Guide to Good Practices and Ecological Actions Aimed at Youth

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Introduction

This guide is divided into two main parts: the first focuses on defining the main strategies that help young people identify the problems arising from the climate agenda, and the second presents good ecological practices as recommendations to be adopted by organizations and entities, especially youth organizations.

The first part facilitates youth identification of specific problems to be addressed in each territory and community related to the effects of climate change—how to identify and map its manifestations, which strategies and instruments should be used to address them, and which actions are most effective for widely disseminating conclusions. These strategies are summarized in a brief guide containing measures that young people can use to influence local, national, and international climate agendas.

The second part develops a brief guide of good practices aimed at public and private entities in general, to involve youth. It is based on the belief that adopting good ecological practices not only reduces environmental impact but also improves efficiency, reputation, and social responsibility.

More specifically, within the Echo-logic project, a roadmap of Good Ecological Practices is presented to influence the climate agenda and promote sustainability in all activities of organizations committed to a greener and more sustainable environment.

Legal Framework

Global Frameworks Related to Climate Change

Climate change has been a scientifically proven fact for decades. To address it, several global frameworks stand out:

- **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** A set of 17 global goals adopted in 2015 by all United Nations Member States as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The goals aim to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure the well-being of all people by 2030, promoting balanced economic, social, and environmental development.

  Goal 13 focuses on taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. However, climate change affects other SDGs transversally. For example, it is related to Goal 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), Goal 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and Goal 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure).

- **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC):** An international treaty adopted in 1992 during the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It entered into force in 1994 and currently includes almost all countries in the world as members. The Convention is based on several core principles:

  a) All countries must act, but developed nations bear greater responsibility because they have contributed the most to the causes of climate change.
  b) Measures against climate change must align with sustainable development and social well-being.
  c) Actions should be taken to prevent serious environmental damage.

  The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the supreme decision-making body of the UNFCCC and meets annually to review progress and adopt new climate policy decisions. Specific agreements are formalized in subsequent protocols:

  - Kyoto Protocol (1997): Set binding emission reduction targets.
  - Paris Agreement (2015): A legally binding international treaty that entered into force on November 4, 2016. Currently, 194 parties (193

countries plus the European Union) have signed it. The main commitments include:

- Substantially reducing greenhouse gas emissions to limit global temperature rise this century to well below 2°C, aiming for a limit of 1.5°C.
- Reviewing national commitments every five years.
- Providing financial support to developing countries so they can mitigate climate change, strengthen resilience, and improve adaptation capacity.

The latest COP conference, held in 2025 in Belém (Brazil), marked the 10th anniversary of the Paris Agreement. It concluded with the so-called "Belém Package," highlighting climate action financing, the launch of the Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF) for rainforest protection, and the lack of consensus on establishing a roadmap to phase out fossil fuels.

Fundamental Principles of European Environmental Policy

The European Union (EU) Environmental Policy, established in Article 191 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), "shall be based on the precautionary and preventive principles, on the principle that environmental damage should as a priority be rectified at source, and on the polluter pays principle."

In other words:

- **Precautionary principle:** Preventive action should be taken against environmental risks even when full scientific certainty is lacking.
- **Prevention principle:** Pollution and environmental damage should be avoided before they occur.
- **Correction at source principle:** Damage should be corrected at its origin.
- **Polluter pays principle**: Those responsible for pollution must bear the costs of prevention and remediation.

Moreover, the European Green Deal (2019) lays out a roadmap for Europe to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. It incorporates policies in several areas:

- **Sustainable mobility:** Aims to reduce emissions from transport through the decarbonization of aviation, maritime, and land transport. Measures

include increasing charging points for electric vehicles and deploying renewable hydrogen and biofuels.

- **Agriculture:** The “Farm to Fork” strategy seeks to create a more sustainable food system by reducing pesticide and fertilizer use and promoting organic farming.
- **Circular economy:** Aims to decouple economic growth from resource use by promoting circular production models focusing on waste reduction, recycling, and material reuse.
- **Biodiversity:** The 2030 Biodiversity Strategy seeks to restore degraded ecosystems and protect nature, aiming to reverse biodiversity loss and halt environmental collapse.

Climate Actions Aimed at Youth

Climate Change

In our environment, it is increasingly common to talk about climate change, but what does this phenomenon mean?

Our planet's temperatures are gradually rising mainly due to human activities involving the combustion of coal, oil, and gas. This entails a radical change in the biosphere and has consequences and impacts at different levels and intensities, affecting the planet on both a global and local scale through intense droughts, severe wildfires, rising sea levels, polar ice melt, loss of biodiversity, water scarcity, catastrophic storms, widespread flooding, the proliferation of viruses, and more.

