

# YOUTH CLIMATE INSTITUTE

**Program Introduction**



A program of  
 Howard  
County  
Conservancy  
*connecting people to nature*

# Introducing the Youth Climate Institute!



- **NATIONAL CERTIFICATION**

- The Youth Climate Institute **educates and certifies** the next generation of leaders on **climate science, environmental justice and real world solutions.**
- Place-based, flexible, extracurricular learning in local chapters





# *What makes us unique?*

## **CERTIFICATION**

Nationally recognized climate certification program

## **STUDENTS**

- Leadership
- College and Career Ready
- “Hopepactful”

## **CHAPTER LEADERS**

- Flexibility
- Accessibility
- Support

## **COMMUNITY**

- Service
- Local Impacts
- Partnerships





### **Howard County**

- Centennial HS
- Glenelg Country HS
- Glenelg HS
- Guilford Park HS
- Howard HS
- Long Reach HS
- Marriotts Ridge
- Mt. Hebron HS
- Oakland Mills HS
- Reservoir HS
- River Hill HS
- Wilde Lake HS
- **HCC Regional**

### **Anne Arundel County**

- Broadneck HS

### **Montgomery County**

- Albert Einstein HS
- Montgomery Blair HS
- Poolesville HS
- Walter Johnson HS

### **Talbot County**

- Easton HS

### **Carroll County**

- Century High School

### **Frederick County**

- Middletown HS
- Urbana HS

### **Prince George's County**

- Academy of Health Science
- Bowie HS
- Eleanor Roosevelt HS
- Laurel HS
- Non-Traditional Program South
- Oxon Hill HS
- PGCPS Online Campus HS

### **Queen Anne's County**

- Kent Island High School
- The Gunston School

### **Baltimore City**

- Academy for College & Career Exploration
- Baltimore Polytechnic Institute

### **Baltimore County**

- Gunpowder Riverkeeper Sparks Nature Center
- Sparrows Point High School
- Watershed Public Charter School

### **Alabama**

- Clay Chalkville High School
- Huntsville Botanical Garden
- Selma High School

### **Colorado**

- Cal-Wood Education Center
- Centennial High School

### **Delaware**

- ASPIRA Charter School

### **New Jersey**

- Indian Hills High School
- Cedar Creek High School
- Hillcrest Academy South
- Operation Grow Inc.
- Freehold Township High School

### **Ohio**

- Great Lakes Adventures
- John F. Kennedy High School
- John Marshall High School
- Laurel School
- Mastery School of Hawken
- The Grail

