

OUR IMPACT

YOUTH CLIMATE LAB'S FIRST 3 AND NEXT 3 YEARS





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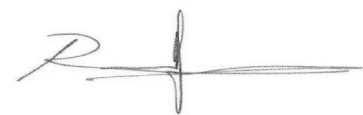
We've come a long way

As someone who passionately believes in, and promotes, youth enablement and empowerment from the local to the international level, I have watched in admiration as the Youth Climate Lab has taken wing these past three years.

Seychelles is a young, vibrant, and innovative country with a small population and limited human and technical capital. Most understandably see this as a disadvantage in today's challenged and uncertain world made more complicated and even frightening by the coronavirus pandemic. True, but in Seychelles' case and those of many small islands it also provides young people with opportunities to take up posts of great responsibility earlier than their counterparts in countries with bigger populations.

As events around the world show, either the youth step forward and help lead the generation of now instead of waiting for tomorrow, or we fail! It is with such an experience that I have watched YCL take off. And it was because of such a background that I did not hesitate when the opportunity arose three years ago to work with the Youth Climate Lab to help prepare young Seychellois for climate change conferences and work with them once they were there.

I enthusiastically support and applaud YCL as it continues to go from strength to strength in engaging and empowering youth around the world to take the lead in making the change we so urgently need for a more resilient, sustainable and equitable society.



H.E. Ronny Jumeau

Seychelles Ambassador to the United Nations,
USA and Canada, YCL Board Member



Together, we are marking three years of YCL taking leaps and bounds towards its vision of youth-led transformative climate action, and building a solid foundation on which to grow. YCL's successes to date have enabled the testing and scaling of new ideas and programs nationally and internationally, and empowered and enhanced the voice of youth to ensure our future is one that is regenerative, and prosperous for all!

This year, as our global context brings unprecedented uncertainty and disruption, YCL will continue to hone in on what makes this organization unique - acting as a connector to bring youth together, and fostering youth-for-youth ideas for a just and sustainable future. This is important, now more than ever.

As we look to the next three years (and beyond), it is exciting to envision how YCL will continue to flourish, drive impact, and disrupt the status quo. We are thrilled to support and couldn't be more confident in the leadership team's vision, or more proud of the diverse and skilled staff, volunteers, partners, mentors, and youth that come together to make Youth Climate Lab the flourishing ecosystem that it is. Onwards!



Raissa Espiritu

YCL Board Chair
Director of Partnerships,
Centre for Social Innovation



Melissa Gerrard

YCL Board Vice-Chair
Network Expansion Manager,
Green Economy Canada

CELEBRATING YCL IN A TIME OF COVID-19

A note from YCL's Co-Founders



We founded Youth Climate Lab (YCL) in May 2017 to create opportunities and build skills for young people around the globe to take matters into their own hands. Our dream was to help youth access the spaces, support and resources they need to scale their big ideas to transform our world. Today, we are a global organization with six full-time staff, and an established track record in supporting youth-led climate action.

Since our inception, we have designed and implemented over 20 projects, supported nearly 50 youth-led ventures, and sparked almost 100 youth-led policy ideas, reaching over 1.8 million people. This is just the beginning. As we mark YCL's third anniversary, we are grateful and excited to share with you this report that details our impact since our launch to May 2020, the insights and lessons we have learned along the way, and the strategic direction that will guide our next three years.

We also recognize our role as founders. As non-Indigenous, white-passing young women from the traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin Nation (Ottawa, Canada) and from Tenochtitlan (Mexico City, Mexico), we recognize our privilege and our positionality in the work that we do. We acknowledge the legacy of colonialism that has benefited both of our families greatly. We also recognize our role in addressing systemic inequalities, especially through our work within YCL.

Amidst the global COVID-19 pandemic, we feel that it is especially pertinent to reflect and assess the impact we have had in our first three years and where we want to go. Much like climate change, COVID-19 is highlighting, and deepening, the inequalities within and between communities and countries. How will our society emerge from COVID-19 and how might we elevate youth voices in re-imagining the just recovery that needs to take form? As our friends at SustainUS have said: "We are not here to return to the status quo, but to transform this moment for a better world."

We will continue to navigate these uncertain times with our unwavering commitment to support young people transform the world toward a just, climate resilient future. A better world is possible, and we look forward to building it with you in our next chapter.

Ana F. González Guerrero
Co-Founder, Managing Director

Dominique Souris
Co-Founder, Executive Director



YCL LEXICON

We are shameless about the amount of buzzwords and climate jargon we use. So, we created a lexicon to make sure we are all on the same page.

CLIMATE JUSTICE:

Refers to climate change as an issue of injustice; those who did the least to cause it, suffer the most. YCL's work brings together collaborators to acknowledge that climate change deepens inequalities, advocating for systemic shifts to address human rights, gender equality, and the rights of Indigenous peoples in climate action.

INTERGENERATIONAL COLLABORATION:

Refers to building a cooperative exchange of ideas, knowledge, resources, and access across different generations, through relationship-building that benefits individuals and their communities.

INTERGENERATIONAL EQUITY:

Refers to the principle in international law, and in the preamble of the Paris Agreement, that aims to ensure the preservation of natural resources and the environment for the benefit of future generations.



JUST, CLIMATE-RESILIENT WORLD:

Refers to achieving a future state where communities and ecosystems are thriving, with diversified and equitable economies and systems that respect planetary boundaries and human rights. This definition accounts for limiting global warming to 1.5C through radical changes in all aspects of society (see [IPCC's Special Report on 1.5C](#)).