The United Nations refers to climate change as[1]: *long-term changes in temperatures and climate patterns. These changes can be natural, due to variations in solar activity or major volcanic eruptions. However, since the 19th century, human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and gas.*

To better understand this phenomenon, it is important to know how the greenhouse effect works—a natural phenomenon that makes life on planet Earth possible:

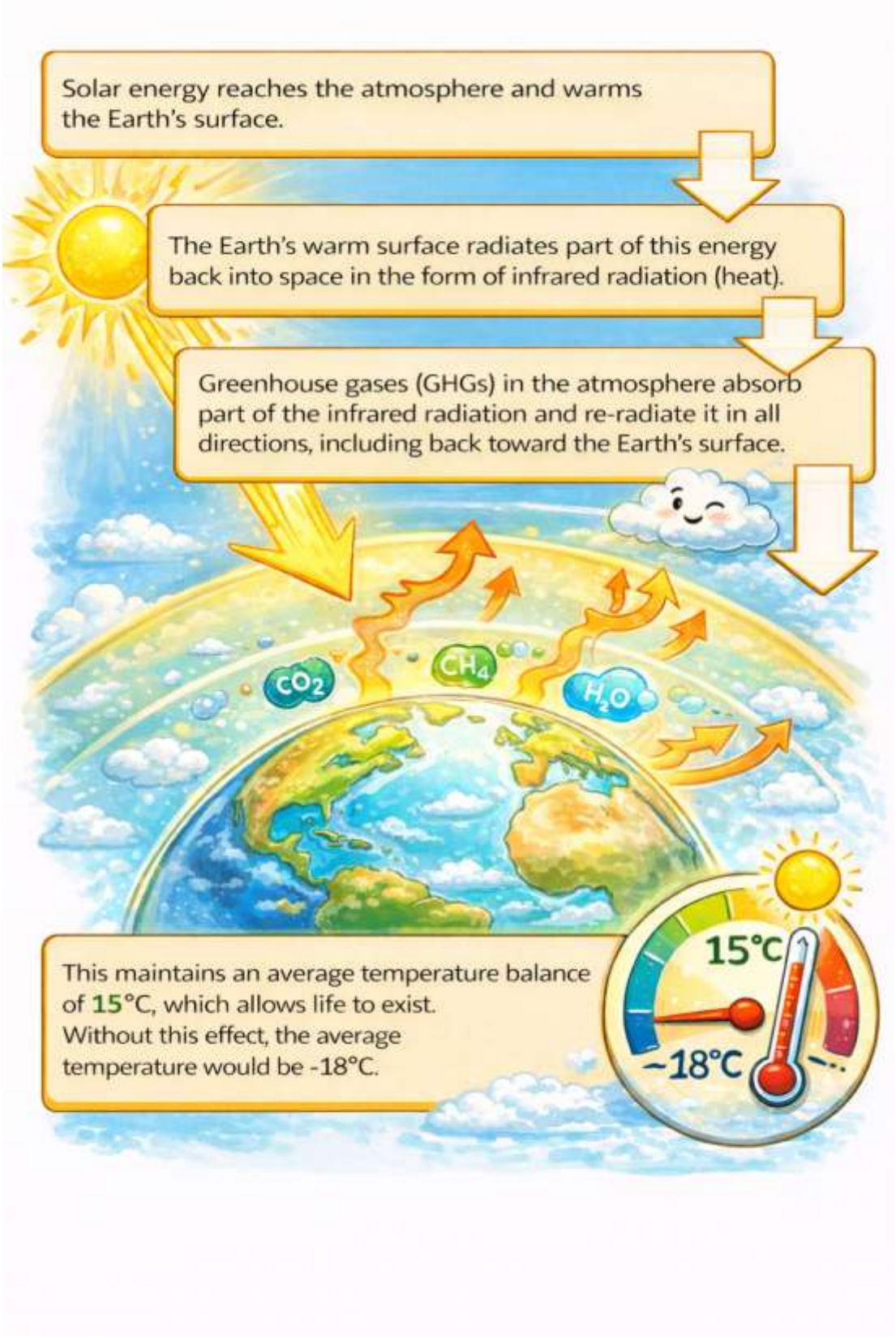


Illustration 1. Greenhouse Effect

Due to the burning of fossil fuels (coal, oil, and gas), deforestation, and certain agricultural practices, the concentration of these gases increases in the atmosphere. As a result, more heat than necessary is retained, raising temperatures and causing changes on the planet that affect the existence of life.

Since the Industrial Revolution around 1800, with the introduction of machinery in industries, the burning of fossil fuels has increased. The past decade (2011–2020) was the warmest on record, and if current policies continue, global temperatures are projected to reach an increase of 2.7°C by 2100. Over the past two decades, climate change contributed to more than 7,000 natural disasters, affecting 4 billion people and causing losses valued at 3 trillion dollars. If the necessary measures are not taken, climate change threatens to push 130 million people into poverty by 2030 and displace more than 216 million people by 2050[2].

MAIN SECTORS EMITTING GREENHOUSE GASES

Energy Used in Industry (24.2%)	**Agriculture, Forestry and Land Use (18.4%)**	**Transport (16.2%)**
• Iron and steel: 7.2% • Chemical and petrochemical: 3.6% • Food and tobacco: 1% • Paper and pulp: 0.6% • Machinery: 0.5% • Other industries: 10.6%	• Livestock and manure: 5.8% • Agricultural soils: 4.1% • Cereal cultivation: 1.5% • Crop residue burning: 3.5% • Deforestation: 2.2% • Cropland: 1.4% • Grassland: 0.1%	• Road transport: 16.2% • Aviation: 1.9% • Maritime transport: 1.7%
Energy Used in Buildings (17.5%)	**Industry (5.2%)**	**Waste (3.2%)**
• Commercial: 7.2% • Residential: 3.6%	• Chemicals: 2.2% • Cement: 3%	• Landfills: 1.9% • Wastewater: 1.3%

Illustration 2. Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The data correspond to the year 2016. Global greenhouse gas emissions amounted to **49.4 billion tonnes of CO_2 equivalent**.[3]

As shown in the illustration above, the majority of fossil fuels—**75%**—are used to generate energy, including energy consumed in industry, buildings, and transport, while **nearly 20%** is allocated to agriculture and land use. The remainder corresponds to industry and waste.