### **Oregon**

- Mountainside High School

### **Pennsylvania**

- GreenAllies

### **Tennessee**

- Knoxville Area Chapter

### **West Virginia**

- Wind Dance Farm & Earth Education Center

# New Chapters for 2026-2027 School Year

## **Alabama**

- West Annison HS

## **California**

- Rancho Campana HS
- Maywood Center

## **Delaware**

- William Penn HS

## **Illinois**

- It's Our Future

## **Maryland**

- Home School Chapter of Moco
- Non Traditional South Program

## **New Jersey**

- Freehold Township HS
- Hudson Montessori

## **Ohio**

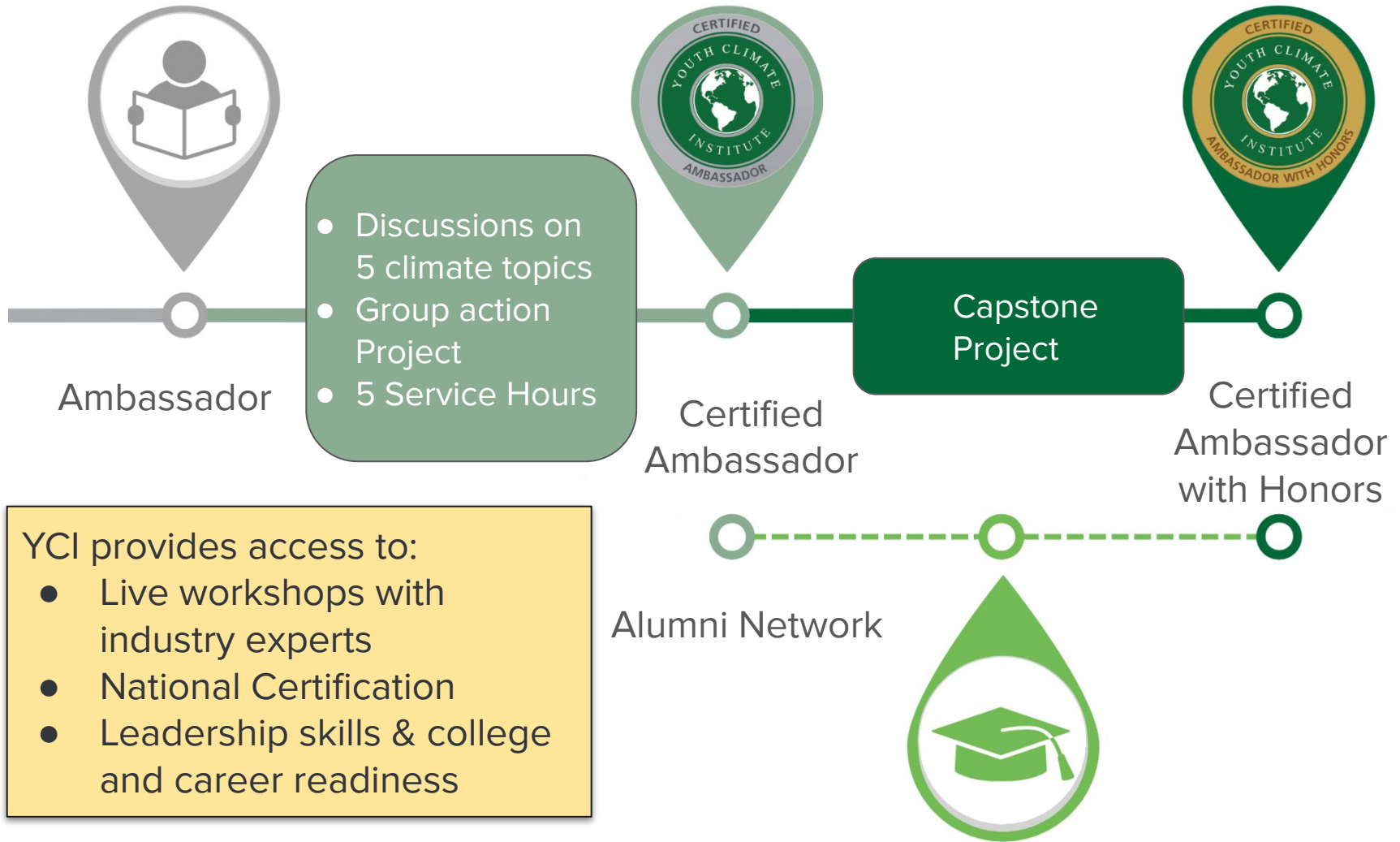
- Wickliffe Public Library Homeschool
- Marion Steele HS
- Put-in-Bay Island
- Benjamin O. Davis HS

## **Puerto Rico**

- Ramon Jose Davila

## **Virginia**

- Landstown High School



# Live Workshops



A program of  
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## Youth Climate Institute

### 2025- 2026 Live Workshops

Here's a quick look at our schedule of workshops for the 2025-2026 school year! More details, including our expert speakers, are still to come. Keep an eye out for more info coming soon!

\*All workshops are held on Zoom from  
**6 - 7 PM Eastern Standard Time.**

### Topics:

- **Biology**
- **Health, Social, & Economic Impacts**
- **Food Waste**
- **Composting**
- **Legislation**
- **Climate Justice**



