



Let's go green: making international youth mobility sustainable

Developments and Perspectives

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CLIMATE & YOUTH

- Effects on mental and physical health of youth, including exposure to environmental toxins and related illnesses

(Sheffield & Landrigan, 2010)

Objective:
Becoming more Sustainable/ in sync with Planet Earth

Internal

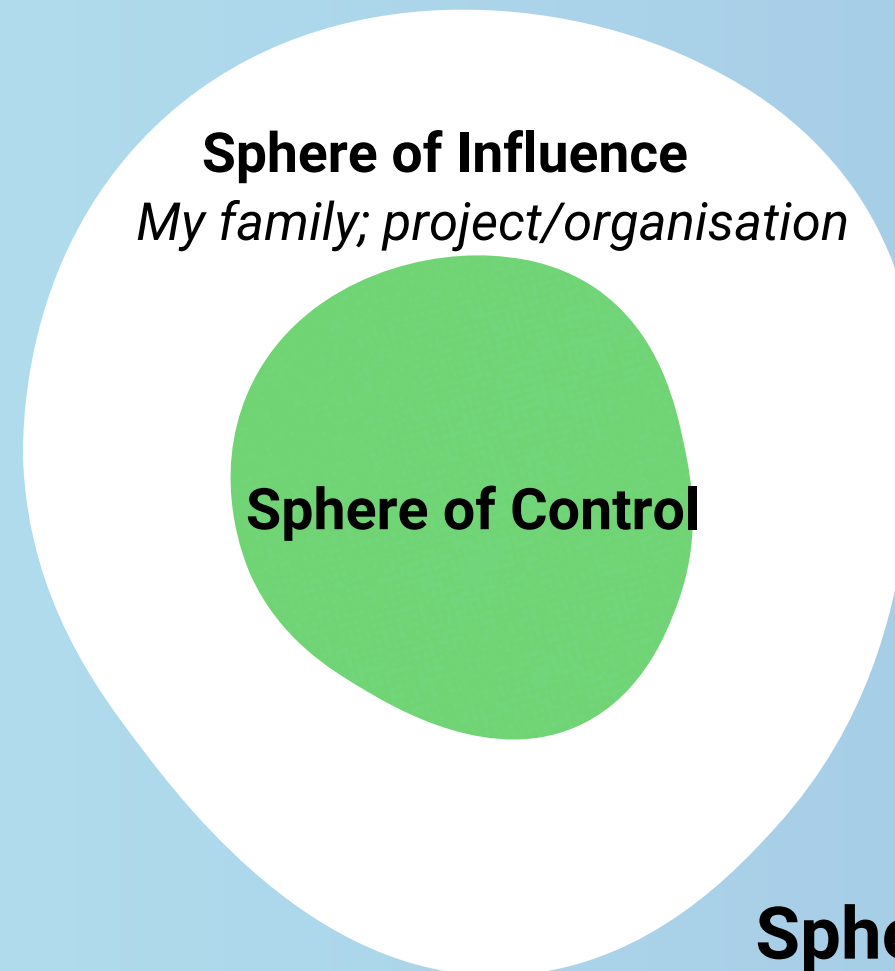
External

PRACTICING A HOLISTIC VIEW : SPHERES



PRACTICING A HOLISTIC VIEW : SPHERES

reduce or expand?

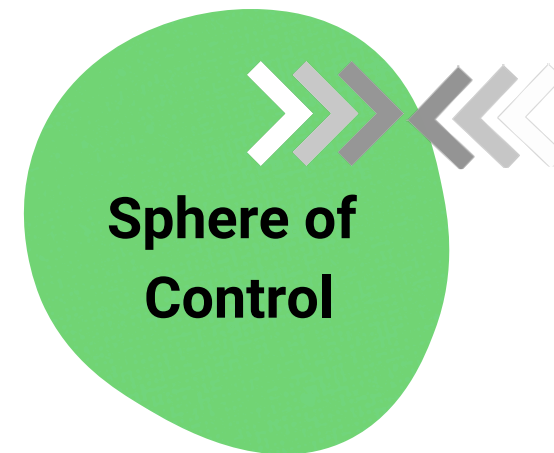


Sphere of Concern
*Local, national governments;
climate processes
(Youth participation in policy
making!)*