The Importance of Youth Participation

Young people represent the future of the planet. History shows that it is during this stage of life that great leaders emerge, making future social change possible.

Ignorance or a lack of willingness to address the dimensions of climate change by those in positions of power has affected—and continues to affect, through their decisions—the destruction of the environment and the social fabric of our civilization. This legacy and attitude are passed on to young people, who bear the challenge of reversing a reality marked by phenomena such as prolonged droughts, floods, and heatwaves, and of leading lasting solutions to address them.

There is no room for delay, as we are increasingly close to exceeding the planet's biophysical limits. Change is urgent, and solutions must be implemented now. We have seen how youth movements have emerged in different parts of the world to raise their voices and demand a different system.

A plural, diverse, and global group of organizations is mobilizing, organizing, and speaking out to demand that those who hold power assume their responsibility toward the planet and future generations.

Through the Echo-logic project, we have created a space aimed at helping to collect and systematize these voices and demands. To this end, we have relied on the participation of the following partners:

- Generazione Zero (Italia)
- Aps rifai rete italiana facilitatori aree interne (Italia)
- Arte-Via Cooperativa Artística e Editorial, CRL (Portugal)
- Joves D'unió De Pagesos (España)
- Red Tree Making projects Coop (España)
- Display Connectors S.L. editor of Público (España)

Nevertheless, given the scale of the challenge undertaken, it was decided to expand the range of contributions and collaborate with other youth environmental

organizations. This allowed us to enrich the project's activities and gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and barriers related to youth participation that are the focus of this study:

- Fridays for future
- Ecologistas en Acción
- Futuro Vegetal
- Fevecta
- Ideas en Guerra
- Alianza Verde
- Ecooo
- Florida Universitaria
- Escola CiutaDana
- Local Emergency and Reconstruction Committees

The collaboration of these diverse actors has formed what we have called the GREEN TEAM of our project.

Approaches Applicable to Any Type of Climate Action

Human Rights–Based Approach

Actions must be guided by the protection and enjoyment of human rights, especially those of young people and children.

Climate Justice Approach

Actions should promote social equality and prevent climate change from disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable groups. It is important to recognize that climate change affects individuals and communities differently depending on social, gender, ethnic, and other factors. Therefore, the specific needs of each person or group must be taken into account when designing and implementing actions. Likewise, it must be considered that not all countries contribute equally to the worsening of climate change and, therefore, do not share the same level of responsibility when applying actions and policy measures to curb environmental degradation.

Intergenerational Approach

Children and young people will live with the consequences of climate change for a longer period of time. For this reason, their voices must be included in decision-making processes and in climate action initiatives.

Gender Approach

Women and girls are among the most vulnerable groups to the effects of climate change. For this reason, equal participation of women must be ensured throughout the entire decision-making process.

Cross-Cutting (Mainstreaming) Approach

A cross-cutting perspective on climate change should be incorporated, taking into account various areas such as education, health, food security, water and sanitation, housing, and social protection.

Youth Empowerment

Young people must be recognized as active agents of climate action and therefore included in all climate action decision-making processes.

Citizen Participation Approach

The design, implementation, and evaluation of climate actions must include appropriate tools to promote citizen participation, including young people and adolescents.

This section outlines several strategies through which young people can influence the climate agenda[5].

Climate change has a direct impact on our daily lives and affects us across multiple areas—social, economic, educational, relational, and others. For this reason, it is important to recognize that we can develop actions that have a positive impact on the environment. Below are three main steps for engaging with climate change:

1. Identification and mapping
2. Strategy and preparation
3. Action and outreach

It is emphasized that this is a guiding pathway and may be adapted or modified as needed.

Identify and Map

Choose a Cause and Identify a Problem

It is clear that the first step is to choose a cause that mobilizes social energy. For the development of this guide, our cause is linked to tackling climate change. The criteria for choosing a cause are varied and personal and generally depend on what motivates each individual.

Once the cause has been chosen, it is important to identify the problem. To do this, it is necessary to identify the visible effects—that is, the ways in which the problem manifests itself—because the causes that create these manifestations are often unclear or hidden and intertwined with others.

The methodological conclusion is that it is advisable to carry out an in-depth study of the causes, effects, and contributing factors of the problem.

In the case of the Echo-logic project, the problem and its causes are identified below:

Direct Causes	Long-Term Effects
Urban youth and dietary habits	Assess to what extent educating young people in ecological and local consumption patterns can counteract the homogenizing aesthetics and the presence of “out-of-season” products that characterize the global logic of agri-food markets.
Urban environmentalists versus young farmers	Facilitate a positive exchange of needs between both groups by organizing dialogue among active young people working in small- or medium-scale agricultural and livestock farms, as well as agricultural production cooperatives, together with active young people focused on consumer cooperatives and environmental organizations.
Connecting the present and future of agricultural production	Promote and ensure the sustainability of agricultural and livestock farms that are distant from the most intensive agro-industrial models; encourage new cooperative forms and the scaling up of existing ones; favor local solutions and advances in the food value chain; and incorporate into the debate the appropriate pace of the ecological transition.

Assessment of critical areas	Initially, the focus was to be on the Mar Menor in eastern Spain; however, the catastrophe caused by the Valencia DANA in October 2024, with more than 224 officially recorded deaths, forced a shift in the focus of the analysis.