LAB:

Short for "laboratory", a space for research, testing, and learning. YCL hosts youth-for-youth labs to create spaces for exploration and experimentation with new ideas and thoughtful collaborations.

RADICAL COLLABORATION, COMMONLY REFERRED TO (BY US) AS "RAD COLLAB":

Supporting unusual and unexpected connections to spark transformational youth-led ideas and projects.

SOCIAL INNOVATION:

Rooted in strengthening civil society, a process that brings new and renewed approaches to problem-solving at systemic levels.

SHIFTS:

Large scale transformations from one state to another that resonate at different scales (globally, nationally, locally, organizationally), in different sectors, and transcend cultures, societies, and demographics (as defined by People for Public Education).

TRANSFORMATIVE ACTION:

An alternative process that challenges, alters, or replaces established and institutional ways of thinking. YCL explores and acts on the "so what" in a way that moves past the status quo to ensure equitable impact through climate action.

ABOUT US

We are a youth-for-youth lab dedicated to transformative climate action. We design, pilot and scale projects that enable young people to build the just, climate-resilient futures they deserve.

Headquartered on the traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin nation (known as Ottawa, Canada), Youth Climate Lab (YCL) was founded in May 2017 **to support and strengthen a generation of leaders to shake up the status quo of climate inaction.** We work with our team of staff, network of YCL Associates, Board of Directors, and partners around the world to create innovative projects that help youth spark, start and scale transformative ideas.

Our vision is for young people – no matter who they are or where they are from – to catalyze transformative climate action in their communities to the highest levels of decision-making.



OUR DESIGN PRINCIPLES

Led by youth, for youth, YCL fosters active engagement, experimentation and meaningful expression around imagined futures for a 1.5°C world.

We adapt social innovation approaches to enable young people to recognize their power in shifting patterns of social change and radically collaborate across sectors, communities and generations.

We centre allyship, inclusion, and intergenerational equity to explore how to unleash new ideas, foster innovative partnerships and create space for youth to lead the way towards climate justice.

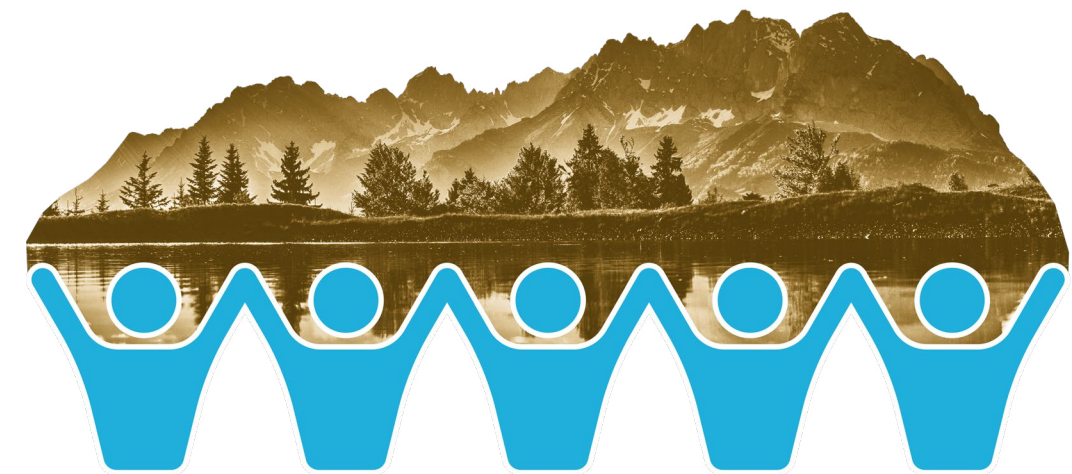
We recognize our privilege and seek to leverage our positionality to support and amplify the voices and solutions of youth, particularly womxn, on the frontlines of climate change.



HOW WE WORK

We are a community of designers, facilitators, entrepreneurs, and researchers. As a Lab, we design, pilot, and scale experiments that tackle problems faced by young people around the globe in their fight against climate change.

We ground our work in principles of climate justice. Climate change will impact all corners of the globe, but is, and will continue to be, particularly devastating for communities already vulnerable. Most impacted are young people, particularly those on the frontlines, who will inherit the irreparable loss and damage caused by climate change as well as growing debt and inequality. Youth under the age of 30 represent nearly half of the global population, yet are the least represented in climate-related decision-making; and, lack the resources, opportunities and support to generate scaleable impact. We are committed to shifting the system to ensure that all young people - no matter who they are - are included and empowered to drive the just transition toward a climate-resilient future.



HOW WE CREATE CHANGE

As we are reminded by the powerful Gwich'in elders we were privileged to work with in fall 2019, everything is connected; and we all have a role to play in the fight against climate change.