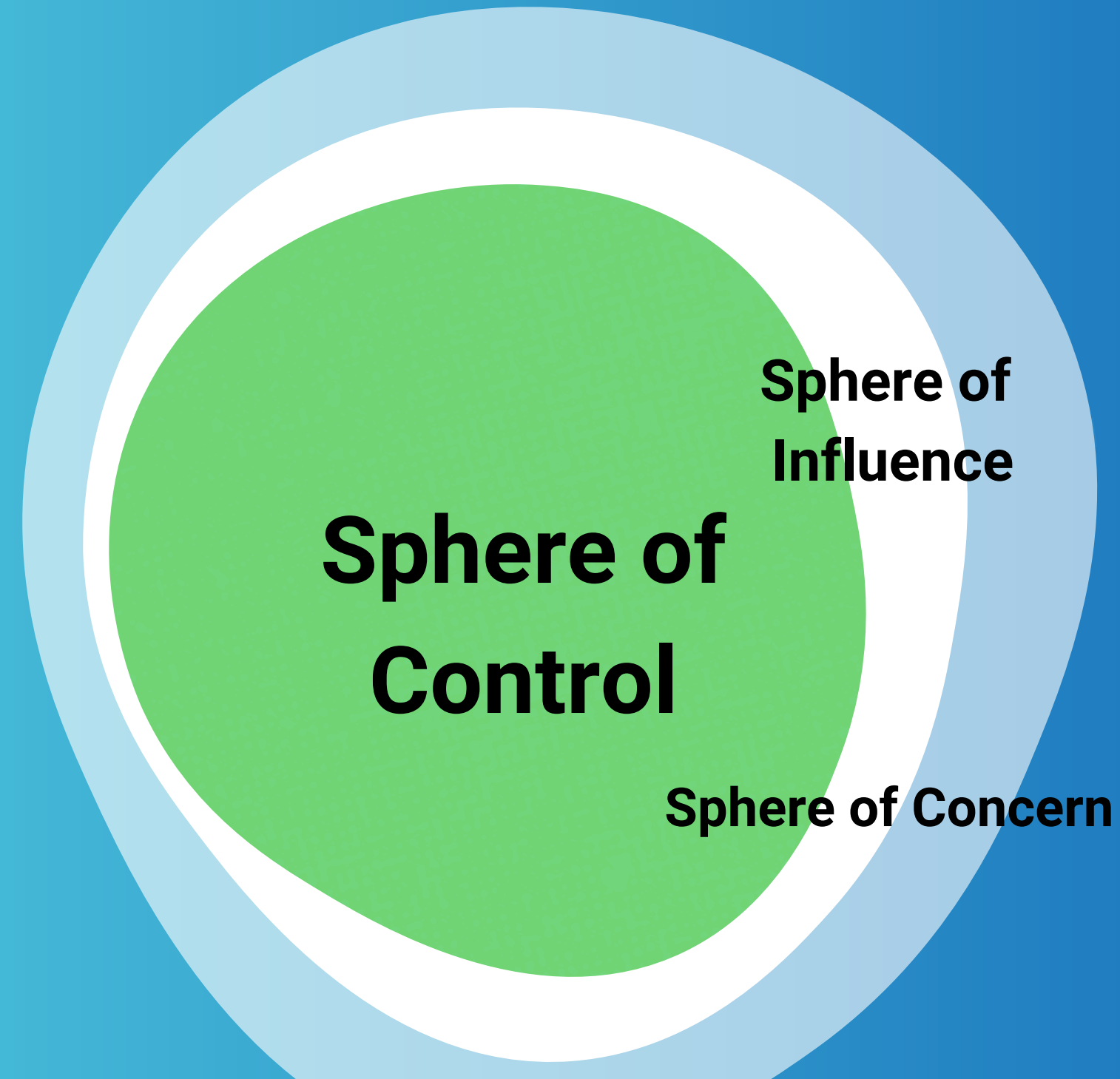


**Sphere of
Concern**

Sphere of Influence
My family; project/organisation



TOWARDS A HOLISTIC VIEW: INTEGRATION



KEY: ACTIVISM FROM STATE OF EQUANIMITY



Self-care
Self-inquiry
Knowing one's Purpose

WHAT ARE OUR MAIN DRIVERS?



Shadow sides (fieldwork observtion):

- Validation from others
- Space to vent
- Area to express deeply held anger, unreleased traumas

(>> conflict, burn out, etc.)

KEY: ACTING FROM STATE OF EQUANIMITY



Self-care

**Self-inquiry: Who am I? What is
my Purpose?**

EXTERNAL ACTION & YOUNG PEOPLE



- **Portugal** (7 young people - ECHR - to force 47 countries to stop further fossil fuel extraction)
- **Colombia** (25 youth activists - deforestation in the Amazon threatens rights to a healthy environment).
- **Germany** (9 climate activists: Germany's Constitutional Court ruled that the country's 2019 climate protection act must be improved)

YOUNG PEOPLE AND CLIMATE LITIGATION:

**SITUATION MAPPING AND
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
THE YOUTH SECTOR**

Youth Partnership

Partnership between the European Commission
and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth



EUROPEAN UNION



COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

EXTERNAL ACTION & YOUNG PEOPLE

Meeting people where they are

(e.g. GHETT'UP - combining climate education with advocacy against police violence)