Definition of the Objective

It is important to set an objective in a clear, concise, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-bound manner. This helps to establish more concrete goals with a higher likelihood of being successfully achieved.

The SMART tool is used, which stands for:

- S = Specific (simple and well defined, clearly communicating what you want and avoiding ambiguous interpretations);
- M = Measurable (the ability to monitor actions according to the campaign's progress and to evaluate impacts);
- A = Actionable/Achievable (the objective must not be impossible to achieve);
- R = Realistic (even if an objective is achievable, it may not be realistic given the current situation or the people involved);
- T = Time-bound (deadlines create a sense of urgency and encourage action).

In the case of the Echo-logic project, SMART activities were carried out, consisting of a written debate, a survey, and both in-person and online events in three different countries (Spain, Portugal, and Italy). In addition, ecological actions regularly carried out by the participating organizations were incorporated, as described in the corresponding section.

Stakeholder Mapping

The task of mapping all actors involved in the problem—whether positively or negatively—is essential to understanding which actors are sustaining the problem, which ones you can collaborate with, and which may pose obstacles to solving it. For this purpose, these groups are classified as follows:

- Active allies: people who agree with you and actively fight alongside you;
- Passive allies: people who agree with you but are not yet taking action;
- Neutral actors: people who are neither engaged nor informed;
- Passive opposition: people who do not agree with you but are not actively trying to stop you;
- Active opposition: people who not only disagree with you but also actively organize against you.

In the case of the Echo-logic project, we identified both active and passive allies by forming a Green Team, as described in the section on the importance of youth participation.

Context and Current Scenario Analysis

Mapping the social, economic, and environmental context and understanding its relationship with the problem is essential for establishing a more effective climate action strategy.

Analysis of the current context: This makes it possible to understand the broader environment in which the problem unfolds by identifying the main trends and opportunities that may influence the strategy. It includes exploring technological, economic, political, environmental, social, and cultural factors, as well as potential uncertainties that could affect the process.

Systemic mapping: This provides a more dynamic view of the network of involved actors, showing not only who they are, but also how they relate to one another, how they sustain the current system, and how some actors are challenging it or actively driving transformations to generate change.

Current system	**What does it support?**	**Who?**
• Who is responsible for climate change? • What powers maintain the status quo? • **Disruptive**: Who is acting against the system?	• Who or what is involved in the system but does not directly support it? • **Disruptive**: What vulnerabilities can be found among those who indirectly support the system?	• Is it losing ground against the current system? • Who is carrying out actions that open cracks in the system?

In the case of the Echo-logic project, we used an analysis of the current context by conducting a study that gathers the results of the survey and the articles written by young people involved in ecological and environmental issues.

Information Gathering

It is essential to gain an in-depth understanding of the selected problem. For this reason, within the Echo-logic project we carried out a study aimed at analyzing the causes behind inaction and the low level of youth engagement with climate change. The study seeks to collect the perspectives of institutions, organizations, and young people themselves, and to identify the barriers that limit their participation. It also aims to identify the levers that can help reverse this situation and actively involve young people in the 2030 Agenda, particularly with regard to environmental sustainability.

Strategy and Preparation

When we want to generate impact, there are many ways to do so. An action strategy can be political, corporate, legal, or based on social mobilization. Each has its own style, tools, and spaces for action.

- **Political strategy**: This involves engaging directly with decision-makers—governments, institutions, and public policies. You can propose ideas, demand change, or participate in processes to create or amend laws that affect your cause. The key is to understand how the political system works and learn how to use your voice to influence it from within.
- **Corporate strategy**: This targets the private sector, namely companies and business leaders. It can encourage sustainable practices, promote transparency, or put pressure on brands to take responsibility for their environmental impact. Sometimes it involves collaboration; other times, it means demanding real commitments in the face of the climate crisis.
- **Judicial strategy**: This uses legal channels to defend the environment or uphold rights. It includes lawsuits, complaints, and legal actions against those who harm the environment. It requires legal advice or support from specialized organizations, but it can have a strong long-term impact.
- **Social mobilization strategy**: This is the approach closest to people. It is based on civil society coming together and taking action to make a problem visible and demand transformation. It includes marches, social media campaigns, artistic interventions, sit-ins, sticker actions, performances, or peaceful blockades. The key is to bring together voices,

raise awareness, and show that many people can move together for the same cause.

In the case of the Echo-logic project, our strategy is to act as a megaphone for young people and their demands through articles published on the website, the survey, and in-person meetings.

Tactics

Tactics are understood as the set of methods used to achieve the objectives previously defined during the **Identification and Mapping** phase, based on the chosen **Strategy**. They include the following components:

- **Timing**: In simple terms, timing determines whether an activity is carried out at the right moment or whether it is too early or too late. In the Echo-logic project, we believe that climate change is one of the most important current issues to be addressed.
- **Impact**: It is important to consider the potential reach of an action and to measure its impact after it has been carried out. There are different types of impact:
    - **Individual impacts**: when your strategy generates changes in people's behavior or habits;
    - **Collective/community impacts**: when your strategy leads to concrete changes within a community;

- **Political impacts**: when your strategy results in changes to public policies, programs, strategies, implementation processes, or political decision-making.

In the case of the Echo-logic project, our impact has been to foster youth participation in environmental issues by acting as a megaphone for their demands and claims toward institutions.