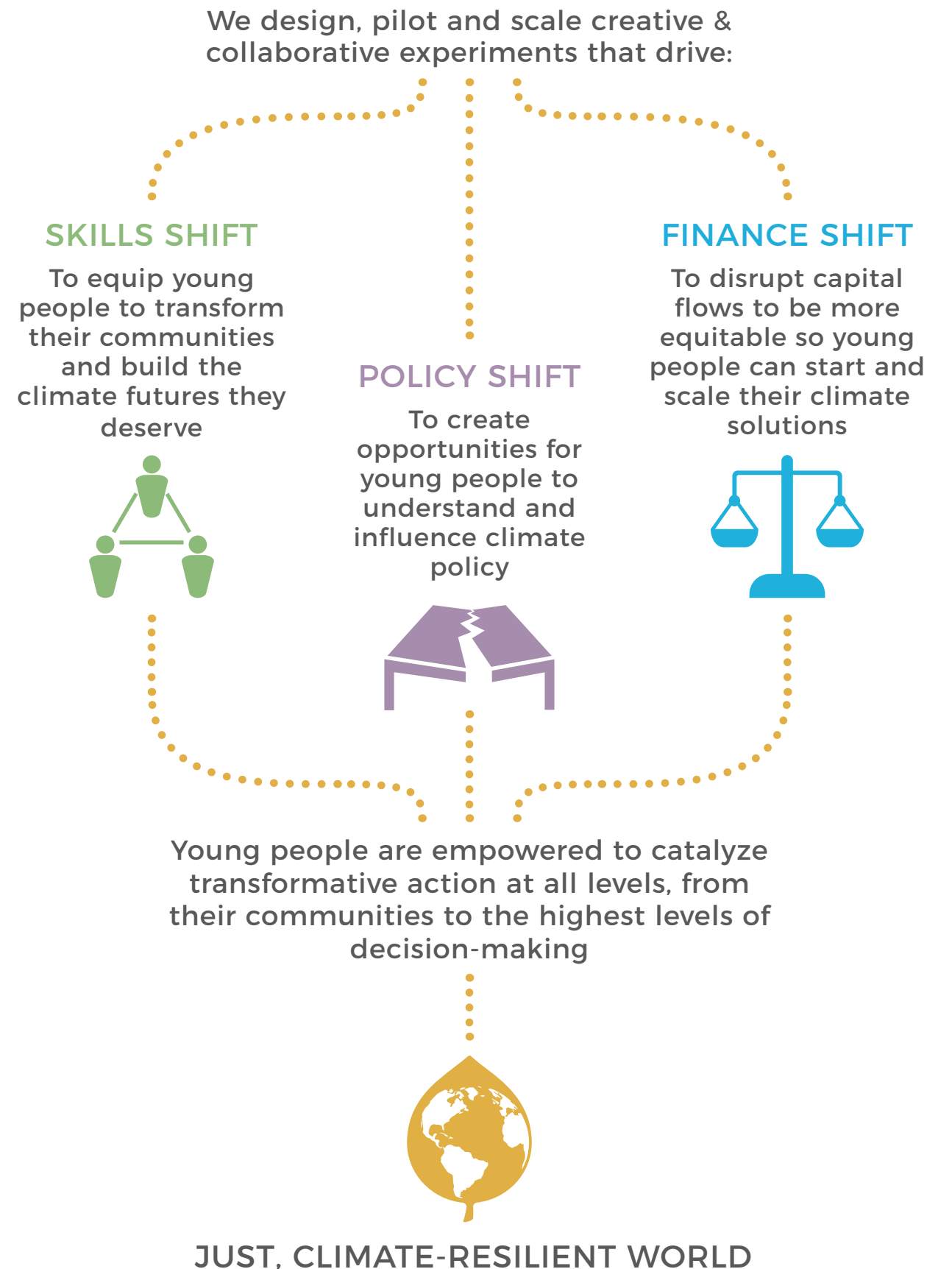
**Yeendoo diinehjuu ji' hee zrit,
nits'oo ts'o' nan heelyaa?**

Pronounced: *Yay doe deenayjuu jee hay zrit,
nit soe tsoe nun hay lyaa,*

Translate as: **"After our time, how
will the Earth be?"**

- Gwich'in Elder Sarah Abel

Climate change is a symptom of intersecting systemic forces at play, such as colonialism, capitalism, patriarchy. We work to enable young people to re-imagine and rebuild the flawed systems holding in place climate inaction, so that we can achieve a just, climate-resilient world. We do so by creating projects that focus on driving three large shifts. We see our role to contribute and sustain systems change by catalyzing new ideas and capacity, and complementing the incredible work being done by the social impact sector in Canada and around the globe.

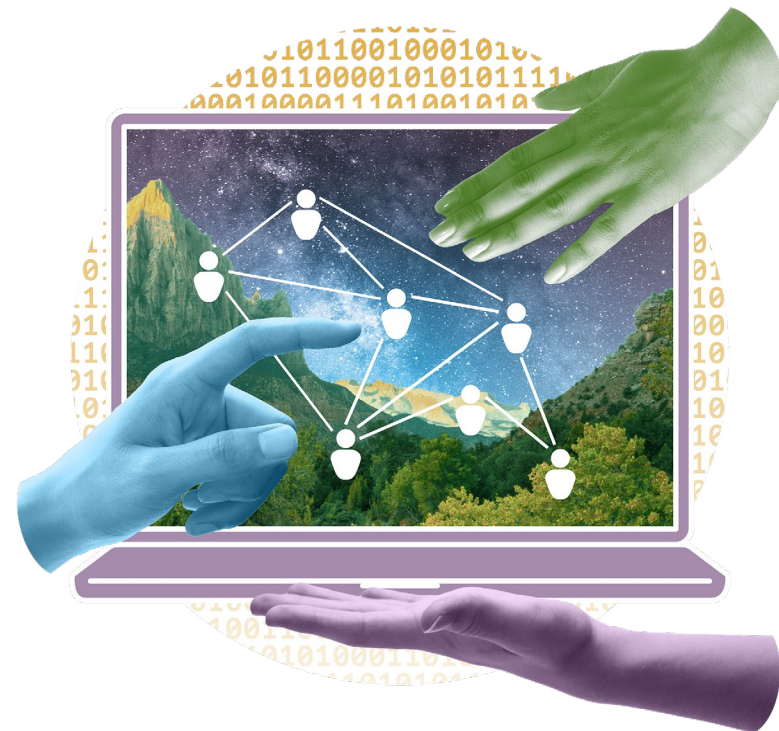


HOW WE CREATE CHANGE

SKILLS SHIFT: We equip young people to transform their communities and build the climate futures they deserve

The United Nations Secretary General António Guterres has called young people a lightning rod for change¹. We know young people will catalyze the low-carbon transition - yet, they often lack the resources and skills necessary to shape the transformations they know are needed within their communities and beyond. YCL designs projects that empower youth with the skills and tools they need to create the just, climate-

resilient futures they want and deserve. Why? Because young people have the aptitude and ambition to be the leaders we need to fight climate change and reimagine our global future. Building skills for youth allows for stronger, intersectional and innovative climate action – and contributes to “future-proofing” generations facing large-scale disruptions in the way we live and work.