Experiential learning

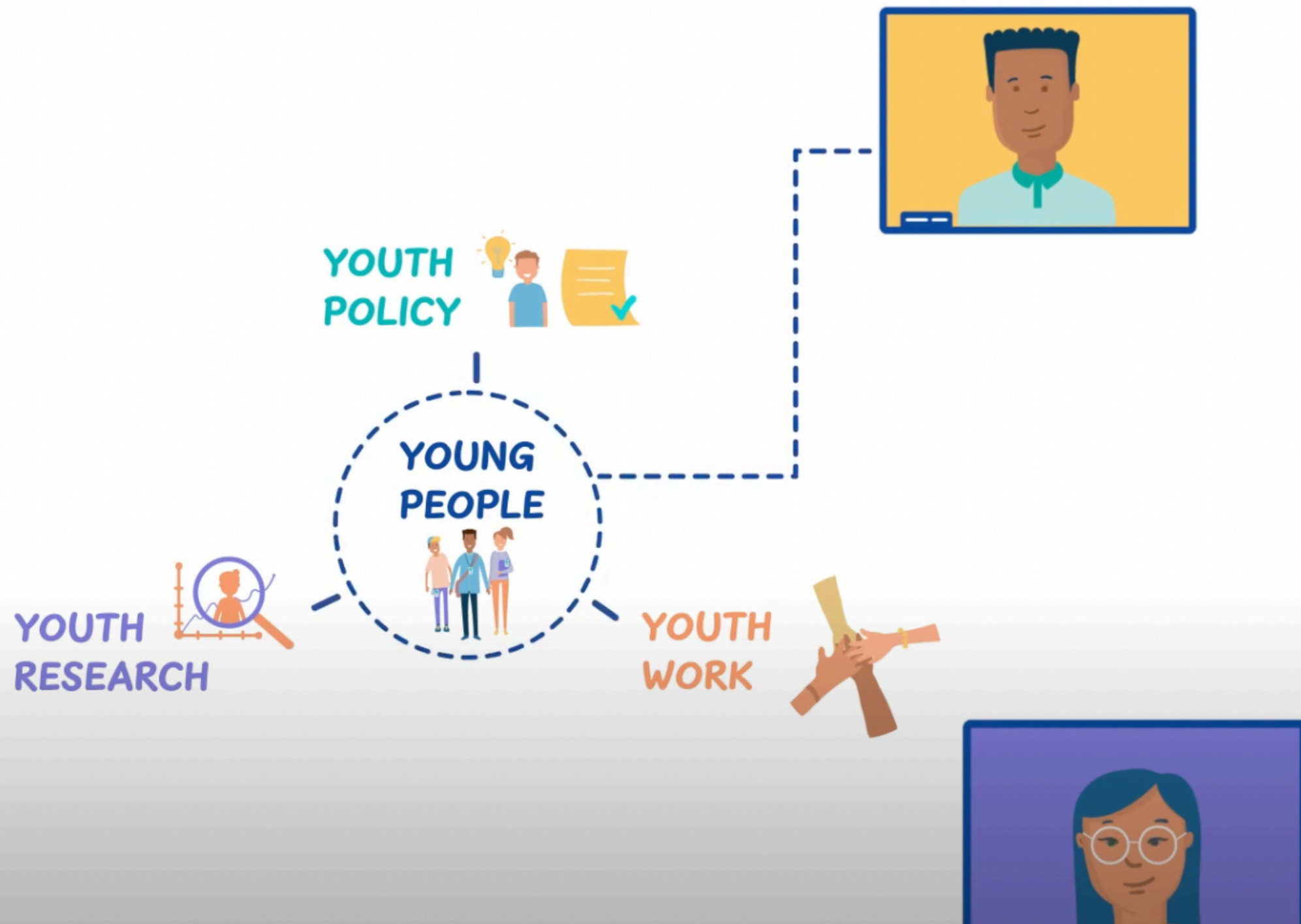
(forest therapy, tree planting)

GREENING THE YOUTH SECTOR

Sustainability Checklist



THE SUSTAINABILITY CHECKLIST



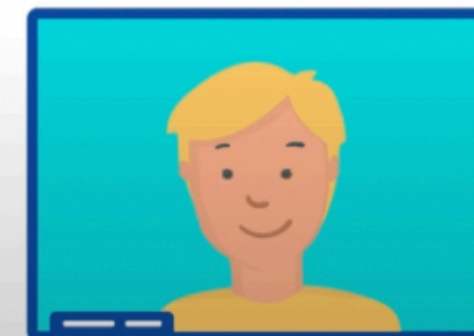
MAPPING
1

CONSULTATIONS
2



REVIEWS
2

THEMES
9



POINTS
81

- 1. Teamwork**
- 2. Accommodation and Venue**
- 3. Food and consumables**
- 4. Transport**
- 5. Printing and Paper**
- 6. Welcome packs and promotional gifts**
- 7. Buying Fair trade**
- 8. Reducing the Digital footprint**
- 9. Education**

