

Plant-For-The-Planet, Climate Justice Ambassadors Presentation for

Seattle City Council, Energy & Environment Committee

Ambassadors: Bubba Smallidge (10), Gabriel Mandell (11), Nicky Chrisman (10), Rose Horan (10), Sophia Frank (11), Stella Foster (9), Zoe Foster (11)

A GIANT THANKS! To the Mayor for supporting the first Academy, to the Council for unanimously passing the Seattle Climate Action Plan, and for inviting us to speak today. In Seattle (“We’re So Green!”) we will present our 3-Point Plan:

- 1) PLANT 1,000 BILLION TREES
- 2) LEAVE FOSSIL FUELS IN THE GROUND
- 3) FIGHT POVERTY WITH CLIMATE JUSTICE

Soon we will speak with the Mayor’s office for more tree-planting efforts, and what we need now from the City. Specifically, the trees, where to plant and how to pay for them, and also the carbon tax to fight poverty, a Global Marshall Plan for Seattle to lead other cities.

To plant 1 trillion trees by 2020, enough to slow global warming and buy time for carbon emission reductions, each person on earth must plant 150 trees. The residents of Seattle need to plant our fair share.

If we planted our fair share per person based on carbon emissions to balance out our footprint, we would have to plant 10x more. We also need to plant more trees because of more wildfires and droughts over the next decade.

To find enough space for our fair share of trees, we need to plant here in Seattle and in the Northwest, especially along rivers and streams, and also in the tropics where trees grow faster and where cutting firewood or slash and burn agriculture leaves entire regions more vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

To pay for the trees, Seattle can make a “future fee” collected on behalf of children whose future will be destroyed if we don’t do anything. The “future fee” money can come from all sorts of places, license and permit fees, tax payment “donations” like for State Parks, private contributions, gas and oil tax, tourist fees, and even a voluntary portion of profits from businesses that want to contribute more as sponsors.

We also thought of a way to plant our fair share of trees even quicker. By adding a stadium fee, maybe a dollar extra per ticket to pay for one tree overseas. So each game at a stadium where about 40,000 people come, that would plant 40,000 trees to balance out our carbon getting to the game.

The Climate Justice Ambassadors request from the City of Seattle:

- Seattle commits to plant our fair share of trees by 2020.
- Seattle helps start a Tree Counter for our city.
- Seattle sponsors Academies to train more Ambassadors each year.
- Seattle pays a future fee to developing nations so they can become Green too.
- Seattle directs City agencies to work with Ambassadors on promoting our Climate Action Plan.

We Ambassadors promise:

- Ambassadors do our best to exceed our tree-planting goals locally and internationally.
- Ambassadors track the number of trees planted and challenge other cities to see if they can plant more trees than Seattle.
- Ambassadors promote the Seattle Climate Action Plan at home and school, on social media, and in climate presentations.
- Ambassadors help Seattle reach our sustainable goals ahead of time.
- Ambassadors make Seattle a role model for other cities.
- Ambassadors use less water and energy personally and teach others to do the same.
- Ambassadors become the first generation to teach mom and dad to turn off the lights.

Thank you for supporting us! From the first Climate Justice Ambassadors.

Aerial Astley, Aidan Cordero, Alejandro Grynberg, Alice Wang, Amare Fields, Anakin Garcia, Anna Justen, Anna Edelman, Annalise Pollock Foltz, Annie Joss, Ansel Freeman, Ariana Cory, Bianca Mariani, Blanca Kolar, Brandon Levinwood, Bubba Smallidge, Camille Schurman, Cecilia Lombardi, Chiara Lombardi, Claire Sheehan, Clara Strassburger, Connor Griffin, Cosmo Nesbitt, Dorian Stump, Edith Freeman, Elise Czesla, Ella McMillen, Ellen Larson, Elliot Locker, Elliott Tseo, Emeline Justen, Emily Connolly, Emma Begley-Collier, Gabe Edelman, Gabriel Mandell, Gideon Knox, Ginger Smith, Grace Beimborn, Hailey Stubblefield, Hannah Sanders, Harper Nesbitt, Hattie Sanders, Ian Wick, Iris Webb, Jazell Jenkins, Jennifer Xu, Justine DeVour, Kaley Joss, Kyla Ulibarri, Lucas Joss, Lucinda Harden, Maeve Flynn, Margaux Daniel, Megan Chow, Miriam Cory, Molly Cowles, Natasha Wozniak, Nicky Chrisman, Norah Bunnell, Olivia Glick, Olivia Wing, Pallas Garvey, Pia Hirsch, Presley Fox, Rose Horan, Saia Dugan, Siena Mariani, Sophia Frank, Sophie Adams, Spencer Ingram, Stella Foster, Talia Glick, Teiji Burrus, Thalia Frank, Tommy Garvey, Vito Vacirca, Will Domke, Xia Bouzek, Zachary Montgomery, Zoe Foster

*From a Dad: If it's true that "We do not own the earth, we borrow it from our children," then we all owe future generations. We steal from their planet and we have almost broken it beyond repair for the next seven generations. According to native wisdom and scientists, we can no longer break the laws of nature. Parents did this to buy our children things, to feed them the best food, and take them away on the best vacations. But grownups bought those nice things with what was stolen from under the ground. The fossils we burned ruin the skies and the oceans, and we will never be able to put them all back.*

*But we have to try while we still can. We have stolen their future. We must pay them back now.*