¹ United Nations. (2019). <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/ecosoc6968.doc.htm>



POLICY SHIFT: We create opportunities for young people to understand and influence climate policy

Climate policy sets the course for governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance the resilience of communities around the globe. We have yet to see the intersectional and inclusive policy needed to rapidly decarbonize to achieve a 1.5C world and leave no one behind. This needs to change, and young people – our ideas, passion and ingenuity– are the critical agents to do so. Yet, opportunities for youth to understand, engage, and influence climate policy processes remain limited. Most of today’s climate decision-making tables are rigid, difficult to access and understand, and

tend to favour traditionally privileged individuals and groups. For these reasons, our work aims to challenge how youth are currently involved and explore new ways for youth-led ideas to shape current climate policy processes at all levels. We design projects that cultivate creative and brave spaces for youth to learn about policy and see their ideas and experiences as key pieces of policy-making. We then connect youth to tools, resources, and networks to ensure their voices are heard in national and international climate policy spaces.

FINANCE SHIFT: We disrupt capital flows to be more equitable so young people can start and scale climate solutions

Young people are leading the fight for a safe, livable future for all, yet lack access to the resources needed to scale their cross-cutting ideas, collaborations and solutions. The problem is systemic; today's financing mechanisms lack a critical understanding of its impacts on and obligations to youth. The financial flows needed to prevent catastrophic climate change – i.e. the short term investments in a just recovery now, to the long-term capital required to decarbonize our global economy – are insufficient to safeguard the future of today's youth and future

generations. Climate finance as we know it also ignores the unique financial barriers youth face, and the technical support they need, to bring their transformative ideas to life. In light of these challenges, YCL designs projects that help young people spark ideas and transform them into projects and businesses that can have powerful impacts. We create tools and resources, and conduct advocacy and research efforts that explore the financial challenges and opportunities for young climate entrepreneurs to scale their efforts.

