



“Wrap Up Climate Change”

Action Guide

For organising local actions across Europe in the lead up to Young FoEE’s Big Climate Action in December 2008

What this Street Action Guide is about

This guide is intended to help you organise your street action for the Young Friends of the Earth ‘Wrap Up Climate Change’ Action; collecting messages from the general public about climate change, to deliver to global leaders at the end of 2008.

Inside you’ll find ideas on how to organise local actions, what materials you need for your street actions and all other relevant information that will let you participate successfully.

How to 'Wrap up Climate Change'

'Wrap Up Climate Change' is a collective action that young people from all across Europe will be running in summer and autumn 2008, in the lead up to the next UN Climate Talks.

In their local communities and home countries, groups will be running action stalls to collect messages from the general public which will be written, painted or drawn on 25 x 25cm squares of fabric, then collected together to form one big mosaic of messages.

We are asking people the question: **"What would you like to ask your government or international negotiators at the climate talks to do in order to tackle climate change?"** as the basis of their message.

The action will work on two levels:

1- Firstly, you can run this action nationally: deliver the messages to your politicians, install or 'wrap' the messages somewhere significant, get local media attention, or use alongside another campaign you are running (like 'The Big Ask')

2- Secondly, we will collect and take all the messages from your action stalls to create and install a big action on 6th December 2008 in Poland, alongside the UN Climate Talks. All the fabric squares will be put together and will be used to 'wrap up' a location in Poznan, and also delivered to a national environment minister or negotiator at the talks.

The aim of 'Wrap up Climate Change'

The aim of the action is to ensure that a strong and European wide youth voice is heard at the upcoming international climate negotiations, to remind those negotiating that this is our future they are deciding on, and that we are a stakeholder voice to be listened to.

Our message to them is:

"We, as young people from across Europe, demand that governments 'wrap up' the negotiations on climate change by 2009, and take immediate and drastic action to secure the future of our generation and the planet's biodiversity from the expected threats of man-made climate change.

We demand legally binding commitments from all countries, which are fair and equitable to people both in the global north and global south, and will ensure the stabilisation of the earth's climate system"

To 'Wrap up' means to finish off or bring closure to something. We want to bring an end to negotiations on climate change, and see governments taking immediate action.

The context: The COP/MOP14 Meeting 'Wrap it up'

From the 1st - 12th December 2008, leaders from all countries will meet to discuss climate change at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in Poznan, Poland.

This meeting (called COP/MOP14) is of great importance as many policies to reduce our global carbon emissions will be made, depending on the outcomes of discussions. Young FoEE wants to deliver a strong and united message to the negotiators at this meeting. This will be:

“We, as young people from across Europe, demand that governments ‘wrap up’ the negotiations on climate change by 2009, and take immediate and drastic action to secure the future of our generation and the planet's biodiversity from the expected threats of man-made climate change.

We demand legally binding commitments from all countries, which are fair and equitable to people both in the global north and global south, and will ensure the stabilisation of the earth's climate system”

In December, Young FoEE will be gathering alongside these UN Climate Talks in Poznan, and will create a big action with the collected messages, as part of the Global Day of Action on Climate Change, on December 6th.

These international gatherings to discuss climate change are incredibly important milestones of our campaigning. In December 2009 the COP15 meeting will be held in Denmark, where negotiators will finalise and put into place the second international agreements for global carbon emission reductions after the year 2012, to follow the 'Kyoto Protocol.

It is vital that until then global politicians and leaders listen to us, and that Young FoEE is part of this voice.



A typical 'Wrap Up Climate Change' street action

The idea is to set up a large action stall with a banner and action slogan visible in one of the more crowded squares in your town or city. Have volunteers to distribute flyers and approach the passing public to ask them to join in the action by signing a 25 x 25cm square of fabric. They are free to draw or write creatively their answer to the question:

“What do you want your government and international negotiators to do to combat climate change?”

It will have the most impact if you use your action to attract media and political attention in your country, directed at those people who will be taking part in UN Climate Talks.

1. Preparation

1a. Basic Materials

The action is very easy and does not involve much preparation work for the materials. You only need fabric pieces, paint and felt pens and a table.

- **25 x 25cm squares of Fabric:** It would be great if this could be made from recycled materials, like old bed sheets or table cloths. White or light coloured fabric is best as it's clearly visible what is written and painted.
- **Paint and felt pens:** Lots of different colours and the most environmentally friendly of course!
- **Table:** Have enough space for more than one person to work at a time. Protect the table with a colourful or plastic sheet.

1b. Spicing up your Stand

To make your action stall more visual and enticing, how about having:

- A washing line to hang the pieces of fabric up so as they dry and so that others can look at for inspiration.
- As painting can get peoples clothes dirty, you could offer people an apron. If you have some budget then the aprons could be bought and the Young FoEE Logo could be printed on to the apron.
- Have some general information available to give out about your own organisation and the other projects that you are involved with.

Checklist: prepare the action

What do you need to provide for the action:

- + Pieces of fabric 25 x 25cm
- + Paint + brushes
- + Coloured markers
- + Table + protective cover
- + A banner with the action slogan in your language

What else you need to bring:

- + A digital camera
- + Materials to spice up your stand
- + A smile

What to prepare:

- + Finding the right place and getting permissions for the action
- + Find volunteers
- + Invite the media
- + Choose a sunny day for the action!
- + A flyer explaining the action

Volunteers: how many?

