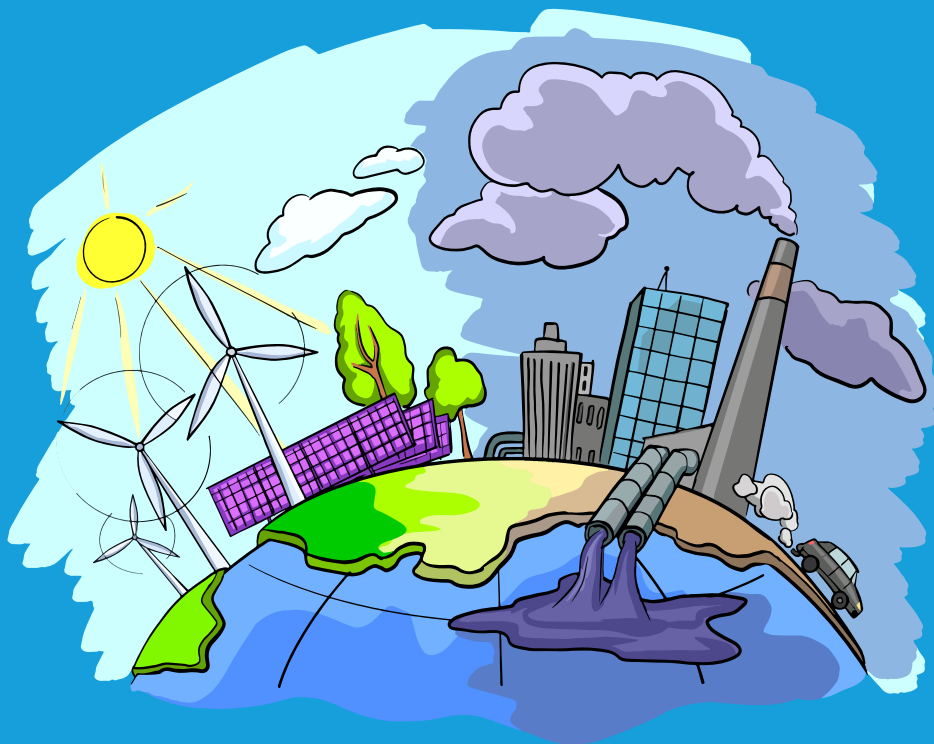




Vision for Policy on Climate and Energy



YOUNG AMBASSADORS ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE:

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Mission Statement:

We envision a sustainable future for Europe where planetary boundaries are respected; this can be achieved through a holistic approach where policies touching on all aspects of our lives are fully aligned with the goal of net-zero carbon emissions before 2050. We further insist on enshrining accountability, transparency, and equity as core pillars of the green transition.

As Young Ambassadors on the Future of Europe, we call upon the EU to:

Immediately shift our energy systems to end the use of fossil fuels and transition to

100%
renewable energy by:

- Urgently ending the use of coal in industry and electricity generation by shutting down all remaining coal-fired power plants before 2030 and at any cost;
- Increasing research and innovation into new technologies for the production and storage of energy, the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and new forms of renewable energy;
- Increasing funding for renewable energy and the temporary use of nuclear alternatives as an interim solution;
- Linking energy companies, research centers, and Member States, including by expanding and revising the Trans-European Networks for Energy to prioritize electricity inter-connection and exclude oil and natural gas infrastructure projects.

Develop infrastructure and transportation systems that align with a future founded on a commitment to net-zero carbon emissions, enabling

sustainable ways of living and moving

about, by:

- Developing smart cities by deploying smart grids, renovating energy-inefficient buildings, constructing green and blue buildings, and investing in sustainable public transport;
- Promoting the accessibility and use of electric vehicles, including by expanding the network of charging stations;
- Expanding the Trans-European Transport Network and implementing the European Strategy for Low-Emission Mobility to improve coordination between Member States and investment in sustainable transport.

Support communities

that are most affected by the climate crisis, by:

- Providing sufficient support for mitigation, adaptation, and recovery from natural disasters and other impacts of climate change;
- Supporting workers whose jobs are affected by the green transition, including through reskilling and lifelong education;
- Supporting the redevelopment of regions negatively affected by the green transition, by meaningfully involving local communities, municipalities, and associations of affected workers in the allocation of funding from the Just Transition Mechanism.

Address the global climate crisis through

global action, by:

- Enshrining climate change as a priority in all components of European foreign policy, from development aid to security to trade agreements;
- Holding other countries accountable to climate goals by deploying a robust toolkit of incentives and disincentives (e.g. aid and sanctions);
- Revising European migration and asylum policy to officially recognize the status of climate refugees and adequately prepare for their reception and integration.

Fully align economic instruments, such as taxes and subsidies, with climate priorities in order to foster a

green circular economy, by:

- Immediately ending investments in fossil fuel infrastructure (e.g. natural gas pipelines);
- Reforming the Emissions Trading System (ETS) by fixing a price for carbon independent of market fluctuations and ensuring a steady increase of this price;
- Working with companies to prevent deceptive practices related to their environmental record (“greenwashing”), including by taking punitive actions when necessary.

Fully incorporate agriculture and food systems into the European Green Deal, including through reform of the

Common Agricultural Policy, by:

- Incentivising and appropriately regulating more environmentally-friendly food production methods, including alternatives to the traditional production of meat such as changing the diet of livestock to reduce methane emissions;
- Supporting the development and dissemination of sustainable farming practices among farmers and awareness of their benefits among consumers;
- Thoroughly reforming the system of basic direct payments to align with climate priorities and support small-scale, sustainable agriculture, including by establishing stricter environmental standards such as requiring the use of diverse cover crops, in-farm fertility, and multiple crop rotation;
- Reducing the application of nitrogen fertiliser to reduce emissions of nitrous oxide, a long-lived and potent greenhouse gas.



Over 3/4

of all youth poll participants agree that an obligation to “quickly phase out coal at any cost” should be included in the European Green Deal.

According to a **majority of youth poll respondents**

transport services within the EU do not allow for sufficiently sustainable travel options.

Establish strong measures for **environmental protection**

to safeguard biodiversity and ensure the sustainable use of land, waters, and natural resources, by:

- Expanding protected areas such as national parks and designated wilderness areas;
- Reducing the impact of plastic pollution, including by encouraging research into possible alternatives to single-use plastics and preventing and managing marine litter;
- Scaling up schemes that encourage waste separation and reduction, including by implementing “pay-as-you-throw” systems to incentivise recycling;
- Combating the premature obsolescence of consumer products by revising the Ecodesign Directive to promote recyclability, reparability, and durability and promoting industry compliance and consumer awareness;
- Specifically addressing the impacts of human development on rivers, lakes, and oceans, by monitoring and regulating at a European level wastewater pollution, unsustainable fishing practices, invasive species, and ocean acidification, among other issues.

Reform European governance structures

to provide a sound legal framework for effectively addressing the ongoing climate crisis, by:

- Establishing legal mechanisms to ensure funds disbursed through the European Green Deal conform to principles of equity, transparency, and accountability;
- Taking on a greater role in the oversight of national climate plans, including by monitoring and pushing for greater ambition and legally binding targets.

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