

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 13, 2013

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PLANT-FOR-THE-PLANET ACADEMY EMPOWERS LOCAL SCHOOLCHILDREN TO PLANT TREES AND CLAIM CLIMATE JUSTICE

SEATTLE, WA – On Friday, May 24, 2013, eighty children from a variety of local schools will come together for the first Plant-for-the-Planet Academy in the Western United States. Students aged 8-14 will participate in a one-day workshop held at Golden Gardens Bathhouse in Seattle, WA. They will explore the topics of the climate crisis, global citizenship and global justice, and will learn how they can act now to save the future of the planet. They will focus on developing the skills needed to engage their communities in tree-planting and raising awareness about global climate issues. All students will be named Climate Justice Ambassadors and will end the day by making a presentation to families and invited guests, with plans towards sharing their presentations with other audiences and organizing tree-planting activities throughout the area.

Plant-for-the-Planet is a global initiative comprised of youth from over 70 countries. Over 18,000 students have been through the academy and have joined forces as leaders of the Official Tree-Planting Campaign of the United Nations. The Seattle event on May 24th is the first Plant-for-the-Planet Academy in the United States beyond the East Coast.

The foundation is governed by children and supported by adults, and believes everyone can do something to reverse climate change. They believe that together – as a world family – we can solve global problems by actively shaping our future by organizing tree planting parties, giving speeches, and encouraging others to participate. A tree takes 10kg of CO₂ out of the air each year and during its lifetime a total of about 3 tons of CO₂. Each tree is a symbol of climate justice.

“Seattle is a city that pays attention to climate change and the impacts we make to future generations. That’s why it’s the ideal place to launch Plant-for-the-Planet”, says Michael Foster, organizer of the Seattle academy and local father of two daughters. “Thanks to support from the Office of the Mayor, the Seattle Parks Dept., 4-H/WSU Extension, and to NBBJ, we can offer this academy free of cost, open to all students.”

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About Plant-for-the-Planet:

The Plant-for-the-Planet Children's Initiative began in January 2007, originating from a school report on the climate crisis by Felix Finkbeiner, then 9 years old. At the end of his presentation, Felix put forward the vision that children could plant one million trees in every country in the world to balance carbon emissions. In the years since, Plant-for-the-Planet has evolved into a global movement with thousands of committed children across the world – world citizens committed to climate justice by achieving an overall reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and a unified distribution of these emissions among all of humankind.

Plant-for-the-Planet has had a democratic structure since March 2011. It has two elected Global Boards, one for children aged 8-14, and one for youth aged 15-21; each consists of 14 children with representatives from eight world regions.

Since taking over responsibility for the Billion Tree Campaign from UNEP in 2011, the children have set themselves a new goal of planting 1,000 billion trees worldwide by 2020. With such a giant CO₂ storage facility, 10 billion tons of CO₂ could be offset, buying us valuable time to permanently reduce our CO₂ emission. We will meet our goal if every global citizen plants 150 trees. So far, over 12 billion trees have been planted across 193 countries.

For more information visit www.plant-for-the-planet.org.

To see a video on Plant-for-the-Planet, visit

www.climatechangeforfamilies.com/2013/03/17/bringing-plant-for-the-planet-to-seattle/

To view the current tree-o-meter (official tree count), visit www.plant-for-the-planet-billiontreecampaign.org/