GREENING THE YOUTH SECTOR

Sustainability Checklist



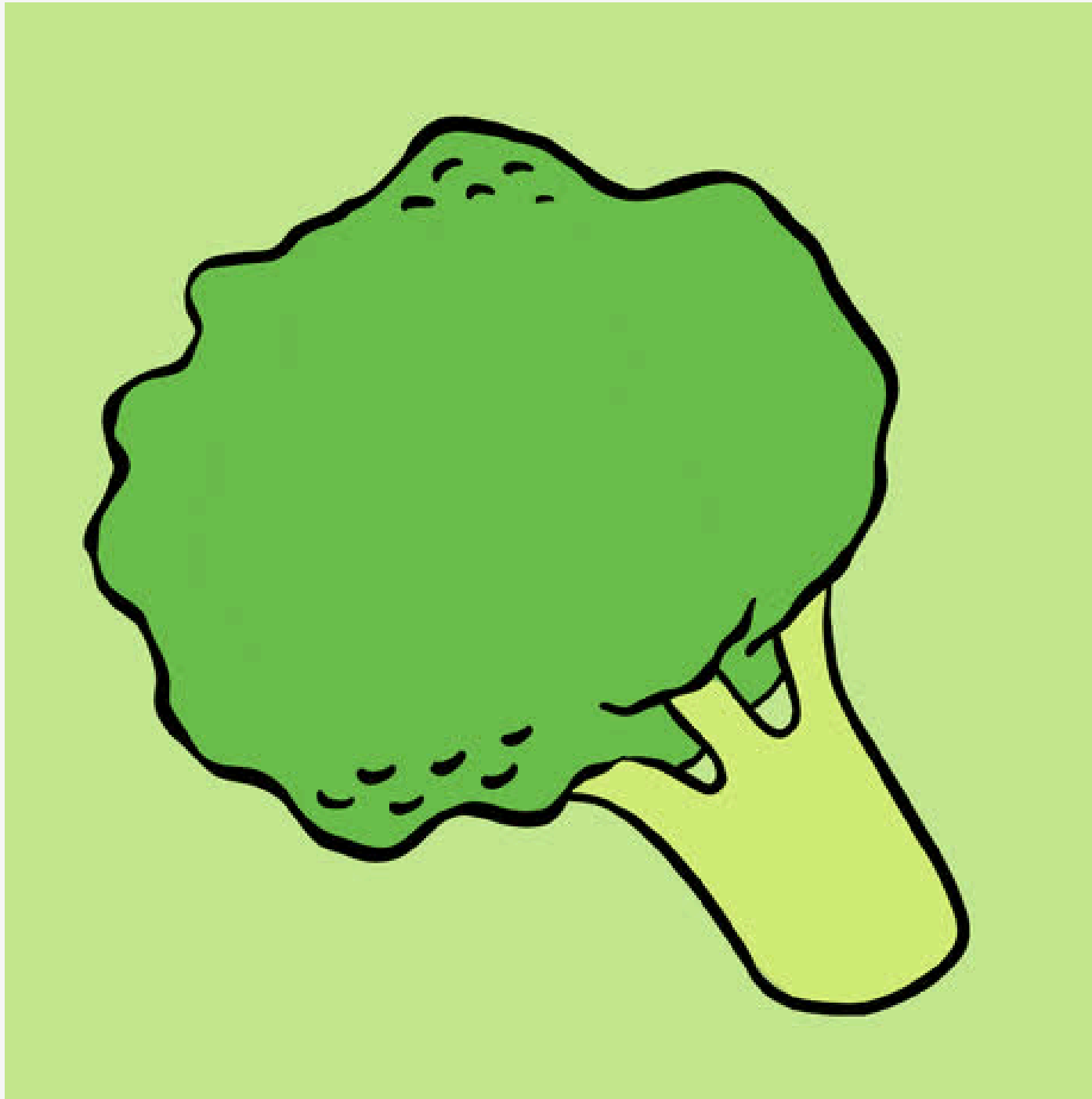
1. **Teamwork**
2. **Accommodation and Venue**
3. **Food and consumables**
4. **Transport**
5. **Printing and Paper**
6. **Welcome packs and promotional gifts**
7. **Buying Fair trade**
8. **Reducing the Digital footprint**
9. **Education**

GREENING THE YOUTH SECTOR

Sustainability Checklist



FOOD & CONSUMABLES



LOCAL

ORGANIC

....?

