



▶ **CLIMATE JUSTICE** is a civil and human rights-based approach to climate action that centers the disproportionate burdens of climate change on the most vulnerable and those least responsible for its impacts, with specific attention to how systems of injustice exacerbate these disparities.

Through our programs and practices, international educators are uniquely positioned to educate, inspire, and ultimately enact changes that help mitigate the human costs of climate change, particularly in the institutional, cultural, and regional contexts where we operate. Collective and individual action is essential, but it can be difficult for individuals to know where to begin.

The Forum has compiled this checklist of feasible and cost-effective actions education abroad professionals can start taking today to catalyze change to advance climate justice.



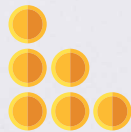
**THE FORUM**  
ON EDUCATION ABROAD

# 15 ACTIONS

## TO CATALYZE CLIMATE JUSTICE THROUGH EDUCATION ABROAD

### KEY

Monetary  
Costs:



Time/  
personnel  
Costs:



# #1

**Educate yourself** on the connections between systemic injustice and climate change in global and local contexts. How does climate action intersect with movements for racial justice, gender equality, economic opportunity, and land and resource management in the areas where you operate, and in the areas where your students are from? ●●●●●

Highlight related terms or concepts in your staff meetings to define and discuss (ex: structural racism, low socioeconomic status (SES), rural communities, extractive capitalism, etc.).

# #2

**Provide educational materials** on Climate Justice to faculty and staff including the social, cultural, economic, and environmental impacts of education abroad programming, locally and globally. ●●●●●

Include information on:

- Climate change
- Managing carbon emissions
- Energy & Water (contributing to conservation)
- Understanding the impact of food
- Purchasing (how you purchase makes a difference)
- Waste (reduce, reuse and recycle)
- Cultural tourism and educational colonialism
- Political action

# #3

**Advocate** for Climate Justice to be included in mission statements, goals, organizational policies, roles & responsibilities, etc. ●●●●●

# #4

**Review existing and potential partnerships** to support Climate Justice, and incorporate Climate Justice initiatives into your formal agreements. ●●●●●



**#5** **Build suggestions** to mitigate local community impacts into program proposals. ●🕒🕒

**#6** **Include resources** for faculty, staff and students on the responsible use of local resources, recycling programs, public transportation, and climate stress points into pre-departure and on-site orientations ●🕒🕒

**#7** **Highlight programs** that focus on climate justice, sustainability, etc. in marketing materials. ●🕒🕒

**#8** **Provide opportunities** for students to pursue sustainability-themed internships, community engagement initiatives, independent research projects, and experiential or co-curricular activities ●●🕒🕒🕒

**#9** **Make a case** for Climate Justice with leadership by highlighting students' experiences as well as efforts of peer institutions. ●🕒🕒🕒

**#10** **Encourage mutually-beneficial relationships** with local communities by acknowledging implicit power differentials and ensuring community members have a seat at the table. Ensure you are not exploiting local partners' social, economic, cultural, or environmental capital. ●🕒🕒🕒

◀ Set expectations for program leaders to commit to traveling sustainably. Check out [The Forum's Guidelines for Advancing the SDGs through Education Abroad](#), the [CANIE Accord](#), and [Maryville College's Sustainable Travel Principles](#). Require justification for any excursion that requires use of transportation other than public transportation. Discuss ways to reduce impacts with local partners in program planning and debriefs.



**#11** **Start a committee or working group** to explore implementing a green travel plan for education abroad. ●●●🕒🕒🕒

**#12** **Create space** for advocacy and dialogue about Climate Justice for community members, students, faculty and staff. ●🕒🕒🕒

**#13** **Provide green events** with options for virtual participation, no single-use plastics, reduced (or no) single-use swag, and/or digital materials. ●🕒🕒🕒

**#14** **Create funding opportunities** for Climate Justice and sustainability research, internships, and education. ●●●🕒🕒🕒

**#15** **Commit to a carbon neutrality date** with a plan that includes reducing scope 3 emissions in host communities, track flight emissions, and factor in carbon offset costs of international education. ●●●🕒🕒🕒

◀ What are scope 3 emissions? Scope 3 emissions are not owned or controlled by an organization, but that the organization indirectly affects in its value chain. They often represent the majority of an organization's greenhouse gas emissions, and include things like business or educational travel, commuting, purchased goods and services, and waste generated.



## REFERENCES

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