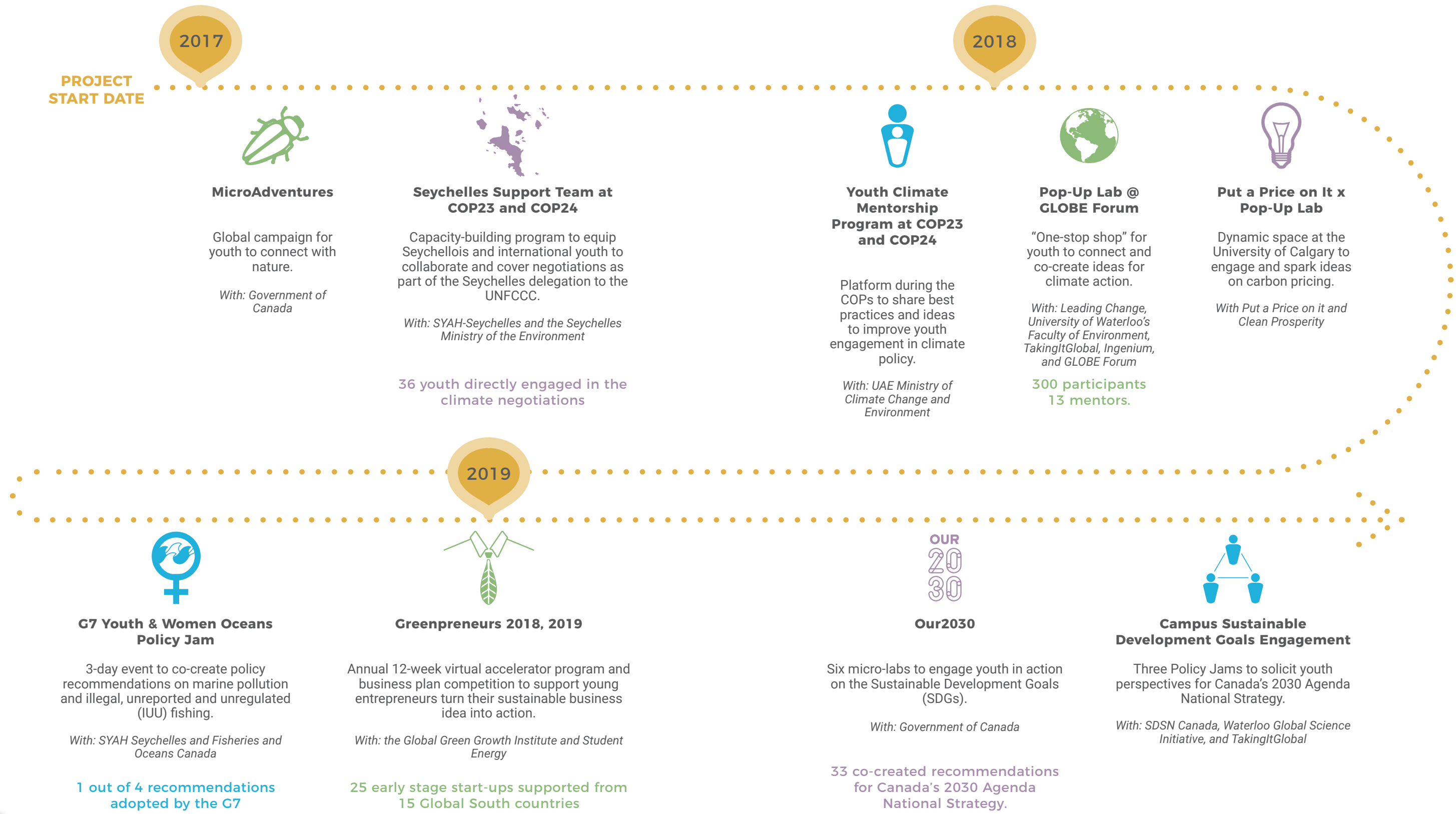


OUR IMPACT (SO FAR)

As a Lab, we pride ourselves on our ability to quickly prototype and pilot new projects, and in the process, form unique partnerships. Since May 2017, we have created 21 projects with 30+ partners that have reached youth in 77 countries. Our projects ranged in size and scope, some taking place over one day, others over several months. In an ever changing landscape of climate organizations and initiatives, we focused on exploring new pathways for youth to engage in climate action that are radically more effective, meaningful and collaborative than current approaches. The following pages illustrate our rich portfolio of models and experiments in radical collaboration.



OUR PORTFOLIO OF EXPERIMENTS MAY 2017 - 2020





Pop-Up Lab: MacGregor Climate Initiative

Activation to support grade 7 and 8 students co-create solutions for their community

With: MacGregor Public School, Waterloo Global Science Initiative, Waterloo Community Foundation and City of Waterloo.



Neighbours in the North Arctic Youth Camp

Climate innovation curriculum for Inuit youth from across Inuit Nunangat (Inuit regions in Canada) and Kalaallit Nunaat (Greenland).

With the Danish Embassy in Canada and Students on Ice Foundation



Youth-Inclusive Financing: Insights Report

Report into the importance for climate-designated grants and financial instruments to better consider youth in their deployment.

With: Global Affairs Canada

165 young climate leaders engaged from over 25 Global South countries to identify financial barriers and opportunities.



Intervening at the Supreme Court of Canada

Joined the case in support of the federal government on implementing a pan-Canadian carbon price to better protect Canadian youth and future generations, which will be heard at the Supreme Court in the fall of 2020.

With: Intergenerational Climate Coalition, led by Generation Squeeze



IMPACT TO DATE



Climate Action Cohorts 2019

3-year capacity program to equip 30 youth from Canada's North and South to take climate action in their communities and on the international stage.

With: Students on Ice Foundation and the Lawson Foundation

6 community projects, and youth delegation at COP25



OceanBridge Activation

Design thinking-inspired reflective workshop.

With: Ocean Wise



Youth Financing Policy Jams

Two Policy Jams at UN Youth Climate Summit and Leading Change Forum to generate youth insights into unlocking climate finance for youth.

With: World Bank's Connect4Climate and Scotiabank

150 youth from 20 countries learning about and contributing to making climate finance more accessible



Moving the Needle Pt. 1

Digital campaign engaging creatives on the low-carbon transition.

With: Undisclosed granters

90,000 people have watched our videos, and three in-person activations across Canada



FutureXchange (FXC)

7-month fellowship bringing together youth from Canada's South and Gwich'in communities to learn about traditional knowledge and climate policy, convene and develop projects to engage their communities.

With: Gwich'in Tribal Council and Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation

Equipped 15 young "Community Activators" to take action on climate in their communities.



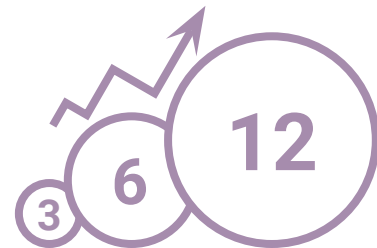
TALK NUMBERS TO ME

From May 2017-2020, we have:

Created

21

projects
(doubled every year)



Collaborated with

30+

partners from all around the globe to reach youth in

77

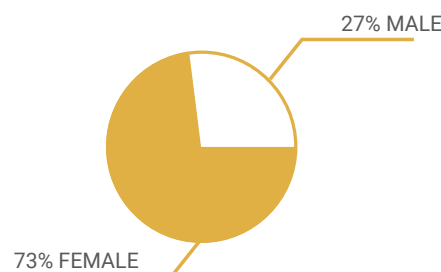
countries



Worked with
(and paid!)

59

young folks



Leveraged over

\$450,000 USD

to support youth-led climate action, with over

\$120,000 USD

going directly to participants



Directly engaged² over

1,600

young under the age of 30 and

200

young-at-heart individuals, and indirectly engaged³ over

2,300

folks



Supported

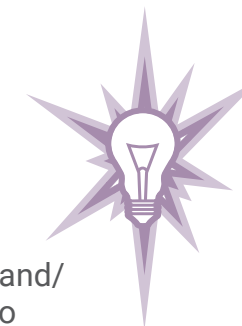
47

youth-led climate ventures

Sparked

93

youth-led policy ideas and/or recommendations to tackle climate



Reached over

1.8 MILLION

people on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram⁴ to increase awareness on climate action and showcase youth-led climate action

Follow

WHILE YOU'RE HERE...

