



BACKGROUND

It's never been more urgent or necessary to achieve significant climate progress!

A dramatic shift toward climate action is exactly what we need right now to:

- Advance climate justice.
- Support economic plans that support clean energy solutions.
- Keep fossil fuels in the ground.
- Protect all of us from the devastating effects of the climate crisis.

Students are leading a wave of action!

Across the globe, the demands for climate progress are getting louder! **Young people are leading the way** — speaking up in greater numbers. Through climate marches, youth-led activist organizations, campaigns in their schools, and more, students are putting pressure on our elected leaders to protect our future. Students who have participated in *Climate Art for Congress* have become climate leaders, spurring further climate action in their families, schools, and communities.

Now's your chance to join the wave of civic action on climate!

As a young person you can't vote, but you have agency and a huge stake in what's happening. **Climate Art for Congress** invites you to voice your support of climate-focused members of Congress and your pressure on those that haven't yet made it a priority. **There is no better time for students to speak up!**

In this advocacy program, you can create illustrated notes for your representatives in the House and the Senate that explain the **climate impacts that matter most to you**. We will send these notes to Congress, connecting your message with people in Washington who can fight for **everyone's right to a healthy, safe, livable future!**



READY TO SPEAK OUT? Here are 5 easy steps.

Below is a series of steps that will allow you to voice your climate concerns to Members of Congress.

STEP 1: Learn about climate science, fossil fuels and why we must act **immediately**.

ACE (Action for the Climate Emergency) has created [Our Climate Our Future](#) — an education platform with videos designed for students that can supplement the climate science you've learned in school.

STEP 2: Who represents you in Congress?

Identify your Members of Congress [on this website](#) and decide who you will write to. It could be both of your Senators and your Representative or just one of them.

STEP 3: Deepen your civics focus

You can research your elected officials' positions and actions on climate. Do they support policies that reduce carbon pollution? Do they work to promote climate justice and equity? Your research will help you understand if your members of Congress are supporting or not yet prioritizing climate legislation. Your letter can include how their actions impact you and your community.



These are some useful places to start your research:

- You can find out who supports the **Green New Deal** [here](#) and [here](#).
- You can learn if your representatives have committed to the **No Fossil Fuel Money Pledge**, making it clear they won't accept campaign money from or be influenced by Big Oil on the nofossilfuelmoney.org website.
- You can see your representatives' [Climate Scorecard](#) created by Vote Climate U.S. PAC and explore in more depth how your representatives have voted on past climate legislation.

STEP 4: What you think matters! Use your creativity to make an impact

You can create a short, handwritten note expressing your views to Members of Congress. What makes you feel hope or concern for the future? If you are in need of some inspiration, you can visit our online gallery [here](#) to see letters that have already been sent to Congress by other students.

Create an illustration or download images you find online. What images will help you best express your ideas about the climate crisis?

STEP 5: Show us your work!

Send us your illustrated note by [filling out this form](#).

If you are participating as part of a class or group, be sure to check with your teacher and follow their instructions for submission. For best image quality, we recommend using a blank, unlined sheet of paper and doing a color scan of the finished letters. "Genius Scan" is a free smartphone app that works beautifully. We will color print all notes and mail them to Members of Congress.

**Please note that for privacy purposes, we will only display students' first names, ages, and states or territories of residence.*

If you have any questions, please email us at programs@climatemuseum.org.



You're a published artist!

Spread the word! Check out the gallery on our [website](#) and find your note!

We will feature selected notes across our digital platforms, including our landing page, so that your work can inspire your peers!

We encourage you to share this program with your friends, classmates, and teachers.

You can also share your work on social media to help spread the word about the urgent need for climate action in Washington!

Make sure to tag @climatemuseum and use the hashtag #ClimateArtForCongress