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CENTER ON
ADAPTATION
YOUTH ADAPTATION NETWORK
GHANA



Bridging Gaps for Positive Youth Development



MOI UNIVERSITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Technology for Development



Youth Climate Handbook

A Simple Guide for Young Climate Leaders



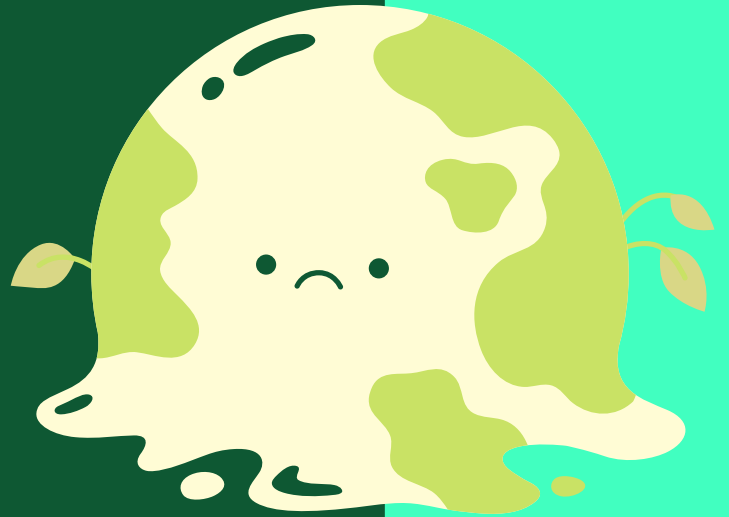
Our Website


www.youthbridgefoundation.com

What Is Climate Change?


Climate change means long-term changes in the Earth's weather.

It happens when the planet becomes hotter and weather becomes harder to predict.



 **Weather** = changes we see daily (rain, sunshine, wind).



 **Climate** = weather patterns over many years.



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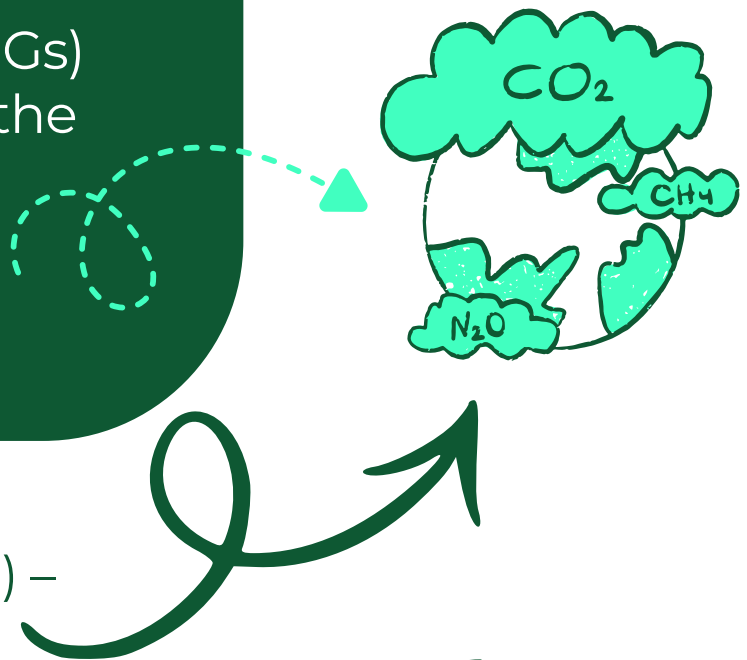
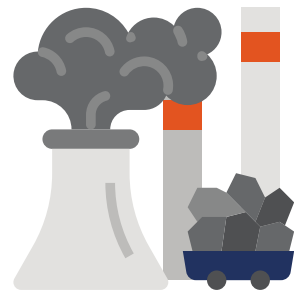
What Causes Climate Change?

The biggest cause is human activity, especially burning:

- Coal
- Oil
- Gas

These produce greenhouse gases (GHGs) that trap heat around the Earth like a blanket.

This warms the planet (global warming).

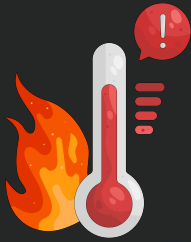


Main GHGs:

- Carbon dioxide (CO₂) – from cars, factories, electricity
- Methane – from farming and waste
- Nitrous oxide – from agriculture

What are the Effects of Climate Change?

Climate change affects the whole world.



Hotter temperatures



Floods and heavy rains



Droughts and crop failure



Stronger storms



Rising sea levels



Loss of plants, animals, and natural habitats



Water shortages

Why Should Youth Care?



Young people will face the effects the longest, but they also have the energy, ideas, and leadership needed to make change happen. Youth can:

1

Influence leaders

3

Create climate-friendly innovations

2

Educate their communities

4

Organize campaigns and clubs

What Can We Do?