We want to note that accounting for this is no easy task - and doing so comes with a number of disclaimers and considerations:

Contribution vs. Attribution: Our vision can only be accomplished alongside other's work. Efforts and results presented in this section multiply alongside other individuals and organizations, and we want to emphasize that our interventions are only contributions to the system change needed to create a more climate-resilient and just world.

Data Collection Gaps and Assumptions: Before, during and after our projects, we collect quantitative and qualitative data on participants and their experiences, including staff and partners. However, it is worth noting that in some cases our sample size has been insufficient to draw meaningful conclusions. In those instances, data has been excluded from this analysis, or assumptions made will be noted in text.

.....

- 2 This includes young participants in all of our programs and events led
- 3 This includes everyone that participants in our programs and events directly engaged with, as a direct result of our intervention
- 4 Aggregate impressions across platforms



OUR IMPACT SHIFTING SKILLS MAY 2017 - 2020

We empowered nearly 1,400 young climate leaders with skills and tools to shake things up.

Over the last three years, we have created and made available tools, resources and methods that helped 1,389 young people increase their impact as climate leaders and lead collective climate action. From creating Lab processes and design thinking journals, to hosting nature retreats and international delegations to the United Nations climate negotiations: we equipped youth with leadership, collaboration and creative design skills, and the opportunities to apply them to take concrete climate action in their communities and on the international stage.

Many of our 21 projects focused on shifting skills, with over 90 percent of our youth participants reported to have either acquired or further developed a skill to support them in their journey as climate leaders. In doing so, we fostered over 850 individual connections for our participants to receive support, make meaningful relationships and help accelerate their ideas for climate action.

A SNAPSHOT OF OUR IMPACT:

92 percent of attendees reported that they met new people and future collaborators. Even better, 100 percent of the people who came to the event with an idea for a company, campaign, or initiative found new collaborators – Our2030

“FutureXChange has empowered me through this mental shift from ‘I don't know what to do, I don't know how to do it’, to ‘Oh, we can do this, and so many people are supporting us”

– Julia, Community Activator, Haida Gwaii on FutureXChange, our 7-month fellowship co-designed with Gwich'in Tribal Council and Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation.



OUR IMPACT SHIFTING POLICY MAY 2017 - 2020

We cultivated creative spaces for nearly 700 youth to understand, engage with, and influence climate policy.

Our unique models of engagement, such as the Policy Jam, or tools such as our online Policy Hub, helped young people understand complex Canadian and international policy issues, connect with experts – both youth and young-at-hearts – and see their ideas and experiences as key pieces of policymaking. 94 percent of people we have engaged with in-person have reported an increase in their awareness and understanding of climate issues, solutions and/or processes.

Our work also sparked nearly 100 new policy ideas and recommendations by young people from 32 countries. We are proud that these ideas have been heard in national and international climate arenas. We have also acted as intervenors in the Supreme Court of Canada and spoken to high-level audiences on the need to protect future generations and the catalytic potential of youth-led ideas.

A SNAPSHOT OF OUR IMPACT:

- We designed and hosted ten Policy Jams across nine communities, in schools, community centres and at the United Nations HQ to convene youth, government representatives, and other stakeholders to co-create innovative solutions to climate-related policy problems. Thanks to our partners, and to our incredible participants, these have reached decision-makers:
- Out of the four policy recommendations that came out of the G7 Youth and Women Oceans Policy Jam in Halifax, 2018, one was adopted by the G7 Environment Ministers.
- Out of the 33+ policy recommendations that came out of our Our2030 Policy Jams in March 2019, nine were addressed in the “Towards Canada’s 2030 Agenda National Strategy”.
- The main findings of our Policy Jam on unlocking climate finance at the first-ever UN Youth Climate Action Summit were presented by YCL to influential decision-makers at the High-Level Dialogue on Finance for Development as part of the UN General Assembly in September 2019.



OUR IMPACT SHIFTING FINANCE MAY 2017 - 2020

We supported 47 youth-led climate solutions to increase their impact.

Our efforts focused on helping young people co-create ideas and turn these into projects and businesses that can help transform communities. When we first launched YCL, our focus was solely on supporting early-stage ideas. We created tools, cultivated spaces where youth can connect to resources and mentors, and developed accelerator programs

that provide technical assistance and funding. We quickly learned this was not enough, and began leading advocacy and research efforts to explore the unique financial challenges and opportunities for young climate entrepreneurs, and how international climate finance can better include and respond to youth needs.



A SNAPSHOT OF OUR IMPACT:

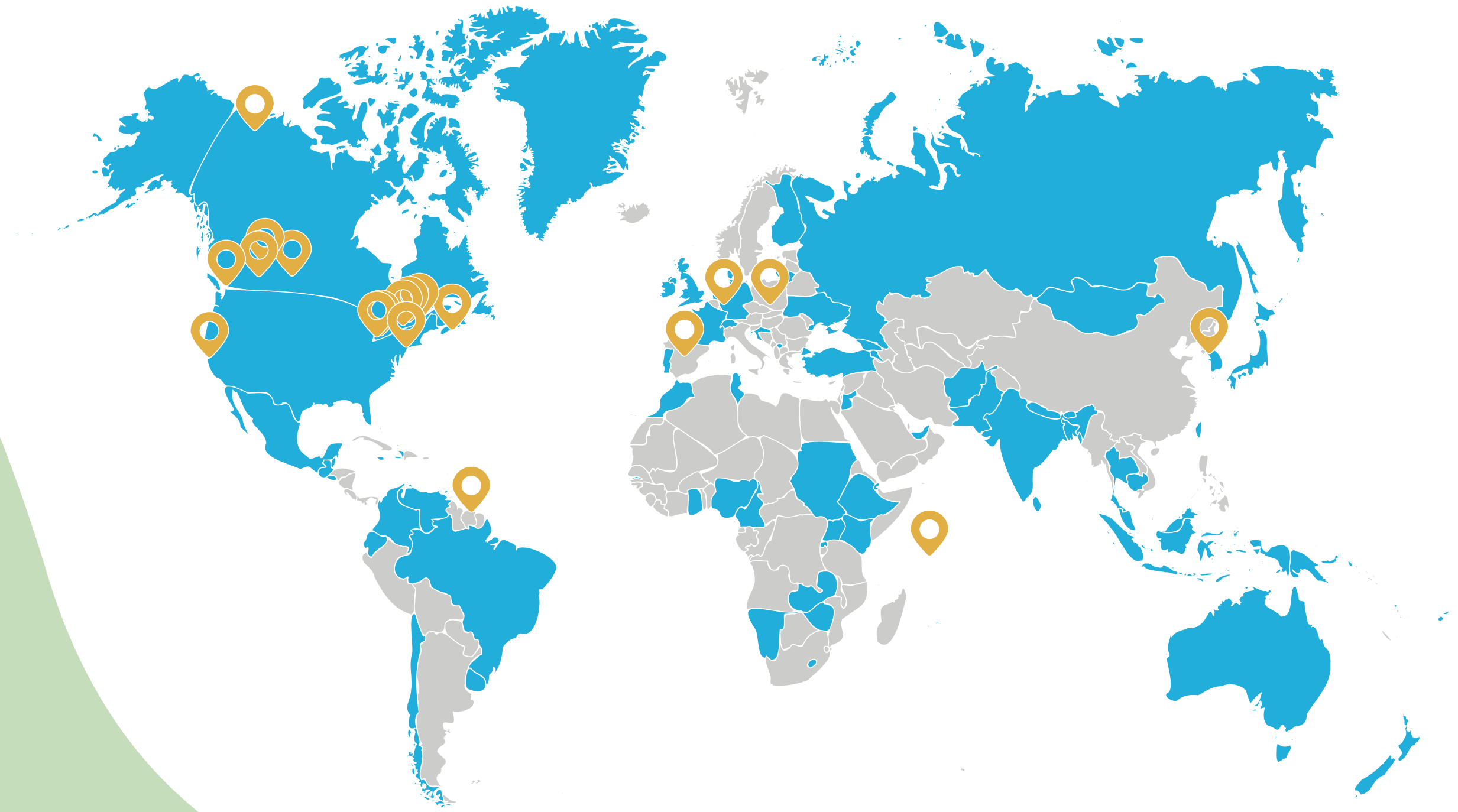
In partnership with the Global Green Growth Institute & Student Energy, we created a 12-week virtual accelerator program and business plan competition to support aspiring young entrepreneurs primarily in the Global South turn their sustainable business idea into a concrete plan. Teams participated in online modules, webinars, and weekly tasks, accessed mentors and subject matter experts, and competed for seed funding to continue their efforts.

- We created the Pop-Up Lab as a “one-stop shop” for youth to connect with each other and mentors to share their ideas, collaborate and connect to resources that can help accelerate their ideas. We hosted Pop-Up Labs in five communities, with participants as young as 12 years old.
- We conducted surveys, interviews, and workshops with 165 young climate leaders from over 25 developing countries to identify their struggles and/ or successes in finding funding to support their work; as well as how they’ve interacted with, or perceived the availability of, existing channels of climate finance.



WE'VE BEEN AROUND...

Our work extends beyond borders. We have worked with youth from 77 countries, as well as hosted activations and speaking engagements in 33 communities.



LESSONS FROM OUR FIRST 3 YEARS

Numbers are cool, but tell only a part of our story. We prioritize learning from everything we do, and have taken this opportunity to reflect on the strengths and limitations of our core practices and activities, the assumptions and thinking we bring into our work, and how we see the system and what's holding it into place. While we have enough lessons and insights to fill multiple books, we thought it best to share a few:



1 WE ARE RADICAL COLLABORATORS

We don't do things alone, nor do we want to. All of our programs are collaborative, from inception to implementation. Often, they involve multiple "rad collabs" that challenge our assumptions, reach new audiences and improve what we do in ways we could not have done on our own. They also help us catalyze new opportunities. When implementing our 21 projects, we ended up forming nearly 90 unique partnerships on top of our existing partners.



2 WE HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO DO TO CENTRE FRONTLINE VOICES

From the beginning, we sought to create internal structures, training and culture to operate and deliver impact according to our values and ensure we do not unwillingly perpetuate and maintain harmful systems, inequities, and barriers. We have a lot to learn, and even more to do, to challenge our ways of knowing and being, check our privilege and centre the voices and ideas of those on the frontlines of climate impacts.

3 WE TALK ABOUT YOUTH, BUT IT'S MUCH BIGGER THAN THAT

Climate is everything. It's about inequality, health, culture, food security. It is a human rights issue. We push for youth voices and ideas to be elevated and meaningfully considered because intersectional action is the only way we're going to solve this crisis. Youth need to be meaningfully involved, and so do the voices and communities made vulnerable and marginalized by current systems of oppression.

4 WE DEMAND MORE THAN A SEAT "AT THE TABLE"

The youth climate landscape has transformed since our inception. When we first started, we spent hours explaining to decision-makers *why* youth need to be at the table. While most now recognize the importance of youth, it's clear youth empowerment isn't enough. We need to actively shape the processes and outcomes to make sure we reach and exceed our climate goals. We need an ecosystem of support for youth-led action, one where young-at-hearts are willing to share power and access, and work together with youth to shift the conditions that delay ambitious climate action.