- **Place**: Choosing the appropriate location where the action will take place. The actions of the Echo-logic project were carried out in three different countries: Portugal, Italy, and Spain.

Action and Outreach

There are various types of actions:

- **Direct actions through activism**: Activism can be understood as ongoing engagement or action aimed at achieving social or political change—seeking to transform reality through practical action.
- **Political participation**: The involvement of civil society in the design, monitoring, and evaluation of public policies, mainly at the local level.

Some examples of spaces and tools for social participation include:

- Public policy councils;
- Public hearings;
- Public consultations;
- Public policy conferences;
- Participatory budgeting;
- Popular legislative initiatives.

The Echo-logic project has focused its actions on written articles, in-person events, and a survey to gather young people's opinions.

Commnication

Disseminating actions through social media aims to ensure that the message you want to convey reaches a wider audience and, therefore, generates greater pressure on the public policies you seek to influence.

Defining and understanding who will receive the message helps increase the impact of communication. Based on this, create a strong message and a clear narrative to convey your idea, if possible in a concise, objective, and direct manner.

In the Echo-logic project, all actions have been shared on our social media channels and on those of the project partners, with the aim of amplifying young people's voices and ensuring their message reaches a broad audience.

Ecological Best Practices for Organizations

Public and private organizations play a key role in protecting the environment. In this sense, adopting ecological best practices not only reduces the environmental footprint, but also improves efficiency, reputation, and social responsibility.

Within the framework of the Echo-logic project, and with the collaboration of partner organizations, this roadmap on **Ecological Best Practices** has been developed with the aim of promoting ecological sustainability across all activities of organizations concerned with environmental preservation. To this end, the following specific objectives are considered:

- Reduce the consumption of natural resources.
- Promote environmental awareness among staff and users.
- Comply with current environmental regulations.

This guide presents simple actions that organizations can incorporate in a practical and straightforward way, with strong acceptance among the people involved. Moreover, these actions involve little or no economic cost for implementation.

The application of environmental best practices within our organizations, in addition to promoting a sustainable ecological system, can help reduce occupational risks and protect our surroundings.

To promote an environmental policy in public or private organizations, it is first important to establish a formal commitment to sustainability by integrating it into the organization’s overall strategy and ensuring compliance with applicable international, national, and local regulations.

In addition, where possible, it is advisable to appoint an environmental officer responsible for implementing the ecological actions to which the organization has committed. Among these actions would be the regular training and capacity-building of staff on sustainability and green practices. In this regard, the responsibilities of this officer would include:

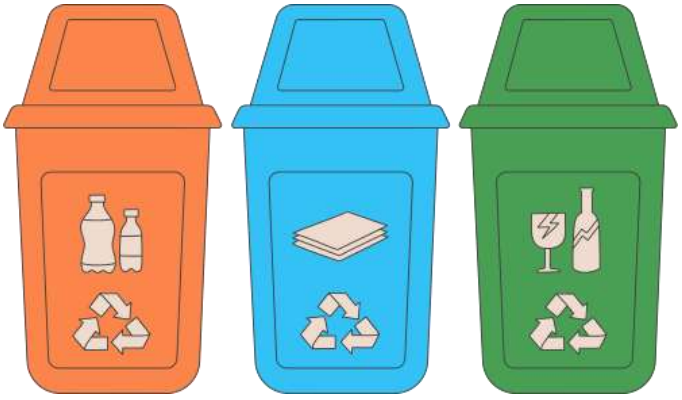
- Defining environmental indicators (energy, paper, water consumption, waste).
- Setting annual improvement targets.
- Publishing sustainability or results reports.

Waste Management

All organizations use tools, materials, products, and machinery to carry out their activities. As we know, all resources have a life cycle (from their development to their withdrawal from the market), which is generally divided into four phases: introduction, growth, maturity, and decline, and which entails a cost in terms of pollution. Therefore, by reducing the consumption of materials, we help decrease environmental degradation.

To this end, the following actions are recommended:

- Apply the waste management hierarchy: **prevention → reuse → recycling → recovery → disposal**.
- Implement waste separation and recycling systems (paper, plastic, glass, organic waste, electronic waste).
- Reuse office materials (folders, envelopes, containers).
- Digitize processes to reduce paper use.
- Avoid single-use plastics.
- Provide clearly labeled waste containers in all areas.
- Establish agreements with authorized waste managers for hazardous waste (batteries, toner cartridges, fluorescent lamps, oils).



Energy Efficiency

In the buildings where we carry out our activities, it is important to use strategies to achieve greater energy efficiency. Saving energy means avoiding the consumption of one kilowatt-hour (kWh), which corresponds to more than 0.5 kg of carbon dioxide that would otherwise be emitted into the atmosphere.

To this end, the following actions are recommended:

- Replace light bulbs with LED or other low-energy, long-life lighting.
- Switch off equipment and lights outside working hours by using motion sensors, timers, and automatic shut-off systems in common areas and offices.
- Optimize heating and cooling systems (recommended temperatures: **21°C in winter and 25°C in summer**).
- Promote the use of renewable energy sources (solar panels, etc.).
- Establish policies for the complete shutdown of equipment at the end of the working day.
- Carry out periodic energy audits to identify losses and opportunities for savings.