(Adaptation & Mitigation)



Mitigation

Reducing the amount of greenhouse gases:

- Plant trees
- Use clean energy
- Save electricity
- Reduce, reuse, recycle
- Use public transport or walk



Adaptation

Adjusting to the changes already happening:

- Rainwater harvesting
- Planting drought-resistant crops
- Early warning systems
- Community cleanups
- Protecting water sources

Who Causes the Most Emissions?

- Rich countries (USA, Europe) have produced most emissions since history.
- Poor countries (Africa, Latin America) produce very little but suffer the most.

This is why climate change is also a justice issue.

What is Climate Justice?



Climate justice means:

- Everyone has the right to a safe environment
- Rich countries must support poor countries
- Vulnerable people must be protected
- Youth should have a strong voice in decisions



Your Role as a Young Leader



Organize clean-up exercises



Encourage tree planting campaigns



Share climate information on social media



Participate in local government discussions



Create a community garden



Practice waste segregation



Adopt a recycling initiative



How to Start a Climate Action Project



Identify a problem (e.g., flooding, waste, heat).



Choose a small action you can start.



Seek support (teachers, leaders, NGOs).



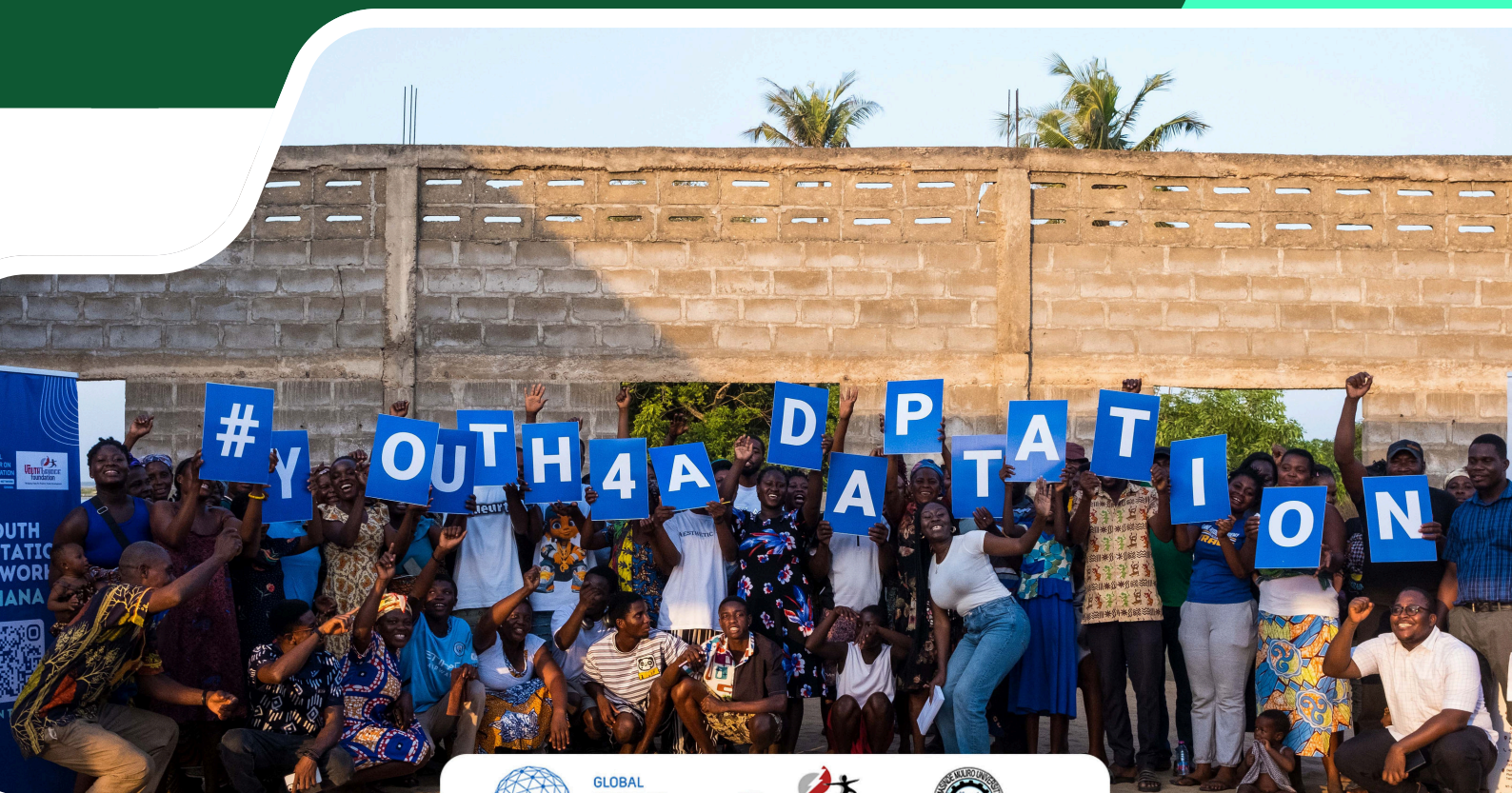
Talk to your community to understand their needs.



Gather friends or volunteers.



Take action, measure progress, and celebrate wins.



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Climate change is real, but youth leadership can shape a better future.



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