5 WE'RE A LITTLE BIT OLDER, AND A LOT WISER

We are, and will always be, a youth-for-youth organization. Our model is grounded in working with a young team of staff members and Associates, and we work to cultivate a team culture of learning and growth. We see the importance of mentorship, particularly as more young people are starting and shaping climate initiatives. We've been privileged to learn from, and build on the shoulders of, those who came before us in the youth environmental movements. We will continue to create spaces to uplift younger voices who may not take traditional pathways into the climate space.

THE NEXT THREE:

OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

We have built a strong foundation, and we are excited for our next chapter. While change around us is constant, we are unwavering in our commitment to achieve our mission and vision with what we do best: designing, piloting, and scaling collaborative experiments. What will differ? We are more ambitious, creative and focused than ever before.

Over the last months, we worked with our staff, Board of Directors and partners to identify where and how we could have the most impact over the next three years. We came up with three strategic objectives, and set out five actions to bring them to life.

1 Equip youth on the frontlines to create the climate futures they deserve, no matter their geographies, disciplines or lived experiences.

Over the next three years, we will create programs that help youth hone the skills to be creative leaders, systems thinkers, radical collaborators and creative problem solvers that can lead collective action, implement community-driven climate solutions, and thrive in an age of uncertainty. By design, the young people who are afforded opportunity are those in urban centers, with access to higher-education and resources. We recognize the importance of activating programs in remote and rural areas, and building space to learn from one another.

We are committed to doubling down on our creative programming with partnerships around the globe to particularly focus on working with youth living and working on the frontlines of climate impacts. We're kicking it off in mid-2020 with a two-year fellowship in collaboration with partners in the Bay of Bengal and the Arctic in 2020-2021, and a number of projects with Canadian and international partners on the future of work in an age of climate change.



2 Create new-to-the-world Labs that bridge art-based approaches, radical collaboration and climate justice to spark inclusive policy solutions

In a time where many countries lack the political will to enhance their climate plans,⁵ we are committed to designing projects that foster meaningful and disruptive collaborations to create policy solutions that anchor intergenerational equity. In doing so, we will work with young creatives to include art-based approaches to build empathy, explore and uncover important narratives and facilitate policy dialogues in new ways.



3 Foster new pathways to catalyze finance to scale youth-led ideas everywhere

Our work to support and scale youth-led climate solutions to date has focused on early-stage ventures. While impactful, it is not enough to address the systemic barriers that produce the lack of access to resources for youth. An important shift is needed to tackle the uneven distribution of climate financing. We view our role in designing projects that catalyze youth-responsive financing. In practice, this will mean convening an ecosystem of support, namely funders and partners, to develop and facilitate innovative financing mechanisms to build the capacity of young climate leaders and entrepreneurs, and help them scale their transformative ideas.

⁵ At the time of writing, according to the NDC Tracker, 34 countries have stated their intention to update an NDC by 2020 (including the European Union), representing 9.3 percent% of global emissions; 106 countries have stated their intention to enhance ambition or action in an NDC by 2020, representing 15 percent% of global emissions; and 7 countries have submitted a 2020 NDC, representing 2.8 percent% of global emissions.

HOW WE'RE GOING TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

We know, we have big ideas. We are shaping big plans to achieve our objectives, grounded in these five actions that are cross-cutting within our work.



1 PRACTICING ALLYSHIP

Building on our iterative allyship strategy, relationships with Indigenous communities and organizations, as well as with other communities made vulnerable, we are committed to decolonizing climate spaces by creating and implementing projects that are inclusive, intersectional, and prioritize the ideas and voices of those on the frontlines of climate change.

2 CULTIVATING A GLOBAL COMMUNITY

Our projects have taken us across the globe, and we commit to building a team that reflects just that. For us, that means growing a diverse and international team; fostering a culture of learning, creativity, collaboration and equity; and growing our community of YCL Associates.

3 DATA-DRIVEN LEARNING

We evaluate our impact both on a project basis and how they relate to each other. As we move forward, we commit to shaping our projects in ways that allow us to accurately and systematically monitor, evaluate and learn from our impact. In doing so, we will continue to build the evidence base for youth-led impact.

4 RADICAL COLLABORATIONS

We commit to exploring new forms of intersectional problem-solving, where people across generations and sectors collaborate on equal footing. This will include building partnerships with values-aligned organizations that can help us multiply and deepen our impact in Canada and across the globe.

5 RESILIENT AND DIVERSE FUNDING

Youth are overworked and overtired from the uncertainty we face, but we persist because we trust in building a better world. We're building a movement where every young person's skills are valued, credited, and compensated. As we grow, we seek to move from project-based funding to transformative investments that support the systems change we are driving.



WE CAN'T DO THIS ALONE

We can't achieve these shifts alone, nor do we want to. This is the beginning of a new chapter in our climate action journey. We are young climate leaders ready to take our ideas to new heights, and we invite you to join us.



THANK YOU

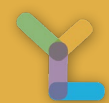
We are so grateful to the countless people who have supported and helped us shape the first three years of YCL, none of this would have been possible without you.

To our team of Staff, Associates and Board Members who helped shape YCL from the inside-out, and experienced first-hand the growing pains of a small non-profit organization with big dreams.

To our funders, big and small, past and present, thank you for your generous support.

To our partners, and there are many of you, thank you for the energy and ideas on our collaborative design and implementation.

And most importantly, thank you to all the youth we've worked with, who never cease to inspire us.



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