Water Conservation

Just as saving energy is important, the same applies to water. Any form of saving helps to minimize negative impacts on nature. To this end, the following actions are recommended:

- Inspect and repair leaks in pipes and installations.
- Install taps with timers or flow reducers.
- Reuse rainwater for irrigation, cleaning, and toilet flushing.
- Raise staff awareness about water conservation.
- Replace open-loop cooling equipment with closed-loop systems.

Sustainable Consumption

Another important aspect of this guide concerns the incorporation of environmental criteria into the procurement of goods and services:

- Prioritize local, recyclable, and eco-certified products.
- Favor purchases from sustainable suppliers.
- Implement a green procurement policy.
- Include environmental clauses in tender documents and public procurement processes.

Green Spaces and Biodiversity

To promote a green and welcoming working environment, the following actions should be considered:

- Maintain green areas with native plant species.
- Avoid the use of chemical herbicides and pesticides.
- Promote environmental offset projects, such as reforestation or ecological volunteering.
- Support the well-being of the natural environment in which the organization operates.
- Participate in local environmental clean-up or restoration campaigns.

Sustainable Mobility

Another factor that contributes to environmental pollution is the means of transport we use. Therefore, it is important to reduce emissions generated by the movement of people and materials through the following measures:

- Promote the use of public transport, bicycles, or carpooling.
- Provide bicycle parking facilities.
- Encourage remote work when possible.
- Reduce travel by holding virtual meetings.
- Offer incentives to employees who adopt sustainable modes of transport.
- Favor local suppliers to minimize the transport footprint.

Environmental Education and Awareness

Involve the entire organization and its surrounding community in a culture of sustainability:

- Carry out awareness-raising campaigns among staff.
- Organize workshops or talks on sustainability.
- Share good practices through social media, newsletters, and signage.
- Integrate sustainability into the organizational culture.
- Prepare an annual environmental report with results and objectives.

Echo-logic Actions

This section presents ecological actions carried out within the framework of the Echo-logic project by the following partners: Rete Italiana Facilitatori Aree Interne (Rete Rifai), Generazione Zero web magazine, and Joves d'Unió de Pagesos.

Rete Italiana Facilitatori Aree Interne (Rete-Rifai)

Rete-Rifai is a national Italian association dedicated to promoting environmental, social, and cultural sustainability, with a network of active local hubs in inner and marginal areas. These territories, often directly exposed to the effects of climate change, also offer valuable opportunities to experiment with alternative, resilient, and community-based development models. The Echo-logic project has provided an excellent framework for testing new practices in these territories.

National Strategies for Sustainability

At the national level, the association adopts organizational and communication practices that reduce environmental impact:

- Full digitalization: fully digital administration and communication, with a "zero printed paper" policy.
- Sustainable mobility: promotion of carpooling and the use of public or low-impact transport.
- Online meetings: all operational calls and meetings are held remotely, avoiding unnecessary travel.

Territorial Sustainable Actions

Rete-Rifai carries out concrete initiatives across Italy, with special attention to short supply chains, reuse, and awareness-raising:

- Sustainable, zero-kilometre catering: at events and meetings, priority is given to plant-based and locally sourced food.
- Zero-impact festival in Friuli: structures and stages built with recycled materials, following a circular economy approach.
- Community garden in Rittana (Piemonte): collective potato cultivation for social, educational, and environmental purposes. Workshops with local schools where students plant and later harvest potatoes together with the wider community.

- School of Territorial Policies (Piemonte): a training and debate pathway involving citizens and local administrators, aimed at promoting sustainable development choices. Three locations for the first edition: Rittana, Ronco Canavese, and Valdilana.
- Educational walks: activities focused on exploring and learning about territories to foster environmental awareness and a sense of belonging. Walking as a form of slow knowledge and exploration is a common thread across all areas where Rifai operates.
- Roundtables and debates on topics such as sustainability in marginal contexts: challenges and opportunities.
- Online sustainability seminar series, starting in November 2025, organized by PhD candidates from the Polytechnic University of Turin.
- Sustainable tourism: slow and sustainable tourism routes in Lombardy and the Marche regions through collaborative projects with Rifai, including:
    - Resinelli Tourism Lab: in Lombardia, Pietro and Sofia redesign the potential of a currently neglected tourist area. Through slow tourism, a new way of experiencing the territory is rediscovered.
    - Tracciaminima: in Lombardia, near Lago Maggiore, a group of young people has traced and mapped new paths to develop routes outside mass tourism circuits.
    - Università del Camminare: in the Marche region, paths are traced and walks organized in territories affected by the 2016 earthquake.




Generazione Zero

Generazione Zero, as a partner of the ECHO-Logic project, is promoting and adopting several of these practices within its activities and awareness-raising programs, recognizing them as meaningful experiences of urban–rural dialogue. These practices have been developed mainly by Proxima Cooperative – Arte e Orti Proxima, a local organization active in sustainable agriculture, environmental education, and social inclusion. The main practices are outlined below:

- Hydroponic crops in peri-urban areas, aimed at reducing water consumption, ensuring efficient use of resources, and promoting sustainable food production models.
- Educational and training activities with schools, targeting children and young people, based on hands-on experiences related to agriculture, food, environmental protection, and ecological awareness.
- Creative and eco-sustainable recycling activities, inspired by the principles of the circular economy, material reuse, and environmental education.
- Employment integration pathways for people under humanitarian protection, combining social inclusion, skills development, and sustainable agricultural practices.

These good practices are concrete examples of how sustainability can be built at the local level by linking rural production, urban needs, education, community, and social inclusion, in line with the urban–rural dialogue promoted by the ECHO-Logic project.

