This is our moment. It feels different.

At Climate Generation, we always start with this: to create a better future, we must first imagine ourselves there. We’ve gone beyond just imagining a better future — we’re demanding it and creating it. Where is the evidence? It’s reflected across our organization:

It’s in our YEA! MN youth leadership program, where we have our largest ever Leadership Core: a group of 14 high school students from across the state, this year of whom 75% are youth of color. It’s in the momentum of youth bringing their moral imperative for action, raising their collective voices and demanding change in defense of human life, particularly the communities most vulnerable to climate destruction.

It’s in the wait-list for our two educator workshops on Minnesota’s new state science standards, in which educators discover that teaching climate change makes their lessons more relevant and motivating for their students. It’s in national media reaching out for stories on youth and educators addressing climate change in their classrooms, in their schools, and in their communities.

It’s in our Community Engagement program, where we are elevating storytelling that empowers individuals, communities, and businesses to have climate conversations.

It’s in our organizational growth — from our staff of 12, 25% of whom are staff of color, to 13 experienced members of our Board of Directors, to a robust Advisory Board of 35+ members, and a budget over one million dollars to accomplish our mission!

We’ve come a long way in our work and we still have a ways to go. But, this moment feels different. Young people are not just expecting us to act, they are demanding it. And we can only respond with the same moral courage and leadership they demonstrate.

Sincerely,

Nicole Rom, Executive Director
ENGAGE

BAND TOGETHER — NOVEMBER 16

A night of music and storytelling awaits you! Join us at Band Together, an inspiring, hope-filled event to raise awareness and urgency for climate action that builds an equitable, clean energy future.

Saturday, November 16, 2019
O’Shaughnessy Auditorium, St. Paul, MN
7 pm - Concert
5:30 pm - Artist Pre-Party (limited ticket availability)

An incredible lineup of performers will join us: Indigenous youth leader and artist Xiuhétecatl will emcee our evening, along with Astralblak, Chastity Brown, Strong Buffalo, Chris Koza, Lazerbeak, Eric Mayson, Jeremy Messersmith, Lucy Michelle, Ben Weaver and Aby Wolf.

Limited Pre-Party tickets include an intimate reception to mingle with the Band Together musicians from 5:30 - 6:30 pm in the Frey Theater (adjacent to the O’Shaughnessy Auditorium) for appetizers, specially-brewed Bent Paddle beer, photo booth, prizes, and preferred seating during the concert.

To address climate change we must use our voices, our choices, and our vote. Let’s Band Together! Learn more and purchase tickets at bandtogethermn.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Beer for Better: Climate Change Trivia
October 24, 2019
Lakes & Legends, Minneapolis

Join us for climate change trivia and delicious beer at Lakes & Legends Brewing Co. Test your wits, and drink for a cause. Free to play! Bring a team, all are welcome.

A portion of taproom proceeds from beer purchased between 3-9 pm benefits our organization.

go.climategen.org/beerforbetter

Climate Conversations: A Warming MN
November 2019 – January 2020
Twin Cities Metro

Attend one or all of our three-part climate conversation in partnership with Three Rivers Parks. Learn more on page 5.

• Trivia Night November 7
• Teen Event January 5
• Ice Harvest January 25
climategen.org/climateconversations

EYEWITNESS: Submissions Call
Entries accepted through December 15

EYEWITNESS is a published collection of short stories, poems, and sketches that speak to Minnesotan’s diverse experiences of climate change. Submit your work at climateeyewitness.org and learn more on page 5.

If you’re outside Minnesota, submit your climate story to our online collection at climatestories.org.
TEACH CLIMATE

Understanding climate change science, impacts, and solutions.

ANNOUNCING NEW GREEN STEM CAREERS CURRICULUM AND CLASSROOM RESOURCES

Educators need credible, STEM-based resources to teach climate change science and solutions, preparing their students with the skills to enter a workforce with new technologies and opportunities for innovation. In 2018, we launched our Green Careers for a Changing Climate documentary for educators nationwide with success, reaching over 5,700 student viewers and counting. Educators have responded with a desire for a larger curriculum resource on Green STEM Careers.

We’re thrilled to announce that Ingersoll Rand is meeting this need. With their funding support, Climate Generation is creating a new curriculum and expanding our Green STEM Careers documentary to include additional vocational interviews. Both resources will be released in 2020.

