

**OUR GREEN  
DEAL FOR  
EUROPE - A  
JUST ONE**

**WRITTEN BY YOUNG PEOPLE ACROSS EUROPE**

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# QUOTES

*“Climate justice is about representation and sharing power. We must now give space to those who have been hit hard and who have contributed the least. Indigenous People are the guardians of our critical ecosystems, it’s time we give them the place they deserve”* Raki Ap, indigenous activist, West Papua

*“Racialised and other marginalised communities are disproportionately impacted by climate change and therefore should be at the centre of policies to combat it. The Green Deal will only be successful if it can ensure social and racial justice. That is why we are happy to support the Youth Proposal for Green Deal which has very strong commitments to delivering social and racial justice, as well as inclusion”* Equinox Initiative for Racial Justice

*“OUR GREEN DEAL FOR EUROPE – A JUST ONE” is a very concrete and inclusive tool built by youth to promote a just and radical transition throughout Europe. This roadmap summarises very clearly prioritarian actions that key actors (from decision makers to businesses and communities) shall do to tackle climate change emergencies on 9 key topics from decarbonisation up to healthcare. It is now time for decision makers and businesses to listen to and engage with young generations!”* Lucie Greyl, A Sud - Ecologia e Cooperazione

*“As we see transnational corporations trying to take control over the food systems globally and in Europe, youth from rural areas are at the frontline for defending our rights recently recognized by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas. We want rural areas with agroecology-based farming and active communities with cultural life, welcoming and open-minded. We want freedom and respect, social recognition of the importance of our work. Food Sovereignty, a concept launched by La Via Campesina 25 years ago, is showing that an other path is possible for the future, one of justice, dignity, equity and solidarity ! “* Thévenot Jean Matthieu, young farmer and member of the core-group of ECVC Youth Articulation

*“With young people from North Macedonia, we gladly contributed to the Youth Proposal for Green Deal to co-shape a vision for a socially just, environmentally friendly and climate-sustainable society by 2030. We made the voice of young people from our country heard to define the concrete short-term steps to begin reorganising the current political and economic system. We wanted to express ourselves to give a chance to the just future that we all want to live in. This proposal includes bold and specific policy recommendations based on principles of justice and equity for all, and demands for policymakers to not only do what is politically possible, but what is desperately needed!”* Sofija Getova, Kolektiv Z and Young FoEE

# INTRODUCTION

## Who are we?

We are young people, youth organizations, civil society organizations, and members of national Young Friends of the Earth groups across Europe, who have joined forces to define the future we want the European Green Deal to bring about.