Demand-side mitigation potential | GHG mitigation potential of different diets

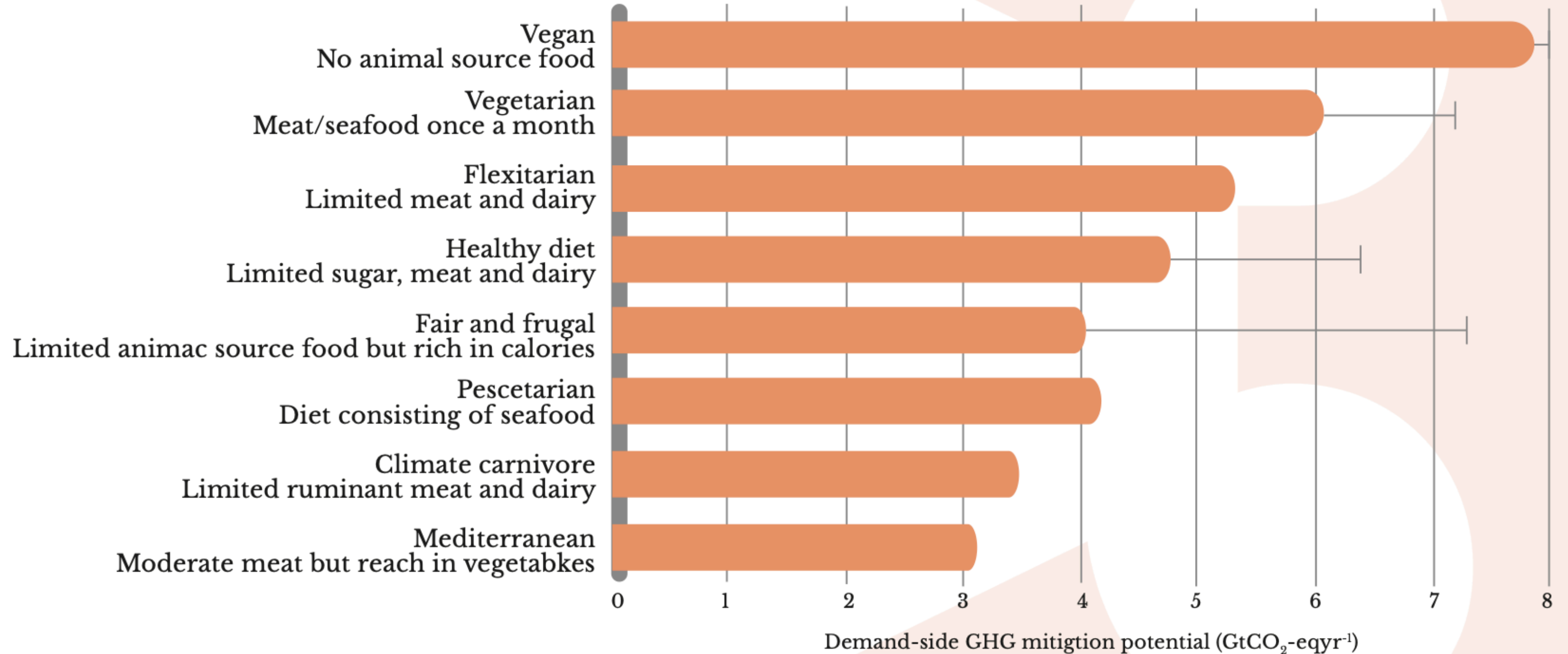


Figure 1. . Diet preferences and CO₂ emissions (Dunne 2020)



An aerial photograph showing a large fire burning in a forested area. Thick, dark smoke billows upwards from the fire, filling the upper half of the frame. The fire itself is visible as a bright orange and yellow area in the center, with some flames reaching up. The surrounding forest is a dense green, and the smoke is partially obscuring the sky.

Livestock sector generates more greenhouse gas emissions than transport.

Livestock and soy production is responsible for around **80% of deforestation in the Amazon, where rainforests are burnt, indigenous peoples are forcibly displaced in the soybean wars and to create space for cattle ranching (WWF). Pesticides linked to environmental degradation and a host of negative health impacts on people living near to soy farms.**

****77% of soy** is mostly produced to feed animals and produce dairy (Our World in Data, 2021).**

CLIMATE CRISIS & INEQUALITIES



Jennifer Rankin @JenniferMerode · Apr 6, 2020

...

Europe's Roma communities often living on polluted wastelands w/o running water or sanitation in their homes as a result of "environmental racism" - preview of sobering report by [@Green_Europe](#) out later this week