Joves d'Unió de Pagesos

Participation in Public and Private Projects to Promote Good Practices in Agriculture and Livestock Farming

At **Joves d'Unió de Pagesos**, we promote and participate in projects that make it possible to identify, validate, and scale up good environmental practices within the agricultural sector, as well as to analyze their implementation. These projects not only improve the productive efficiency of farms but also serve as key tools for advancing more sustainable models. By sharing knowledge among young people in the agricultural world, we introduce innovations that reduce resource use, optimize soil management, and foster agriculture that is more respectful of ecosystems. This collaborative process directly contributes to climate change mitigation, as it promotes techniques that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance the carbon sequestration capacity of agricultural soils.

Promotion of Voluntary Participation in Eco-schemes

Eco-schemes are voluntary agricultural practices aimed at improving environmental conditions and biodiversity. Their goal is to encourage farms to adopt management approaches that support soil conservation, increase functional biodiversity, improve air and water quality, and enhance resilience to the effects of climate change.

At **Joves d'Unió de Pagesos**, we promote their adoption by explaining their tangible benefits: they help reduce erosion, increase soil organic matter, support pollinators, and reduce dependence on synthetic inputs. As a result, they generate a positive impact on CO_2 reduction and help territories adapt to increasingly extreme climate conditions. Moreover, promoting eco-schemes empowers new generations of farmers, who see how their practices can have a tangible environmental impact.

Organic Agriculture and Livestock Sector

We have a sectoral group specifically dedicated to organic agriculture and livestock farming, a key area for advancing more sustainable food systems and

for identifying the needs of agriculture and livestock farming in this field. Organic production avoids synthetic chemical inputs, promotes animal welfare, and supports natural cycles that strengthen soil fertility and biodiversity. This approach not only produces healthier food but also contributes to CO_2 reduction through practices that minimize intensive tillage, promote ground cover, and reduce the energy footprint of farms. In addition, organic livestock farming supports landscape management, especially through extensive grazing, which helps keep natural areas open and prevents forest fires. For young people in the sector, this line of work represents an opportunity to differentiate themselves and add value to the territory.

Participation in the CCPAE

The **Catalan Council for Organic Agricultural Production (CCPAE)** is the authority responsible for the control and certification of organic production in Catalonia. Participation in this body allows us to be involved in defining criteria, improving the control system, and defending the work of organic producers. The CCPAE ensures that products meet European organic production standards, offering transparency and trust to consumers. Through our involvement, we help strengthen an agricultural model that reduces external inputs, improves soil health, enhances functional biodiversity, and lowers the carbon footprint of the production system. This engagement also enables us to support young people who wish to become certified, helping them professionalize within a sector that provides clear environmental benefits.

Improving Efficiency and Sustainable Use of Water

Improving water-use efficiency is one of the essential pillars for ensuring the sustainability of the agricultural sector in a context marked by persistent droughts and increasing water stress. At **Joves d'Unió de Pagesos**, we promote the modernization of farms and shared infrastructures through the adoption of technologies that enable more precise and sustainable water management, such as localized irrigation, remote-control systems, soil moisture monitoring, and smart scheduling tools. These innovations significantly reduce losses due to evaporation, infiltration, and runoff, increasing productivity per cubic meter of water used and improving crop resilience to extreme climate events. At the same

time, modernization—combined with the use of renewable energy for irrigation—reduces the energy consumption associated with water pumping and distribution, directly contributing to CO_2 emission reductions. This comprehensive approach not only protects a critical resource like water but also promotes more efficient, competitive agriculture adapted to the challenges of climate change.

Promotion of Short Supply Chains and Local Sales

Local sales are an essential tool for reducing the ecological footprint of the food system. Promoting short marketing channels reduces the distances traveled by food, significantly lowering CO_2 emissions associated with transport. It also fosters a more direct relationship between producers and consumers, supporting fair prices within the framework of the Food Chain Law. Initiatives such as our Terra Pagesa project strengthen these dynamics by creating spaces where local, fresh, and sustainable products can reach consumers more efficiently. At the same time, local sales stimulate economic development in rural areas, strengthen the circular economy, and prevent production from being concentrated in large logistics hubs far from the territory.

Direct Support for Traditional Olive Groves

We are currently advocating for and promoting specific support measures for traditional olive groves, as they are a crop of high environmental and cultural value that is at risk of abandonment. Traditional olive groves form a biodiversity-rich mosaic that provides habitat for a wide range of beneficial fauna and contributes to the conservation of the Mediterranean landscape. Keeping these crops active prevents land abandonment, which would otherwise increase the risk of fires, pests, and erosion. Moreover, these olive groves act as carbon sinks thanks to the preservation of centenary trees and soils rich in organic matter. The continued management of these farms has a direct positive effect on environmental health and on the fight against climate change.

Fire Prevention and Agroforestry Mosaic Management

Fire prevention has become a strategic priority in the current climate change scenario. At Joves d'Unió de Pagesos, we advocate before the Government of

Catalonia for the recovery of the agroforestry mosaic—that is, a balanced combination of agricultural land, pastures, and forest areas. This mosaic reduces fuel continuity and acts as a large natural firebreak. We promote the recovery of farmland in strategic areas, encourage extensive grazing, and support the creation of open agricultural spaces that reduce the intensity and speed of wildfire spread. This active land management not only prevents environmental disasters but also contributes to CO_2 sequestration in soils and maintains a resilient landscape structure in the face of global warming.

