengthening access to nutritious locally grown foods, reclaiming land, building prosperity, and revitalization of language and culture. Establish evidence-based guidelines and regulations for international trade, with respect to environmental justice and Frontline/grassroots communities.
19. Reduce the environmental footprint of traded food nation-wide and globally in reference to the standard of enhanced food miles; reduce waste using carbon-neutral transportation, improved storage conditions, and targeted market allocation.
20. Increase the accessibility of fresh, healthy, organic, and nutritious foods (through access to grocery stores or food products from local farming) by implementing all the recommendations listed in the newly released national food, nutrition, and health strategy.
21. End false greenwashing solutions in agriculture, including intransparent carbon offsetting and trading schemes through regulation. The introduced mechanisms and schemes should focus on addressing only those emissions which cannot be mitigated, followed by strong monitoring and accountability.
22. Ensure that current agricultural information and educational reports are accessible in terms of their complexity and language, such that affected communities have access to it.
23. Require food companies, including wholesale, restaurant, grocery, agricultural traders, and others, through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to do annual greenhouse gas (GHG) emission inventories, and require color coded GHG emission





intensity labels, that also account for food miles, on all agricultural products and menus. Small and medium enterprises must be supported and prioritized in this process.

Health and Climate Change

International Demands

1. Policies in all levels of government must recognize health as a human right, recognizing the principles of One Health and One Welfare and the interconnectedness of planetary, animal, and human health.
 - a. Eliminate systemic racism and colonizing practices from all forms of healthcare, to ensure health equity and eliminate health disparities. Ensure equity for all people, regardless of their background, in an effort to reduce health disparities.
 - b. Prioritize health over profit at all levels of care, which includes international private health and pharmaceutical industries, nonprofit and charitable entities, government and local departments, and others.
 - i. This requires that primary health care be actively funded and prioritized.
 - c. Implement universal healthcare—which means affordable, tolerant, anti-racist, culturally competent, accessible resources and health services for all.
 - i. Eliminate discriminatory barriers to accessing care that relate to social, cultural, literary, economic, educational, and citizenship status, among others.

2. Fund and implement reparations for communities that have been generationally affected by the environmental injustice of polluting and industrial facilities (which includes but is not limited to toxic waste facilities, oil rigs and refineries, gas drilling, waste dumping sites, industrial incinerators, landfills, and petrochemical facilities), in addition to their poor monitoring and the increasing ways that climate change exacerbates their effects.
 - a. Fund research and removal of all remaining facilities placed by the U.S. in other





- countries and in international waters.
- b. Recognize that reparations are not limited to financial means. Intergenerational, longstanding harms must be effectively addressed in ways that meet the needs of individuals and communities.
3. Create and implement funding mechanisms to understand and prepare for emerging diseases and microbes. Directly fund existing research facilities in the Global South and other urgently affected countries to protect from the disproportionate effects of the climate crisis, which include increases in emergent zoonotic, microbial, and other infectious diseases, spread of existing diseases, and changing weather patterns.
- a. Support the funding of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure in the Global South and other urgently affected countries to increase community capacity to withstand the impacts of the climate crisis.
 - b. Acknowledging that the climate crisis will continue to perpetuate existing and emerging disease, create legal commitments to waive intellectual property rights of vaccine research and technologies.

Domestic Demands

4. Procedural Justice: fund and implement a Health and Climate Justice Advisory Board (HACJAB) and create multiple caucuses for community members from across the U.S., who represent many different communities, including Indigenous communities, BIPOC, LGBTQIA2S+, and others.
- a. Mandate the inclusion of the advisory boards of relevant caucuses in all decision-making and policy-drafting that relates to people's health at a local, state, territorial and federal level.
 - b. Require a vetting process to be completed by this board before any policy regarding health and climate is implemented at the respective level.