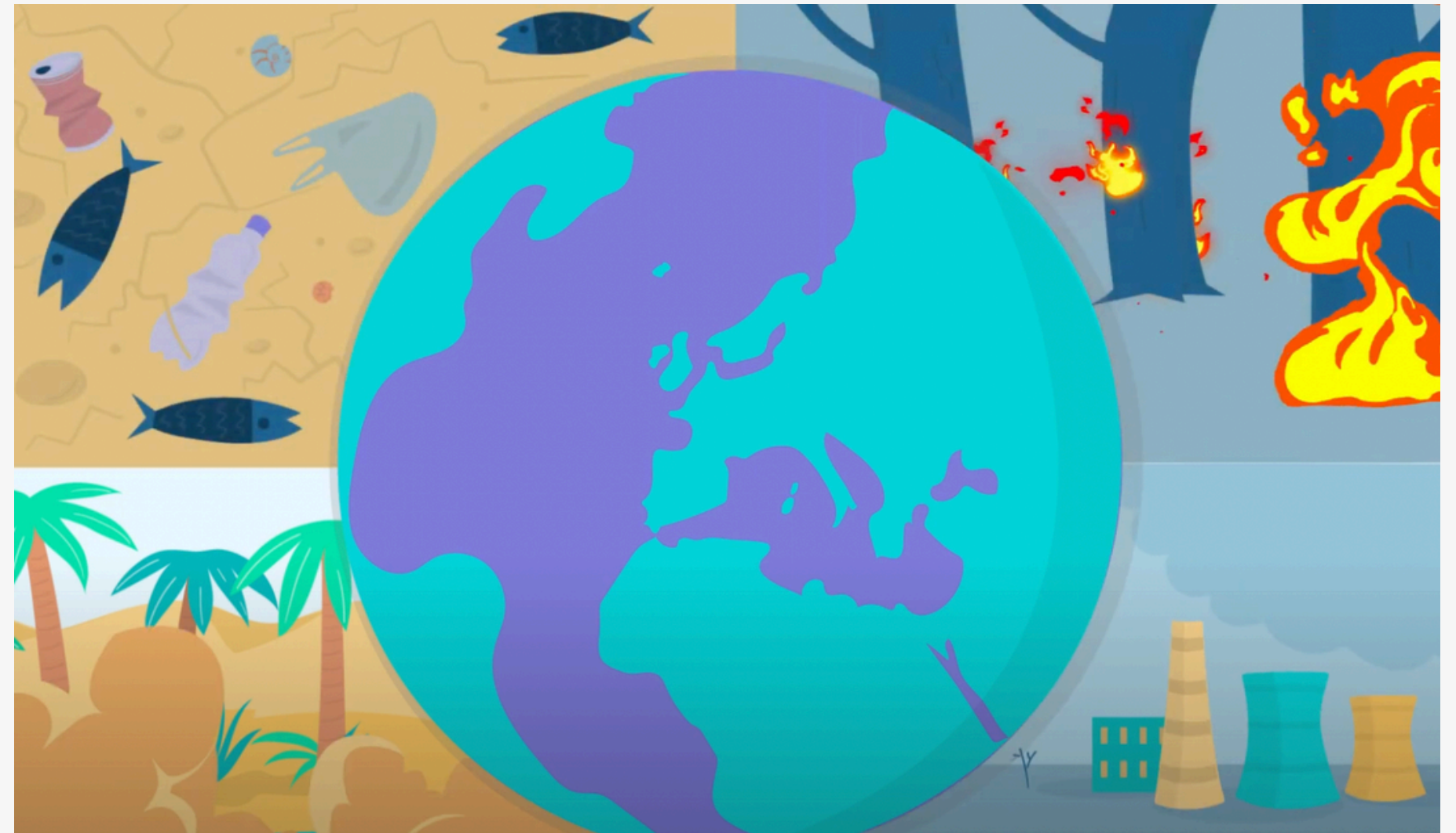


Roma suffer under EU's 'environmental racism', report concludes
Thousands live in squalor due to deliberate policies of exclusion and deprivation, says study

[theguardian.com](#)

CLIMATE CRISIS & INEQUALITIES

- Impact in the Global South - greater (i.e. PACE: 200 million displaced by 2050 due to climate).
- Global economic system heavily relies on unequal relations: people and resources of the Global South are exploited to feed the consumer habits and lifestyles of those of the Global North. (EU imports 43% of its products — including, crops, meat and coal — from abroad (World Bank, 2019).
- Offshoring environmental damage to other regions (i.e. having them clear their forest to prepare supply to be exported) has come to be known as climate colonialism.



TEAMWORK

Note: Decide with the team which principles make sense in the given context, considering the groups of young people being engaged.



To ensure efficient strategies for organising sustainable activities, it is important for the whole team to be engaged.

- ☐ Present the checklist to the team.
- ☐ Design the own approach together.
- ☐ Agree with participants which principles shall guide the work carried out at the meeting.

ACCOMMODATION & VENUE



Note: It is important to check ethical code of the company that owns the venue and to make sure it covers both sustainability and labour issues (some businesses marketing themselves as “green” may still provide poor labour conditions for their staff).