**October 22:**  
*Climate Science*



**October 29:**  
*Climate Impacts*



**November 5:**  
*Climate Solutions*



**November 12:**  
*Climate Justice & Water Quality*



**November 19:**  
*Climate Anxiety & Mental Health*



# Example Projects



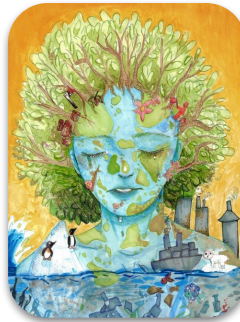
## Tree Planting

Capstone: Plant 20 trees and create tree planting guidelines



## Waste Reduction

Capstone: Set up plastic collection boxes at multiple schools & sites



## Art

Capstone: Multi-school climate art contest

## Legislation

Capstone: Declaration of Intergenerational Equity



## Education

Capstone: Create and run summer camp lessons



## Fast Fashion

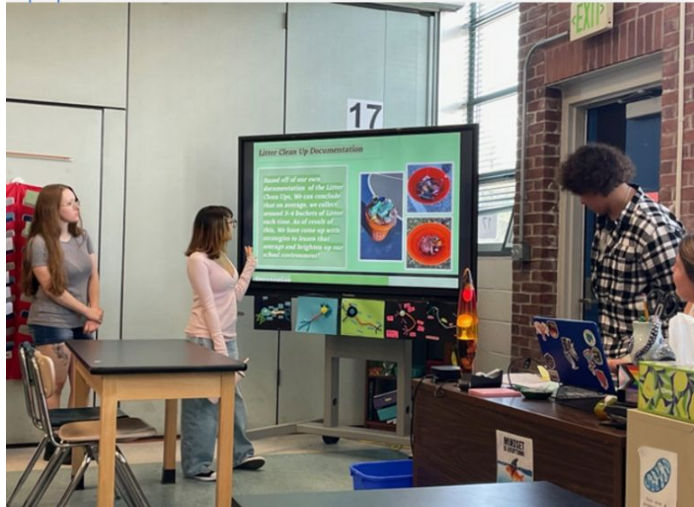
Capstone: Community-wide Thrift Store with fast fashion trivia

# Capstone Projects

- Sea Rise Education
- Tree Replacement
- Summer Climate Camp
- Intergenerational Equity and Climate Change
- Art Contest
- Sustainable and Climate-Friendly Diets
- Testifying for Maryland's Better Buildings Act

# Student Networking Opportunities

Youth Leadership  
Council



Climate Action  
Think Tank



Introduction to  
Climate Careers



# Chapter Resources

- Portal Resource library includes over 40 discussion guides and recorded workshops
- Action Project Resources
  - Planning Guides
  - Example Projects
- Chapter leaders can also use local resources
  - Connect to partners

A screenshot of the Youth Climate Institute website's resource library. At the top, there are navigation tabs: "ALL", "2025 Workshops", "Climate Impacts" (which is highlighted in green), "Climate Science", "Climate Solutions", and "Past Workshops". Below the tabs, there are six resource cards arranged in a 2x3 grid. Each card has a header image, a title, a short description, and a "Read More" button.

- Fall 2025 Climate Impacts Workshop:** The image shows hands holding soil over cracked earth. The text describes a recording of a workshop on climate impacts presented by Victoria Nichols at the National Academy of Medicine, and Chip Bowling, Jr. at Bowling Agri-Services and the U.S. A "Read More" button is present.
- Green Architecture:** The image shows a modern building with multiple levels of greenery. The text explains that ensuring an environmentally conscious world is not limited to biological sciences and that various industries require updates to make them green spaces. A "Read More" button is present.
- Myths And Misconceptions:** The image shows a tree with a sign that says "Climate has always been changing IT'S NATURAL". The text discusses how the emergence of technologies allowed scientific results to become more widely available, but findings could be misconstrued. A "Read More" button is present.
- Climate Communication:** The image is a conceptual illustration with icons for people, a globe, and a factory. The text states that climate change is a big and scary topic for anyone to discuss. A "Read More" button is present.
- Impacts On Wildlife:** The image shows a polar bear on a small, melting ice floe in the ocean. The text notes that as we learn more about the impact of climate change on the world, it is important to recognize its effects. A "Read More" button is present.
- Sea Level Rise:** The image shows an aerial view of a tropical island being surrounded by water. The text explains that rising sea levels, due to climate change, are the result of higher temperatures that in turn impact natural resources. A "Read More" button is present.

# Youth Climate Institute Certified School/Center Program



By hosting a YCI chapter, your school or site can be recognized at the gold, platinum, or diamond level to demonstrate your commitment to the next generation of climate leaders.

- **Gold Level:** 1 - 5 Active Years
- **Platinum Level:** 6 - 10 Active Years
- **Diamond Level:** 11+ Active Years



# YCI Awards

**NEW**

Next Generation Climate  
Leader Award



Hannah Rosenfeld  
Laurel School, Ohio

National Climate Leadership  
Award



Anecia Tongue, Bowie High School,  
Prince George's County, Maryland

# Surprise Supporter!





# Overlap with Climate Seal of Literacy

- Capstone Projects
- Recognition- badges and graduation cords
- A method to honor student skills and leadership



# Closing Thoughts

- Maryland as a cutting edge leader in environmental work.
  - first state with ELIT grad requirements
  - incredible network of environmental educators/community groups anchored by our Chesapeake Bay.
- The Outdoor Learning Network is convened by the Governor and co-led by Sec's of DNR and MSDE.
- Confer with Fidelity
- Teacher and student support

# For More Information, contact:



[YouthClimateLeader.org](https://YouthClimateLeader.org)



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