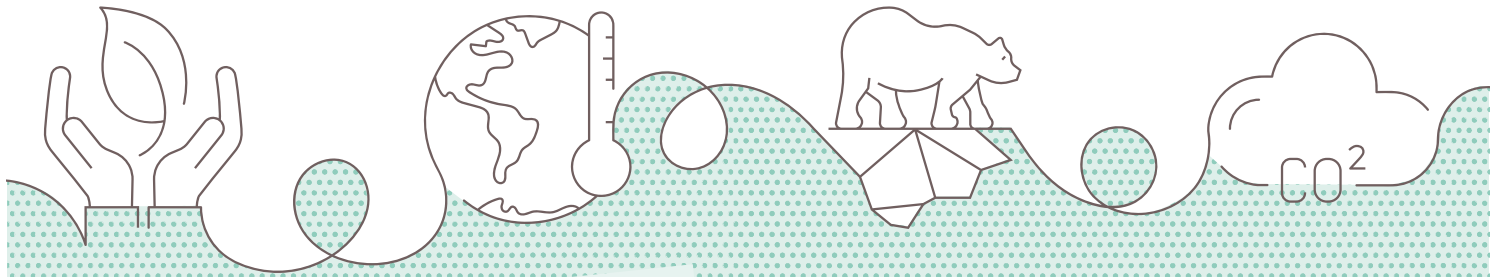


Climate change and young people: taking action in court





What's happening?

Young people are going to court to fight climate change. They are telling judges that governments and companies are not doing enough to protect the environment and their futures.

Why is this important?

Climate change affects everyone, but it is especially hard on children and future generations. Young people will have to live with the consequences of climate change for longer than adults. But they often do not get a say in important decisions that affect the climate.

What are young people doing about it?

Young people are taking governments to court. When someone goes to court to argue for something, that is called a lawsuit.

They are using lawsuits to ask judges to make sure their rights are protected. They are asking judges to force governments to keep their promises about preventing climate change.

In Montana, USA, 16 young people won a case saying they have a right to a clean and healthy environment. The judge ruled that the government of Montana needed to do more to protect the environment.

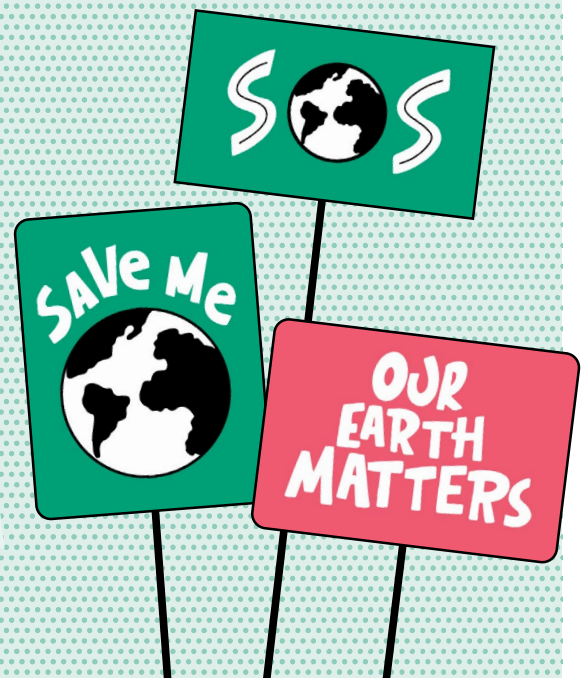
In Germany, young activists won their lawsuit and got the government to make stronger climate protection laws.

Some examples:

Six Portuguese youth took 33 countries to a European court for not doing enough about climate change. They did not win, but the lawsuit helped others learn new ways to fight for climate action in court.

What is working well?

- Courts are starting to listen to young people's concerns about climate change.
- Even when the youth do not win their court cases, they still raise awareness. This puts pressure on governments to do more about climate change.
- Young people are learning new ways to use the legal system to make their voices heard. They are sharing what they learn with other young people, so that they can make a stronger case next time.
- Young people's arguments are being heard around the world, in courts, in the news, and in reports like this one.





What are some challenges?

- Going to court can be stressful and takes a long time.
- Sometimes courts say they cannot help and tell children to talk to politicians instead.
- It can be hard for young people to understand all the legal stuff and scientific information.
- Big companies and governments are powerful. They often have good lawyers to help them. It takes a lot of effort to beat them in court.
- Schools do not usually teach children how to fight for their rights.

What can we do to make things better?

Adults can:

- **Work together:** Create groups where people with different professional backgrounds can share ideas and learn from each other.
- **Make courts kid-friendly:** Change how courts work so it's easier for young people to be part of lawsuits.
- **Teach everyone:** Help judges understand climate science better. Also, tell more people about how children can use courts to fight climate change.
- **Support young people:** Make sure children have help throughout the whole lawsuit process, including someone to talk to about their feelings.
- **Listen to children:** Make sure laws and decisions about the environment always think about what's best for children.
- **Share information:** Create a big list of all the climate cases that involve young people, so we can learn from them.
- **Look at different ideas:** Think about climate change in different ways, and always remember that children have important things to say too.

Young people can:

- **Be a critical climate thinker:** Do your own research about how climate change impacts people differently across the world.
- **Find climate change allies:** An ally is someone who will work with you, and help you when things are hard. Talk about climate change with your friends, family, teachers, and people you trust.
- **Organise your own climate campaign:** Find out about young people's lawsuits on climate and let the things you learn inspire you. You can start your own campaign in school or in your community.
- **Be kind to yourself and care for others:** Climate change is a big problem – much bigger than one person alone. Look after yourself and make sure you have someone to talk to if you feel anxious or sad.

What's next?

People are working together to find new ways to use the courts to fight climate change. They want to make sure that the rights of young people and future generations are protected.

REMEMBER:
You have the right to a healthy planet, and your voice matters in the fight against climate change!

Have a look here if you want to take action:

ourchildrenstrust.org

wy4cj.org

[climatepromise.undp.org/
what-we-do/flagship-initiatives/
youth4climate](https://climatepromise.undp.org/what-we-do/flagship-initiatives/youth4climate)

Authors: Franka Pues, Jenny Driscoll, and Megan Bowman.

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More information at:

kcl.ac.uk/climate-law

Centre for Climate Law & Governance

The Dickson Poon School of Law

King's College London

Strand

London WC2R 2LS

United Kingdom

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