



Northeast Ohio Youth Climate Future Forum



Presented by the Cleveland Hub of the Global Shapers Community

Background:

The [NEO Youth Climate Future Forum](#) is borne out of the urgent need to activate youth voices in the dialogue and action on climate change and resilience in Northeast Ohio. The Forum is creating a platform to bring together a growing youth climate network in the region to exchange ideas and lessons, share learnings, and support training opportunities. The Forum will bring together a group of about 300 vibrant, passionate, and environmentally conscious young people from seven counties in the region for a weekend-long exchange of knowledge, experiences, and preparation for collective action.

The importance of engaging youth voices in acting to mitigate the effects of climate change and take immediate action cannot be overstated. Even though there have been small, scattered efforts to engage youth, there has been little or no concerted effort to connect all these discrete groups to build a formidable front for advocacy and action. This Forum seeks to initiate this effort.

The planning and facilitation of this Forum are being led by the World Economic Forum- Global Shapers Cleveland Hub. The [Global Shapers Community](#) is a network of young people driving dialogue, action, and change across the globe. There are currently over 9000 members across the world in over 150 countries.

Details of the Forum:

The forum is modeled partly after the United Nations' first-ever Youth Climate Summit, which took place last year and was attended by young people from across the world, including Cleveland Global Shaper- Elena Stachew. The [Global Shapers Cleveland Hub](#) is leading the organization of this forum with the support of several local partners, including but not limited to: Drink Local Drink Tap, Black Environmental Leaders, Ohio Environmental Council, MyCom Cleveland, Cleveland Foundation, and Gund Foundation. This Forum is grounded in sound community engagement practices and equity principles: *Equity & Inclusion, Mutual Respect, Transparency & Trust, Teamwork & Power Sharing, Impact & Action.*

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the first Forum's format has been changed from in-person to virtual. Subsequent events will hopefully be conducted in person. The forum will feature some combination of keynote speakers, panel discussions, breakout workshops, intergenerational dialogue, and a career panel. The contents, speakers, and format of the forum are being curated with the help of middle school, high school, and college students as well as young professionals with whom we have been engaging with through various town hall meetings throughout the region.

Date: October 16-18, 2020 [Detailed Agenda Coming Soon]

Venue/Format: VIRTUAL due to changes subject to COVID-19. The event is targeting about 300 participants. For more information, contact the NEO Youth Climate Future Forum team at contact@neoclimatefuture.org.