Ingersoll Rand is a world leader in creating comfortable, sustainable, and efficient environments. Their 2030 sustainability aspirations are aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development goals to meet the challenge of climate change. Their brands provide systems and service performance for buildings, homes, transportation and industrial customers, and improve the quality of life for the people and communities where they operate.

Green STEM Careers contribute to a low-carbon economy, with positions ranging from solar and wind installers, to climate scientists, engineers, environmental lawyers, and green construction professionals. While they are growing rapidly, students do not have knowledge of what these careers are or what education pathways are needed to achieve them.

Download our Green Careers for a Changing Climate documentary and partnering discussion guide at go.climategen.org/greenstemcareers and discover our other classroom resources for grades 3-12 at go.climategen.org/curricula.

INTRODUCING OUR YEA! MN CORE LEADERS

Each year, our Youth Environmental Activists of Minnesota (YEA! MN) program mentors high school leaders in the Core - a group of students from across the state who are passionate about learning more about the climate crisis and organizing their peers in the network for action.

We’re excited to welcome our 2019–2020 Core: (from left to right, top to bottom) Alina Hyder, Anna Grace Hottinger, Antuan Yarbrough (not pictured), Cristina Erickson, Michele Nguyen, Deja Woods, Eileen Norwood, Giulie Bastian McClain, Isra Hirs, Juwaria Jama, Kathleen Goggleye, Keriann Cooper, Maddy Fernands, Mekdelawit Tilahun (not pictured), Priya Dalal-Whelan, Shahad Geer, and Soni Shah.

Learn more about what YEA! MN is up to on page 6 and head to yeamn.org to get involved.
TALK CLIMATE

Owing your story and sharing your motivation to act on climate change.

EYEWITNESS: SUBMISSIONS CALL

When we share our climate stories, our experiences of climate change become activated; they become real, and they hold the potential to influence others. This is the rationale of our newest storytelling project: EYEWITNESS, a collection of short stories, poems, and sketches that speak to the diverse range of backgrounds, perspectives, and histories of Minnesotans and their experiences of climate change.

If you live in Minnesota, we invite you to join the chorus of voices by submitting your work depicting your eyewitness account of climate change. (If you live outside of Minnesota, we invite you to submit to our online storytelling collection at climatestories.org.)

Compiled into a succinct chapbook, EYEWITNESS will be published and presented as testimony to the MN Legislature on the 50th anniversary of Earth Day in April 2020. It’s a piece of literary activism that bears witness to the depth and scope of how the issue of climate change is being seen and felt across Minnesota communities.

This project is inspired by similar literary works, such as Arctic Refuge: A Circle of Testimony, which featured first hand accounts as well as work of prominent writers, leading to an eventual conservation victory after it was presented and circulated in Congress.

Submit your work at climateeyewitness.org.

CLIMATE CONVERSATIONS: A WARMING MINNESOTA

Our award-winning Climate Conversations series, in partnership with Three Rivers Park District, continues this season! “A Warming Minnesota: The Love and Loss of Winter” is a three-part conversation focused on engaging winter recreators and enthusiasts alike in climate change science, stories, and solutions.

Each of the events in our solutions-focused series are uniquely tailored to the audience each park location serves. Bring your family and friends to one or all of these free events to enjoy winter and learn about climate change impacts and solutions. To kick it off, join us on November 7th at Hyland Hills Ski Area for a night of climate change trivia, including an action-oriented resource fair and climate storytelling.

The second event on January 5th is designed for teens, by teens. Featuring outdoor winter activities and breakout sessions, youth aged 13+ are encouraged to come together to connect with their peers on climate change action ideas.

We’re closing this Climate Conversation on January 25th with Richardson Nature Center’s annual Ice Harvest. Stop by to participate in climate solutions workshops, witness ice harvest demonstrations, and discover ways to plug into climate action through the resource fair.

Find more information and location details at climategen.org/climateconversations. If you can’t join us, or are eager to start the conversation about our warming winters, engage with us on social media at @ClimateGenOrg through #ClimateConversations to share how you’re witnessing climate impacts in your community.

EYEWITNESS: SUBMISSIONS CALL

“When the creation of art itself is not passive; it is activism in the most visceral way.”

