



# 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Sustainability Education

Educating For Climate Action and Sustainability



## A Clarion Call for Climate Action

Day 2

September 20, 2023 | India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, India



## Engaging Youth and Charting the Way Forward

Day 2 of the 5th International Conference on Sustainability Education resumed at India Habitat Centre in New Delhi with a dance performance by the students of St. Mary School, Dwarka. The enthralling show was followed by the announcement of the winners of the Youth for Earth Campaign 2023.

Mr. Aditya Pundir, Director, The Climate Reality Project, highlighted the situation of climate change referring to the increase in global temperatures and frequent flooding. The esteemed jury members focused on the goals of the Paris Agreement and the vision to reduce emissions.

Two books, "Birds of Jammu and Kashmir including Ladakh" by Parvaiz Yousuf and "Climate Actioneers' Primer; A Beginners Toolkit", co-authored by Anand Pendharkar were also launched.

Discussions on the way forward centered on involving the younger generation by sensitising them to, and incentivising working at, the intersection of technology, innovation and behavioural change.



### Junior Category

Consolation 2: Team Finobaadi, Government Sarvodya Bal Vidyalaya

Consolation 1: Project BeejGole, Adarsh Vidyamandir

Third Prize: Project Passionately Natural, TVS Academy

Second Prize: Project BACWP, Iconic School

First Prize: Project Neerja, Tribal Residential School



### Senior Category

Consolation 2: Chasurat University

Consolation 1: Beat Plastic Pollution by Nature Protection Society

Third Prize: Polyfueler, Ser Shah Engineering College, Sasaram

Second Prize: Team Nirmiti, St. Joseph's University Bangalore

First Prize: Project TAMIRASES, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment

**Special Mention:** SD Vidya Group, Ambala

## Advancing the Sustainability Agenda: Thematic Sessions

The day unfolded with a dynamic series of six thematic sessions, each delving into a unique and diverse range of topics.





### **Moving Towards Sustainable Development Through Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)**

The session underscored the importance of interdisciplinary learning and the pivotal role of behavioural change in advancing sustainable development. By stressing the concept of "Critical Mass Change," the conversations brought into focus the requirement for grassroots actions. These actions encompassed education, water conservation initiatives, and collaborative knowledge sharing across various sectors to truly make a lasting impact on sustainability.

### **Teaching Disciplined Entrepreneurship to Create 100 New Sustainability Ventures**

The session highlighted the critical role of disciplined entrepreneurship in driving sustainable solutions and underscored the importance of aligning ventures with social, economic, and environmental sustainability. Emphasis was placed on the need for practicality, value generation, and collaboration, with group discussions focusing on tangible challenges, the significance of mentorship, and the availability of funding for budding entrepreneurs in the sustainability sector.



### **Education Challenge to Embed Ecosystem Restoration into Educational Systems Worldwide**

The session emphasised the urgency of Ecosystem Restoration Education (ERE) in the context of the UN Decade of Action's agenda, with guidance from UNESCO on leveraging designated sites for environmental education. The Namami Gange Program was showcased for its holistic approach to Ganga Basin restoration and its global recognition by the UN for its efforts in ecosystem revival.

### **Sustainability Education: Role of Schools, Colleges and Universities**

The session advocated treating students as future workforce and the importance of practical knowledge to solve issues. The importance of the role of students in mass participation and enhancing collaboration was highlighted.

### **Oral Presentations: Diverse Perspectives on Climate, Sustainability, and Education**

In this engaging session, presenters brought forth an array of topics from diverse backgrounds, all interconnected by their relevance to the realms of climate change, sustainability, and education. Discussions spanned various subjects, including the benefits and drawbacks of natural-based solutions (NBS), reimagining teacher preparation for climate education, exploring water-related challenges in India, and democratising climate knowledge. Gender justice and sustainability education, as well as innovative urban learning approaches, were also explored.

### **Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Living**

The session highlighted an overview about sustainable development and innovation, recognising the interconnectedness of economic growth, social well-being, and environmental protection. Prominent examples like Google's Project Sunroof, the initiative to help individuals estimate savings via roof top solar power were discussed.





## Pioneering Pathways Ahead: Reorienting Sustainability

The day evolved with a series of six additional thematic sessions, each offering a unique and comprehensive exploration of topics related to sustainability.

### Empowering Conservation Through Citizen Science: Engaging Communities for a Sustainable Future & Impact Assessment for Environment Education Programmes

Emphasising the central role of education in achieving sustainability, the dialogue highlighted the significance of integrating environmental themes into formal curricula and informal community engagement, while also stressing the transformative power of citizen science as a collaborative tool for data collection, community empowerment, and fostering behavioural change for a sustainable future.



### Engaging Youth Through Education and Advocacy for Solutions to Plastic Pollution through UNEP's Tide Turners Plastic Initiative

Highlighting the critical role of youth in addressing plastic pollution, the session underscored the importance of environmental education, advocacy, and green entrepreneurship. It emphasised the multifaceted approaches to plastic waste management, recycling challenges, and the unique opportunities presented by the Tide Turners Plastic Initiative to engage young individuals in sustainable solutions.

### Intergenerational Dialogue on Re-imagining Education for a Climate Resilient Future

The session emphasised the urgent need to integrate sustainability and climate resilience into the educational system, along with the importance of hands-on experiences and holistic understanding of the environment. The power of youth engagement was highlighted, and individual responsibility and intergenerational collaboration for a climate-resilient future were championed.

### Role of Sustainability Education in amplifying Nature based Solutions for Climate Action

In this session, the pivotal role of sustainability education in advancing nature-based solutions for climate action took the spotlight. It emphasised the value of grassroots and local approaches, the importance of historical context, the engagement of the private sector, and the utilisation of traditional knowledge for comprehensive conservation efforts and the empowerment of communities.

### Green Entrepreneurship & its Potential in the New World

During this session, the significance of grassroots initiatives in entrepreneurship was underscored, along with the potential for exploring untapped markets in communities. Additionally, there was an acknowledgment of the necessity for more extensive discussions on fundraising within the climate sector.

### Oral Presentations: Exploring Diverse Perspectives on Climate and Society

This session featured researchers presenting their studies on a diverse array of topics. These included the evolving relationships between rivers and society, the connections between plastics and climate, and the imperative for climate education to ensure food security.

## ICSE 2023 Concludes with Insightful Sessions and Future Directives

The International Conference on Sustainability Education 2023 (ICSE2023) concluded its eventful journey with an enriching plenary session. A presentation encapsulating the summaries and recommendations of the diverse sessions, was delivered by **Ms. Anupama Madhok Sud**, Director & Editor, Water Digest.

**Mr. Pradip Burman, Chairman of the Mobius Foundation**, emphasised initiating tangible actions for environmental conservation and highlighted projects focusing on ecological balance and conservation. Esteemed panelists, including **Ms. Bethany Davies, Ms. Abimbola Junaid, Mr. Sanjay Awasthi, Ms. Gayatri Raghwa, Mr. Bhavesh Swami, and Mr. Praveen Garg**, underscored the importance of

united, multifaceted efforts and ecological awareness to address environmental challenges, acknowledging the pivotal roles of migration and private sectors in achieving sustainability objectives aligned with the 2030 agenda.

**Dr. Ram Boojh, CEO of the Mobius Foundation**, expressed gratitude to all attendees and emphasised the importance of knowledge dissemination and practical demonstration as means to educate. The conference's holistic approach, encompassing diverse themes and inclusive dialogues, served as a clarion call to action, representing a significant stride towards a sustainable and resilient future.