Youth Policy Academy (YPA) Training Curriculum

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Duration: 10 months
Target group: Young people (16–30) with prior interest or experience in environmental or social justice engagement
Pedagogical approach: Popular education, peer learning, experiential learning, campaign-based learning

Curriculum Structure Overview

Phase	Focus	Core Competence Developed
Phase 1	Orientation & Political Self-Positioning	Understanding youth political agency and role in change and how to deal with climate anxiety
Phase 2	Understanding Advocacy & Movement History	Learning from environmental movement practice and organisational resources
Phase 3	Policy Influence in Practice	Exposure to real policy spaces and civil society processes
Phase 4	Campaign Design & Creative Advocacy	Building concrete campaign plans and creative advocacy tools
Phase 5	Advanced Campaign Strategy	Linking policy analysis to strategic campaigning
Phase 6	Autonomous Campaign Work	Working groups, production, and implementation
Phase 7	Reflection, Confidence & Leadership	Evaluation, confidence-building, and leadership ownership

Module 1 — Introduction to Youth Political Agency

Timing: Month 1 (Digital)

Learning objectives

- Understand the purpose of the YPA
- Learning more about Friends of the Earth
- Reflect on youth roles in political change
- Identify personal motivations and interests in climate justice
- Establish group norms and expectations

Methods

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- Digital Four Corners exercise
- Guided political reflection discussion
- Expectation mapping
- Check-in / check-out evaluation practice

Outputs

- Participant interest map
- Agreed meeting structure
- Baseline understanding of youth perceptions of influence

Module 2 — Movement History, Motivation & Organisational Resources

Timing: Month 2 (In-person weekend)

Learning objectives

- Understand historical successes of the environmental movement
- Learn how civil society organisations support advocacy work
- Map personal engagement journeys
- Begin collective campaign thinking

Methods

- Motivational lecture from senior activist
- Engagement timeline workshop
- Introduction to organisational tools (communications, legal, networks)
- Informal intergenerational exchange with long-time activists

Outputs

- Increased motivation and sense of belonging to a movement
- Understanding available advocacy infrastructure
- Initial campaign direction

Module 3 — Experiencing Policy Spaces (Klimatriksdag) & inspirational visits

Timing: Month 4 (External conference participation and visit to new Bauhaus initiative)

Learning objectives

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- Observe real policy influence processes
- Learn how civil society formulates political proposals
- Build networks with activists and organisations
- Reduce feelings of isolation in climate concerns
- Get inspiration for policy work

Methods

- Participation in seminars, panels, workshops
- Thematic session choice by interest
- Networking and alliance building
- Visit inspirational projects and discuss what we can learn from these

Outputs

- Practical understanding of policy advocacy
- New contacts and alliances
- Increased confidence, inspiration and motivation

Module 4 — Campaign Creation & Artivism

Timing: Month 4 (In-person workshop)

Learning objectives

- Translate political concerns into campaign ideas
- Learn creative advocacy methods (artivism)
- Explore utopian thinking as a counter to climate despair

Methods

- Campaign ideation workshop
- Feasibility assessment of campaign options
- “In My Utopia” collage art workshop
- Group reflection on cultural narratives

Outputs

- Two concrete campaign concepts
- Six visual advocacy collages
- Understanding role of art in advocacy

Module 5 — Advanced Campaign Strategy & Policy Analysis (Forest Retreat)

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Timing: Month 8 (In-person weekend)

Learning objectives

- Learn strategic campaign framework (Why / What / How)
- Understand complex policy issues (EU-Mercosur, ISDS, Binding Treaty)
- Connect international policy to local advocacy
- Plan real campaigns with deadlines

Methods

- Guest lecture from UN Youth Climate Advisory member
- Policy briefings
- Campaign planning sessions by a lake (informal setting)
- Shared cooking and political discussions

Outputs

- Decision to run EU-Mercosur social media campaign
- Action plans for ISDS and Binding Treaty campaigns
- Increased confidence in campaign planning

Module 6 — Working Groups & Autonomous Production

Timing: Months 9–10 (Hybrid & Online)

Learning objectives

- Take ownership of campaign tools
- Work in specialised advocacy formats
- Develop concrete outputs

Working groups created

- Editorial
- Quiz
- Event planning
- Illustrations
- Podcast

Methods

- Hybrid coordination meetings
- Slogan development
- Peer-led progress updates
- Self-selected contribution formats

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Outputs

- Editorial content
- Quiz concept for advocacy
- Event and media plans

Module 7 — Reflection, Evaluation & Confidence Building

Integrated throughout, formalised after major meetings

Learning objectives

- Build confidence in advocacy capacity
- Reflect on learning and improvement
- Identify knowledge gaps (e.g. need for pre-reading)

Methods

- Post-event evaluation forms
- Check-out rounds
- Feedback integration into next sessions

Key learning from participants

- Increased confidence in campaign work
- High appreciation for brainstorming and practical sessions
- Request for preparatory reading material before policy sessions

Competences Developed Across the Programme

Participants developed the ability to:

- Analyse environmental policy and trade agreements
- Understand corporate power mechanisms (ISDS, Binding Treaty)
- Design and plan advocacy campaigns
- Use creative and cultural tools in activism
- Work in teams with self-selected roles
- Navigate civil society spaces and networks
- Reflect critically on youth political agency
- Engage with both local and international policy issues

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Pedagogical Characteristics

- Popular education methodology
- Experiential learning in real political contexts
- Intergenerational learning
- Informal learning environments (forest cabin, shared meals)
- Creative expression alongside policy analysis
- Gradual shift from facilitated learning to participant ownership

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