5. Environmental Quality: toxic exposures are a public health issue and a lifecourse issue.
 - a. Require the elimination of all industries and entities that contribute to these exposures.
 - b. Implement FPIC in the placement and monitoring of all U.S. or U.S.-invested polluting and industrial facilities.
 - c. Ensure community empowerment, which consists of respecting communities in every step of the process. Require input of the HACJAB, and other relevant community liaisons, in all decision making processes related to the placement, monitoring, and mitigation of toxic waste facilities, industrial facilities, factories, and others.
 - i. This applies specifically to communities throughout the U.S., including Indigenous areas, territories, BIPOC, and other communities, that continue to be impacted by the harmful consequences of polluting and industrial facilities.
 - ii. Actively involve community members who would be impacted by the placement and regulation of all types of industrial facilities - incentivize community involvement and remove barriers for community participation (including, but not limited to, transportation, time off from work, child care, and others).
 - d. Develop specific monitoring guidelines using the inputs and knowledge of communities that are directly impacted, along with the best available science.
 - e. Dedicate governmental funds to directly involve community members in the distribution and implementation processes of environmental monitoring devices and guidelines.
 - i. Require all new environmental monitoring devices to be powered by renewable energy.
 - f. Increase funding to non-partisan government regulatory organizations.
6. Immediately expand research and development to help us adapt to the emergent and





under-addressed effects of the climate crisis.

- a. Increase Federal Drug Administration (FDA) funding to increase capacity for research of drugs and chemicals produced by polluting industries and make strict, person-first FDA approval guidelines for all drugs and chemicals.
 - b. Create and implement funding mechanisms to research emerging chemicals, such as agro-chemicals, plastics, those produced by the energy and resources industry, and other sources of waste.
 - c. Ensure the presence of scientists and technical research experts in the development, implementation, and regulation of policies regarding drugs, chemicals, and biologics.
 - d. Revise survey and medical questions to accurately and fairly capture all people's identities and eliminate the harmful effects of misrepresentation of community members. This requirement must apply to all forms of data related to climate and human health, including the U.S. census, tax forms, public health surveillance, and others.
 - i. Expand all cultural and racial classifications, sexual and gender identities, and provide space in all forms for description of personal identities.
 - e. Create a public database with health resources to ensure equitable access to important health information, by disseminating information in rural areas without access to healthcare, BIPOC, low-income, immigrant, and other urgently affected communities; require plain language and translation for all health resources.
7. Under the National Climate Emergency, immediately fund, train, and deploy community health professionals to serve as climate change health care workers.
- a. Develop and fund comprehensive training programs for existing community health workers to understand and treat the health effects of climate change. Empower communities, especially Frontline Communities, with the capacity to consistently train their climate change health workers.
 - b. Recognizing the intergenerational and longstanding knowledge that Indigenous





- communities hold, deploy emergency funding for these communities without restriction to ensure that their agency is maintained.
- c. Implement a cultural and climate standard in the teaching and practice of medical schools and healthcare training facilities across the U.S.
 - i. Require medical training that abolishes racism and sexism in the healthcare sector and increases medical professionals' cultural sensitivity through updated curricula and culturally competent experience.
8. Protect reproductive health, including free and equal access to abortion, for all individuals, with an emphasis on women, nonbinary, transgender, and genderqueer people, and other members of the LGBTQIA2S+ community.
- a. These individuals, who face disproportionate risk due to toxic exposures and unjust health legislation, must be provided with specific protections under the rule of law.
 - b. All people must be guaranteed the right to bodily autonomy, particularly in the face of extreme risk of morbidity, mortality, forced migration, financial hardship, and other risks caused by the climate crisis.
9. Ensure that health services, supplies, and resources are accessible to undocumented individuals. Eliminate the 'public charge rule' to remove all barriers to health access for individuals living in the U.S. Acknowledging that healthcare is a human right, ensure that health services are a safe space for recovering and healing (in all its forms), including health provider-patient confidentiality.
10. Update hospital funding to be more compatible with the modern-day system, which means increasing transparency in hospital use of funds to eliminate the waste that permeates our healthcare system, including failure of care delivery, overtreatment, administrative complications, energy waste, and many others.
- a. Require that Medicare, Medicaid, and all other federal funding not be utilized in





for-profit hospitals where nonprofit hospitals are available within a close radius, and invest money directly in health systems, especially a nationalized healthcare system that prioritizes and addresses the needs of low-income and Frontline Communities.

11. Eliminate emissions and waste from the health care sector to ensure healthy and sustainable lives.

- a. Create funding mechanisms that require all new healthcare facilities to rely solely on renewable energy.
- b. Create funding mechanisms that require the health care sector to replace greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions with all-renewable energy—including but not limited to healthcare facilities, medical equipment and device development, research facilities, the pharmaceutical industry, and health sector supply chain management. This must not permit provisions for net-zero emission facilities.
- c. Create a government funding mechanism that aids in the health care industry's transition to a renewable, sustainable way of practice.
 - i. Fund research and development for personal protective equipment, medical and surgical supplies, and other health-related materials that do not consist of plastic.