- + 2-3 acting as “stewards” to guide people through the action
- + 1 to shoot photos
- + 1 to be the media contact

1c. The banner with the action slogan in your language

The slogan of our action across Europe will be **“Wrap Up Climate Change!”**

You'll need to make your own banner in your own language. To 'Wrap up' means to finish off or bring closure to something. In the context of our action it refers to the idea that we want to bring an end to negotiations on climate change, and see governments taking immediate action. We will also be using the collected fabric squares to literally wrap around a significant building or location when we are in Poznan, as a Young FoEE action.

You can paint your own banner quite easily. We can provide you with a computer document with the Young FoEE logo that can be projected onto a wall using a projector, so that you can make an enlarged outline onto a sheet, then later paint it in.

1d. Get permission for the action

You need to organise all required permission to run the event. Certainly for this you will need to know where you want the action to take place. Are there any relevant events and festivals already planned in your town or city where you could hold a stall?

1e. Find the right place

Select a suitable location for the action in your town or city such as a market square or wherever many people will pass by. You can do it in front of a well known national monument or outside a relevant ministry building if you plan to invite a politician. Photographs taken somewhere identifiable would be great for the Young FoEE website and for any press covering your action!

1f. Find volunteers

Ideally you'll have at least 4-5 people helping out. A few people can stay at the table to help and explain to people what to do, and others will go up to the passing public, explain them the idea and the action and direct them towards decorating a piece of fabric.

1g. Invite the media

To ensure high visibility for this action and your own organisation, it is important to get in contact with the media and get press coverage. You could address the national media, but don't forget the power of local media! They are always looking for stories and are very likely to pick up the story of your action.

You will need to send out an invite about your action to the media up to a week before it happens, and very importantly, they will need calling up the day before to be reminded about it. If you call them again before the action that usually results in faxing or emailing them the invitation again- but you want them to come, so it is really worth making the extra effort!

An invitation should always give people an understanding of: what the action is about, why it is happening and that they can expect cool pictures from the event (as this is what they are always looking for).

*For more information on media work and template press release, contact us:
sophie.manson@foeeurope.org*

1h. Make a flyer

We can provide you with a template flyer with text in English and a suggested design and images, which you can adapt and translate for your national purposes. Make sure to bring enough flyers to distribute them to a lot of people- in a crowded street you can easily distribute some hundred flyers during the action.



2. How to do the action?

2a. Set up your action site

Firstly set up your info table with the materials you will need for signing the pieces of fabric, and display your flyers and other material you want to offer to people, including material from other campaigns and general outreach material to attract new members.

Set up your banner so that people can see from a distance what's going on. Media-wise, find a good spot where journalists can take good photos of people signing the pieces of fabric and maybe even your ministry or a national monument in the background.

2b. Invite people to write their messages on the pieces of fabric

Invite people to participate by approaching them in the street or by handing out a flyer. Explain to them the idea of this action: **that we are collecting messages from people across Europe about climate change, to be delivered to national and global negotiators at the next international climate talks in Poznan, in December.**

Give people a bit of background on the meeting in Poznan and what Young FoEE thinks needs to be done to tackle climate change, then ask them to be creative and write or draw a colourful message on the fabric to support this!

If they struggle for inspiration, show some examples that others have made and ask them: **“What do you want your government and international negotiators to do to combat climate change?”**

Some examples: “no new coal power”, “less cars”, “a climate change law”...

2c. Let people know what else they can do

By talking about climate change, people may ask what they can do personally. Be prepared for questions and have some information ready to hand out to them. This could include tips on how to save energy, how to change your energy provider, writing a letter to politicians, and how to become active in your climate campaign or local group meeting. Take their contact details, so that we can keep them up to date with the action and the lead up to the UN climate talks in Poznan.

2d. Take photos!!!

During the action make sure that you take nice pictures with people writing their messages. Please send us the best photos after the action. We will publish them on the Young FoEE website.

3. Other ideas to make your action more exciting

3a. Invite a politician or VIP to sign a piece of fabric

Invite your energy or environment minister to join the action for a media photo opportunity and you can publicly debate with your minister about your government’s position on energy policy and climate change. Ideally you will have either in an earlier action or earlier on the same day collected a lot of fabric squares with messages to display as examples. If you know some local or national VIP’s then you can always try to get them to sign a piece of fabric, this will give you nice pictures and will attract people from the street to join as well.

4. The final installation in Poznan

We will gather all the pieces collected across Europe by you in different countries and cities, and combine them all into one large installation. This will form our big action during the Climate Talks, on the 6th December.

Young FoEE will be having a gathering alongside the Poznan meeting in December, where you can come along and be part of the action and installation itself.

Contact

If you need more help and advice how to organise your street actions, contact us:

sophie.manson@foeeurope.org

Friends of the Earth Europe

Phone: +32 2 401 48 00

15 Rue Blanche

1050 Brussels, Belgium

More info:

www.foeeurope.org/youngfoee

Global day of action in Poznan: <http://www.globalclimatecampaign.org/>