— Jothsna Harris, Community Engagement Manager
ACT ON CLIMATE

Sparking conversation and change in your community.

YOUTH POWER WITH YEA! MN

Youth climate activists are fired up and ready to go, following on the heels of the Global Climate Strike and inspiring Youth Climate Action Summit in New York City this September. Leaders with our Youth Environmental Activists of Minnesota (YEA! MN) program dove into this school year with action, as well. After joining the historic strike in September (four million people worldwide), with our local strike drawing 6,000 people in St. Paul, MN, leaders with YEA! MN hosted the Youth Climate Kickoff in October. Designed for youth by youth, the Kickoff featured workshops on climate change solutions, environmental racism, artmaking, public policy, and more.

Throughout the 2019-2020 school year, YEA! MN Core leaders will facilitate monthly meetings open to all Minnesota high schoolers, with trainings on the movement to stop Line 3, fostering a culture of justice and equity in the youth climate movement, and pushing our leaders to take strong climate action. Youth across the state can join these meetings virtually — find details at yeamn.org.

YEA! MN is also preparing fun workshops to engage middle schoolers in climate action and gearing up for the MN legislative session. Youth will host a Youth Climate Justice Summit at the State Capitol this spring and anticipate other actions to ensure Line 3 is not built and bold climate justice policies are passed. In addition to YEA! MN, youth and Climate Generation staff are building relationships across the state to support Youth Convening Minnesota, a youth-led community events initiative to talk about local climate impacts and solutions.

YOUTH POWER WITH YEA! MN

Sparking conversation and change in your community.

SARAH GOODSPEED REPRESENTING CLIMATE GENERATION AT UN’S COP25

Each year, Climate Generation sends a delegation to the UN Conference of Parties (COP) where international leaders come together to negotiate global commitments, ambitions, and financing. This year’s COP25 is December 2-13, located in Santiago de Chile.

Our Youth and Policy Manager Sarah Goodspeed will attend to coordinate the larger Minnesotan delegation, share our state’s leadership on climate action with an international audience, and learn more about how we can step up our goals. We’re also excited to focus our COP25 program on engaging more deeply with Latinx voters in Minnesota, knowing that recent polls (Climate Advocacy Lab) have shown they are passionate about climate change action.

Audiences everywhere can stay in-the-know about the negotiation progress through our “Window Into COP” digest featuring blogs, short videos, social media and webinars (some of which will be in Spanish). Our delegation works closely with local partners, including the University of Minnesota’s Institute on the Environment, Fresh Energy, and the School of Environmental Studies to elevate Minnesota voices.

Sign up for our “Window into COP25” email digest at climategen.org/cop25 to follow along with your community, classroom, coworkers, and peers!

“Climate change and migration are two sides of the same coin, with droughts and floods displacing millions of people around the globe. In the face of a border crisis with our neighbors across the Americas, we’re eager to highlight this climate justice connection at COP25.”

— Sarah Goodspeed, Youth and Policy Manager
FEATURES

CLIMATE ACTION RESOURCES

Whether you’re a teacher, student, business leader, community member, or at-home activist, we want you to know about the resources we’ve developed for climate action. Take an inside look at some of our opportunities and materials:

Host a Visit From Us

Our staff offer both in-person and virtual presentations and workshops to build climate literacy! Request a storytelling workshop, where attendees discover their personal connection to climate change and how it can serve as a powerful tool to inspire others. This interactive workshop consists of a series of prompts that invite individual writing, reflection, and small group sharing to develop your climate story.

Other workshops and presentations include topics from climate change science to youth action. Find a full list of our presentations at go.climategen.org/hostavisit.

Downloadable Resources

No matter where you are, explore our online collection of free action toolkits and materials for your climate action projects. Educators can dive into our curricula suite for grades 3-12, featuring interdisciplinary, standards-based classroom lessons on our changing climate. Plus, check out our humanities modules and reading guide to bring climate change books to your English/Language Arts classes, book clubs, science classes, and beyond.

Check out our additional toolkits and materials for community gatherings, school action ideas, and more at go.climategen.org/actionresources.

#TeachClimate Network & Book Club

Our #TeachClimate Network brings educators together monthly to discuss climate change fiction (cli-fi) books, challenges and successes of implementing climate change education, and current climate change news. With virtual meetings, we connect teachers across the country. Join our first meeting of the 2019-2020 year on October 22!

