

## Press release

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## Education catalyzes climate action: Invest now to safeguard people and planet

**The strategic roundtable: “Unlocking the transformative power of climate change education”, convened by Siemens Stiftung (Foundation) and Office for Climate Education (OCE), brought educators, experts, policy makers, youth, and civil society together to elevate the role of education and its integration into national climate strategies. Advancing Climate Week NYC 2025’s agenda, “Power On”, the participants urged the global community to join forces to consolidate efforts to secure climate finance for education to improve climate adaptation and mitigation.**

A staggering 400 million students globally experienced school closures from extreme weather since 2022; ironically, a mere 1.5% of climate finance went to the education sector ([World Bank](#)). Education is not only under threat from climate change, but it is also massively overlooked in climate financing.

To narrow this gap and unify global perspectives, OCE and Siemens Stiftung share a clear framework built on years of collaboration: Co-creating learning resources, strengthening teachers’ competencies, and driving advocacy for international cooperation. Together, these efforts have significantly advanced climate change education (CCE) and built the trust needed among funders to scale impact.

“We are investing in the future by introducing climate change education early on. Embracing a “Glocal” approach, we co-create adaptable, free Open Educational Resources rooted in students’ local surroundings, climate challenges, and educational realities. After successfully implementing this model in Latin America, we are now scaling to other regions, including Africa - demonstrating an agile, replicable, cross-continental approach,” says Dr. Nina Smidt, CEO and Spokesperson of Siemens Stiftung.

David Wilgenbus, Executive Director of the OCE, called for diversifying funding streams with improved opportunities in the NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions): Climate targets set by countries under the Paris Agreement. NDCs outline individual plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation) and adapt to the impacts of climate change (adaptation).

“With less than two months to go before COP30 in Brazil, this is a critical moment to put education firmly on the climate finance agenda to support NDCs implementation for the years to come. Climate change education is increasingly recognized as a cornerstone for effective adaptation and mitigation strategies, the development of green skills, and the creation of new employment opportunities”, he added.

First indicators suggest that the collective efforts are paying off. UNICEF is working with governments and young people to embed education into national climate strategies. Dr. Ingrid Sanchez, Advisor to UNICEF said: “Momentum is building up: As of September 2025, 51 countries have submitted their new NDCs. Our analysis shows progress, 63% now include an education commitment, compared to just 43% in NDCs in 2020.”

At the roundtable, Ana Ligia Scachetti (CEO - Nova Escola, Brazil), Dr. Ingrid

Sanchez (Advisor - UNICEF), Renata Koch Alvarenga (Founder - Empodera Clima), Carol O'Donnell (Director - Smithsonian Science Education Center), Djian Sadadou (Head, International Relations & Communications - OCE), and Badin Borde (Deputy Head, Education - Siemens Stiftung) recommended moving beyond isolated perspectives to a cohesive, integrated pathway linking climate action and education.

They urged the prioritization of high-quality teacher professional development. While 95% of teachers see climate change education as vital, fewer than 40% feel equipped to teach it. Furthermore, they underscored the effectiveness of CCE in pre-bunking climate-related misinformation and highlighted the importance of translating climate negotiations into youth-friendly language to enable more active participation.

The program concluded with remarks by the French Climate Ambassador, Benoit Faraco, followed by Marcele Oliveira (Presidency Youth Climate Champion - COP30 Brazil), and Natalie Troeller (Head, Cultural Affairs - German Consulate General New York). The discussions generated momentum in the run-up to COP30.

Learn more about our work on CCE and access reports elucidating the points made at the roundtable on our [website](#).

## **About**

### **Office for Climate Education**

The OCE was created in 2018 in response to Article 12 of the Paris Agreement, highlighting the importance of climate change education. Under the auspices of UNESCO and the Foundation La main à la pâte, the OCE is also an observer organization to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), thus placing the Office in a unique position to mobilize both its scientific and educational expertise to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals. The OCE supports education systems around the world to address the challenges imposed by climate change, through developing educational resources rooted in scientific and social research on climate change that are multilingual, free-of-charge and open-licensed; providing professional development to primary and secondary school teachers; implementing operational climate change education (CCE) projects; and supporting the development of CCE policy. [oce.global/en](https://oce.global/en)

### **Siemens Stiftung**

The non-profit, internationally operative Siemens Stiftung is committed to sustainable social development. Together with individuals and communities, we create opportunities to actively shape social and ecological transformation. Our work focuses on three areas of action: Essential Services, Digitality, and Climate, addressing challenges and harnessing them as opportunities for innovation and positive impact. Through our projects in Education, Social Entrepreneurship, and Culture, we facilitate access and participation, strengthen future-oriented competencies, and enable collaborative learning. With a focus on Africa, Europe, Latin America, and Asia/India, we connect local actions with global perspectives to cultivate resilience, social cohesion, and regenerative practices.

**The world is evolving. Let's shape it. Together.**

[siemens-stiftung.org/en](https://siemens-stiftung.org/en)