Promotion of the Catalan Cooperation Law for Generational Renewal

At Joves d'Unió de Pagesos, we have worked with the Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Food (DARPA) on cooperation grants for generational renewal, a key element in preventing land abandonment and ensuring the continuity of a living agricultural sector. Facilitating access to land and the transfer of farms to young farmers prevents plots from becoming abandoned and turning into sources of environmental and climate risk. Active farms maintain land management, prevent pest proliferation, and reduce the accumulation of flammable biomass. Generational renewal also ensures the continued production of quality food while promoting the adoption of new technologies and sustainable practices that reduce the sector's carbon footprint and encourage young people to return to rural areas.

Promotion of Land Banks

Joves d'Unió de Pagesos has succeeded in encouraging the Catalan administration—specifically DARPA—to finally implement the land bank service envisaged in the 2019 Agricultural Land Law. The goal of promoting land banks is to bring abandoned plots back into production, as these represent a significant environmental risk. Abandoned fields accumulate dry vegetation, increase wildfire risk, and become hotspots for pests and diseases affecting wildlife. Recovering these lands allows them to be productively reactivated, improves local biodiversity, and reduces pressure on forest areas. It also helps retain population in rural areas and create opportunities for young people entering the sector, increasing territorial resilience to climate change.

Monitoring of Agricultural and Environmental Impact Assessments

Through our parent organization, Unió de Pagesos, we carry out active and rigorous monitoring of agricultural and environmental impact assessments established under Law 3/2019 on agricultural land. The aim is to ensure that new projects fully comply with the protection and sustainability criteria set out in the legislation. This work is essential to ensure that any intervention—whether energy-related, industrial, urban, or otherwise—properly assesses its impact on agricultural holdings, the availability of fertile soils, the continuity of the agroforestry mosaic, and rural biodiversity. Our monitoring helps identify incompatibilities, promote corrective measures, and defend a balanced development model that does not compromise future productive capacity or increase territorial vulnerability to climate change. In this way, we help ensure that new projects are implemented with sustainability, territorial cohesion, and respect for agricultural heritage.

Digitalization of the Agricultural Sector

Digitalization is a fundamental tool for modernizing the sector, improving competitiveness, and strengthening sustainability. Online administrative procedures, as well as remote meetings and training sessions, reduce unnecessary travel and thus lower CO_2 emissions associated with administrative activities. In addition, specific technologies—such as GPS collars in livestock farming, which optimize herd management and support fire prevention and landscape management—also improve work–life balance, facilitate youth entry into the sector, and revitalize rural life by enabling people to work and train without leaving their territory. Digitalization thus becomes a pillar for strengthening the rural economy, reducing the ecological footprint, and expanding opportunities in an increasingly digital global context.

Promotion of a Return to Rural Areas and Management of Rural Services

Encouraging a return to rural areas is part of our strategy to revitalize villages, balance territorial development, and reduce pressure on urban areas, where overcrowding leads to higher emissions, congestion, and a greater ecological

footprint. Promoting quality basic services in rural areas—such as adapted transport, digital connectivity, local commerce, nearby healthcare, and education—enables more people to live and work in these territories. This significantly reduces long-distance daily commuting and associated CO_2 emissions. Moreover, a stable population with well-managed services supports the continuity of agricultural activity, landscape conservation, and active land management—three essential elements for addressing climate change. Strengthening rural areas also strengthens the capacity of ecosystems to remain alive, diverse, and resilient.

Conclusions

The following key conclusions can be drawn from this guide:

1. The guide serves as a comprehensive tool that combines analysis and action, offering both strategies to understand and highlight the impacts of climate change and practical guidance to promote concrete changes within organizations.
2. The focus on youth is essential, recognizing their active role as agents of change capable of identifying specific climate challenges in their territories and influencing the climate agenda at local, national, and international levels.
3. Systematizing methods to identify, map, and communicate the effects of climate change facilitates a more accessible and contextualized understanding of the problem, increasing the effectiveness of actions and awareness-raising campaigns.
4. The incorporation of ecological best practices in public and private organizations is presented not only as an environmental responsibility but also as an opportunity to improve operational efficiency, institutional reputation, and social commitment.
5. The Echo-logic project reinforces the need for a clear and applicable roadmap that enables organizations to integrate sustainability transversally across all their activities.
6. Overall, the guide promotes a strategic and participatory vision of climate action, where youth and organizations work in a coordinated manner to drive a more ecological, responsible, and sustainable development model.

Notes

[1] United Nations, Climate Action, available at:

https://www.un.org/es/climatechange/what-is-climate-change

[2] CARE, Capacity Statement on Nature-based Solutions and Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change, available at: https://careclimatechange.org/cares-capacity-statement-on-nature-based-solutions-and-ecosystem-based-adaptation-to-climate-change/

[3] Toolkit for Youth on Adaptation & Leadership, available at: ENG-GCA-Toolkit-for-Youth-on-Leadership-Adaptation.pdf

[4] In preparing this guide, in addition to the contribution of the Echo-logic Green Team, we considered elements from Local Climate Action: A Guide for Youth in Latin America by Engajamundo and the Regional Network on Climate Change and Decision-Making – UNESCO UNITWIN Programme. Available at: https://latinclima.org/sites/default/files/documentos/accion-climatica-local_guia_espanol-baixa_1.pdf