Find more information at go.climategen.org/teachclimatenum.

XIUHTEZCATL: BAND TOGETHER SPOTLIGHT

Xiuhtezcatl is a 19-year-old indigenous rapper and activist and our featured performer for Band Together on November 16th. He is a member of the Youth v. Gov. lawsuit against the Federal Government and is the Youth Director of Earth Guardians.

Climate Generation (CG): Why is climate action important to you?

Xiuhtezcatl (X): The climate crisis is the defining issue of our time. Fighting for climate justice is about much more than protecting the environment, or moving away from fossil fuels. The systemic change we must implement to avert the worst of the coming climate chaos will force us to reevaluate everything about how our society functions; from our food systems, to our education system, to our transportation and energy systems. The moment humanity faces is an opportunity for re-imagining of how our world can function with justice, equality, and a regenerative relationship with the earth at the forefront.

CG: What’s your motivation to perform at Band Together?

X: I believe that using music to bring people together around these critical issues in a celebratory energy is what our movements are missing. I’m grateful for the platform to combine my work as an artist and a climate activist.

CG: How have you experienced climate change in your life?

X: Growing up in Colorado, I’ve seen how wildfires and pine beetle kill that are exacerbated by a warming planet have destroyed the forests I’ve grown up with. Many places I’ve been visiting my entire life have been destroyed from more frequent and severe wildfires that hit Colorado every summer. I have close friends who have lost their homes and all their possessions to these forest fires, and the threat continues to grow every year.

CG: To create a better world, we must first imagine ourselves there. What does your better future look like?

X: I envision a future where I can freely create, travel, and be with community and friends without the weight of an uncertain future on my shoulders at all times.

Get your tickets for Band Together now at bandtogethermn.org.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are honored to welcome Akira Yano, Youth Leadership Mentor, to our staff. We are sending our departing Climate Change Education Manager, Jenna Totz, many thanks as she focuses on raising her son Atlas, a future climate activist. We thank Maddie Mercil for their year of service with us through Minnesota GreenCorps.

We welcomed Raj Rajan to our Board of Directors.
Climate Generation: A Will Steger Legacy empowers individuals and their communities to engage in solutions to climate change

STAFF:
Nicole Rom, Executive Director
Janet Brown, Associate Director
Kristen Poppleton, Director of Programs
Sarah Goodspeed, Youth and Policy Manager
Jothsna Harris, Community Engagement Manager
Robin Thorstenson, Finance and Operations Manager
Lauren Boritzke Smith, Communications Coordinator
Kira Liu, Community Engagement Coordinator
Rebecca Noble, Development Coordinator
Jason Rodney, YEA! MN Program Coordinator
Megan Van Loh, Education Coordinator
Akira Yano, Youth Leadership Mentor

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
Will Steger, Founder
Jennifer Birnbaum, Chair
Cathy Kennedy, Vice Chair
Sean P. Smith, Treasurer
Joann Knuth, Secretary
Andrew Gibbons
Barry Greenwald
Ron Kroese
Dr. Christie Manning
Ben Passer
Dr. Raj Rajan
Michelle Rosier
Beth Soholt

ADVISORY BOARD:
Dr. John P. Abraham
Ellen Anderson
Robert Blake
David A Brown, Jr.
R. Michael Conley
Dominique Nils Conseil
Leigh Currie
Chuck Dayton
Judson Dayton
Jon Dettmann
Beth Dooley
Paul Douglas
David Durenberger
Dr. Robert Elde
Lynn Gordon
Catherine Gunsbury
Dr. Jessica Hellmann
Hubert H. Humphrey III
Will Kaul
Julianne Laue
Richard Leider
Sally Leider
James P. Lenfestey
Meredith McQuaid
Craig Neal
Frank Niepold
Tim Nixon
Michael Noble
Megan O’Hara
Cheryl Olseth
Gayle Peterson
Dr. Roopali Phadke
Judy M. Pofeler
Melissa Rappaport Schiffman
Winthrop Rockwell
Dr. Benjamin D. Santer
Timothy Seck
Don Shelby
Dana Slade
Amy Stielow

CONSULTANTS:
David Riviera, Systems Administrator
Laura Borgendale, Web Assistant