CHOOSING THE VENUE

- ☐ Check for **green certification** (e.g. in the hotel industry one can look for **Green Globe** or **Green Key** certification).
- ☐ Choose a venue that has an energy and water conservation programme (such as a recycling and waste minimisation programme, sustainable heating systems, etc.).
- ☐ Find out if there are water fountains available.
- ☐ Co operate with local social economy initiatives (co operatives, foundations, social enterprises) instead of big, commercial, for profit enterprises.
- ☐ Choose venues where workers’ rights are respected and where there is re-investment in the local community.

WATER

- ☐ Encourage (and remind) participants to bring their own water bottles (mention this ahead of the event).
- ☐ Some countries are fortunate enough to have clean, drinkable tap water. Find out if that is the case at your venue.
- ☐ Provide a reusable, individual glass for the whole event.
- ☐ Use paper tape for people to write their names on their cups, enabling reuse. Avoid plastic cups and bottles!
- ☐ Request that no bottled water be served.

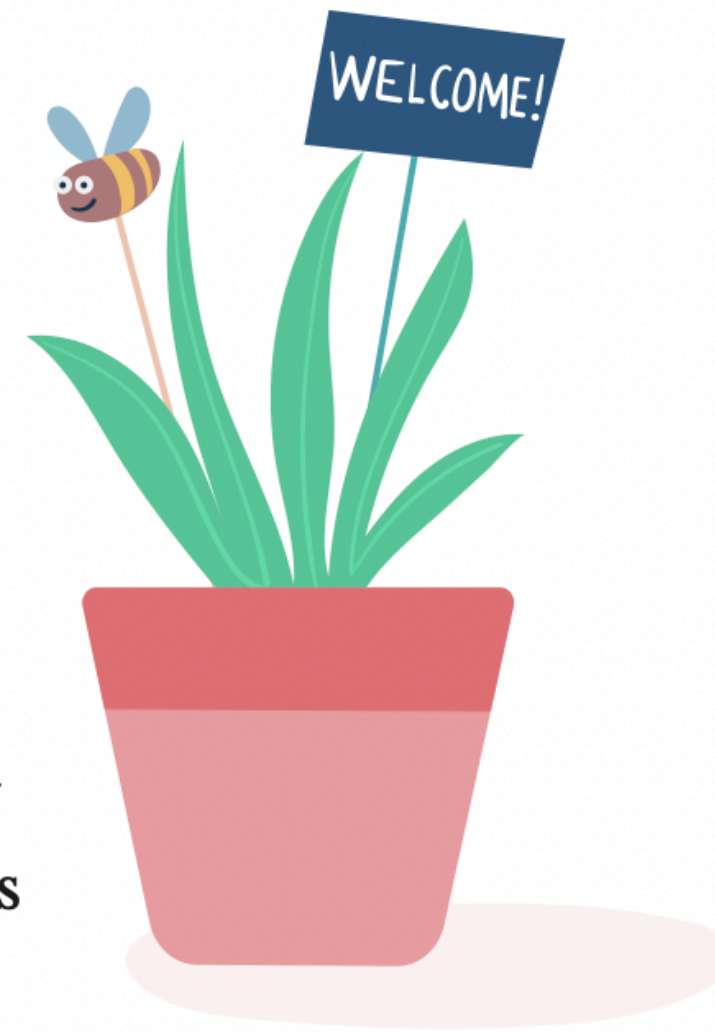
TRANSPORT



- ☐ Public transport should always be favoured over private, motorised vehicles. Provide information to participants ahead of an event about public transport. Offering them a free ticket for local public transport is a great incentive!
- ☐ Whenever public transport is not available, efforts should be made to group people in shuttles or create shared spreadsheets with arrival times so participants can share a ride.
- ☐ Provide equal opportunities for people with disabilities taking public transport; make sure to include accessibility information.
- ☐ Go digital and avoid travel altogether for short meetings. Evaluate what activities could be hosted online and balance face to face with digital activities. Consider mixing online and face to face participation.
- ☐ Encourage low-emissions transportation. If travel by air cannot be avoided, use the airline's carbon compensation scheme or a carbon emissions offset programme such as **Climatecare** or **Carbon Footprint**.

WELCOME PACKS & PROMOTIONAL GIFTS

Promotional materials distributed to participants should be eco friendly as well as having a valuable function (i.e., reusable cups/bottles, ecological soap, etc.) and will not be discarded immediately after the event. It is worth carefully considering whether welcome packs and promotional gifts are even necessary.