12. Increase accessibility and sustainability of public transportation - including but not limited to availability in all areas of the country, accessible and equitable prices, transportation routes, dedicated infrastructure for walking and biking, urban planning, and other forms of transportation.

- a. Create funding mechanisms to ensure that all new forms of transportation infrastructure are powered by renewable energy, in cities and communities throughout the country.
- b. Require FPIC in all construction and implementation of transportation.





13. Decrease the prevalence of food insecurity and food deserts in low-income neighborhoods.
 - a. Deploy incentives and grants to local shop owners and convenience stores for sourcing fresh, organic, and healthy products to increase community access to healthy food, with a focus on local products from small farmers, especially those owned by members of the BIPOC community.
 - b. Increase subsidies of regenerative goods to incentivize their production and relieve the individual economic burden that makes sustainability inaccessible to minority populations.

14. Fund disaster preparedness plans and community-led mechanisms to build resilience against the many long-term health effects of climate change, under the National Climate Emergency.
 - a. Create a fund that is ready to be deployed for disproportionately burdened populations that are affected by epidemic diseases and ensure proper mechanisms so that funding is distributed directly to those affected.
 - i. Require direct input from community members, through local HACJABs and open, accessible, online request mechanisms.
 - b. Fund localized, customized, permanent resilience hubs in climate emergencies that provide a wide range of resources to respond to the effects of national emergencies including, but not limited to, extreme weather events and infectious diseases.
 - i. Resilience hubs must be designed with input from local community members.
 - ii. Resilience hubs must be accessible spaces that include all practical resources needed to withstand existing and future emergency events—including access to clean water, food, hygienic supplies and toiletries, first aid and emergency medical kits, and all other resources deemed appropriate by the community members.





- c. Require and fund the creation of localized and standardized disaster preparedness plans for all climate-related and climate -perpetuated emergencies that are community-led and resilient.
 - d. Create a nationalized database and response effort for localized vulnerability and adaptation assessments specific to health, and make materials accessible to all.
 - i. Publish comprehensible resources in all community-relevant languages and reading levels. Resources must improve ability to prepare for and withstand existing and future emergency events.
 - e. Invest in climate-resilient infrastructure, especially for disproportionately burdened communities. Funding and resources must be made readily available, specifically for Frontline Communities, to provide strong infrastructure—including housing, roads, schools, public spaces, broadband internet and electronic infrastructure, and other resources necessary for sustainable living.
15. Ensure access to free, non-discriminatory mental health care for all people in the U.S.
- a. Fund consistently available mental health care for children and youth, outside of school environments.
 - b. Ensure that mental health care is appropriate and culturally aware of the disproportionate effects of climate trauma in Frontline Communities.
 - i. Deploy local branches of the HACJAB to define and assess the mental health needs of the community and the efficacy of the response.
 - c. Recognize the threat to childhood development and intergenerational effects of climate trauma on vulnerable populations such as BIPOC communities, and invest in building back these communities to support community livelihood.
16. Increase funding for the research of alternative burial practices that decrease the impacts of land-use change while remaining respectful to peoples’ cultures, religions, customs, and traditions.





Mitigation

Mitigation was not a Track during the Conference. However, all attendees agreed on the necessity of the U.S. to implement aggressive and swift mitigation strategies such that the U.S. can be at the forefront on combating the climate crisis.

1. Establish a ban on all new fossil fuel infrastructure and drilling operations.
2. Set and implement an NDC, based on the best available science and U.S. Fair Share that calls for 70% domestic reduction of 2005 levels by 2030, which will hold the global temperature increase to a maximum of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.
 - a. Immediately create incentives and regulations to replace GHG-emitting facilities with clean energy, across all sectors.
3. Prioritize sectoral policy solutions in line with up-to-date data as applicable by sector.
 - a. This includes but is not limited to: clean electricity grid, clean drop-in fuels for hard-to-abate sub sectors like aviation, natural carbon sinks, zero emission mandates for new cars and infrastructure, and ending methane leaks.





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National Youth Statement

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