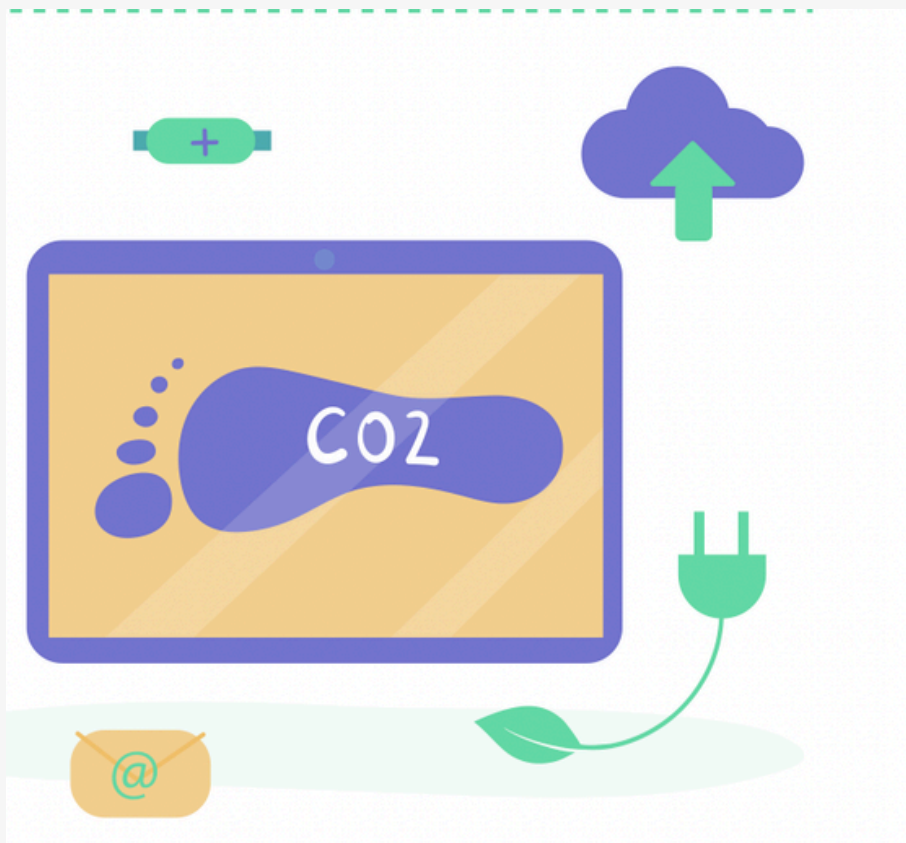


- ☐ Choose promotional materials that participants can continue using after the activity has ended.
- ☐ Order from eco-friendly suppliers.
- ☐ Buy supplies made of recycled or renewable materials.
- ☐ Favour refillable pens.
- ☐ Pencils are a good alternative if bought from a sustainable source.
- ☐ Make notebooks by hand from recycled materials or buy notebooks that use recycled paper from an ecological supplier.

PRINTING & PAPER



- ☐ Go paperless: only print documents when necessary.
- ☐ Use a smartphone application to share meeting agendas and other documentation.
- ☐ Ask document recipients whether they wish to have paper versions before printing them (a lack of response can be interpreted as consent to be given an electronic version only).
- ☐ Instead of printing copies for all participants, display general information in a visible place in large print.
- ☐ Use overhead projectors to display meeting agendas or point participants to electronic versions of the information. Avoid printing copies of documents that will only be used once.



Sending 65 e mails is roughly equivalent to driving 1km in a car. Indeed, it is estimated global e mail usage generates as much CO₂ as having an extra 7 million cars on road (ScienceFocus 2020). According to some estimates, the carbon footprint of gadgets, the internet and the systems supporting them account for about 3.5% of global greenhouse emissions (similar to that of global air travel!) and is mainly caused by high-income countries (The Shift Project 2019). Below are some tips to reduce an event's digital footprint and energy use:

- ☐ Limit projector and laptop use; turn them off when not in use to save energy.
- ☐ Set monitors to automatically use standby mode even after a short period of inactivity.
- ☐ Reduce average screen brightness.
- ☐ Delete data stored in the cloud once they are no longer needed, as keeping them online consumes energy.
- ☐ Optimise files sent by e mail by compressing them or reducing their resolution.
- ☐ When sending large files, select a file hosting service that uses a download cache on a website (e.g. WeTransfer, Google Drive or OneDrive). This prevents the files from being stored on multiple servers.

BUYING FAIR TRADE



EDUCATION



As stakeholders in the sustainability debate, young people deserve a say in environmental politics. Environmental challenges abound, several of which require government regulation, changes in practices and increased accountability for multinational corporations in Europe and worldwide. Nonetheless, environmental awareness is an integral part of active citizenship; taking action to implement sustainable solutions in one's own projects can actively contribute to the planet's well being.

- ☐ Include a session about environmental protection, environmental activism and/or sustainability in the event programme.
- ☐ Invite local small-scale producers and/or vegetarian/vegan influencers to speak at courses and lunch seminars.
- ☐ Organise a social evening to watch educational films or documentaries (e.g. **Films for Action**, **Seaspiracy** and others).

YOUTH PARTICIPATION: CO-DECIDING

“A speech in parliament is not participation – participation is choosing where the money goes in parliament. The rest is just performative.”

Marcus Faustini, Agência de Redes para a Juventude, Brazil





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