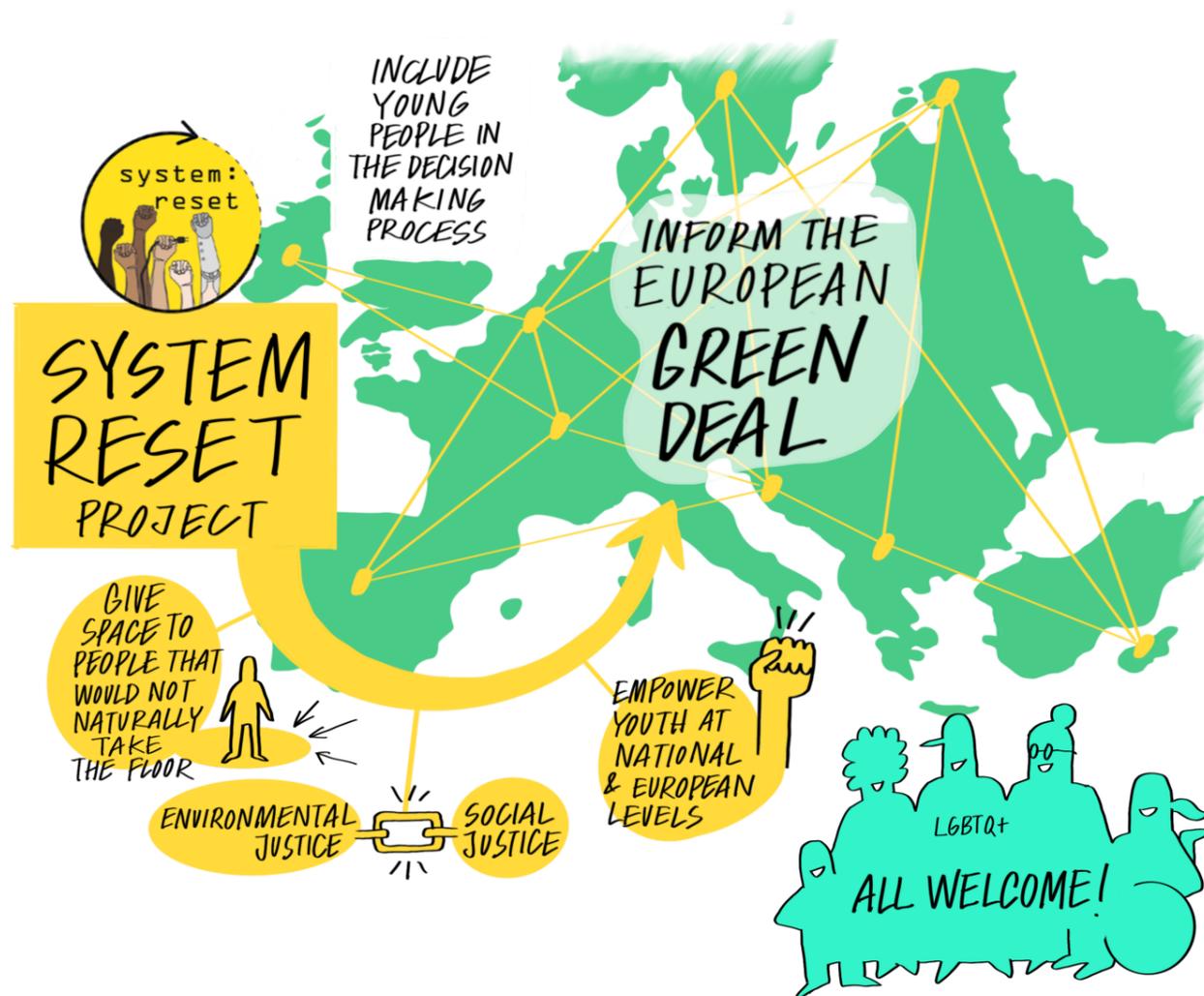
This Youth Proposal for a Green Deal for Europe presents a narrative of the future we want and of the urgent intersectional transformation that is needed in our society. It presents young people's visions for a socially just and ecologically sound future and highlights the momentum for system change. The world is currently at a tipping point, where we need bold measures and coordinated collective actions to build an equitable, sustainable, and socially just future that we all want to live in. The time for bold collective actions to build a better world for everyone is NOW!

For two years, we [collected visions](#) from 3300 young people with different backgrounds and identities across Europe. We focused specifically on engaging underrepresented young people<sup>1</sup>, as they are often not included in decision-making processes that affect them. The visions are divided according to thematic categories and formulated as priorities for the future, suggested solutions and actions, and policy recommendations. These are not universal, as all countries have different starting points and different steps they need to take in transforming their society. However, this Youth Proposal can serve as a roadmap for all stakeholders to change the system and create a European Green Deal that is built upon a future that European youth want. We have therefore included suggestions for what four stakeholder groups can do - policymakers, businesses, communities, and individuals.

Policymakers are people who are involved in developing policies and policy decisions e.g. members of governments and their advisers, and parliamentarians at various levels. A policy is not a law, but a plan of action set by a government. Policymakers have a big responsibility in initiating system change and implementing transformative and bold actions that ensure a sustainable and just future for everyone. Policymakers can regulate business activities, but businesses themselves can also contribute to system change. By transforming practices to be more environmentally friendly and reorienting their focus from not only profits, but to how they impact society and the environment, businesses can contribute to sustainable development and innovation. Only large-scale systemic change is the solution to the current climate crisis, but that doesn't mean that communities and individuals can do nothing. We can educate ourselves, we can use our voice and vote to demand system change, we can use our purchasing power to support sustainable businesses, and we can change our behaviour and lifestyle. However, it is important to acknowledge that everyone has different resources and opportunities and not everyone has the ability, nor the knowledge, to live more sustainably.

With this Youth Proposal, we want to highlight the voices of young people and in particular the voices of those who have been desperately silenced by the current system. We are building a foundation for shared visions among young people across the continent, informed by our lived experiences and the communities we work with and represent. We want a just Green Deal for Europe that is based on fair and radical system change and that is inclusive of all voices, not just the privileged ones.

<sup>1</sup>Underrepresented/marginalised/disadvantaged youth are young people who are excluded from social, economic, or educational opportunities experienced by other young people in their community due to factors that are beyond their control (e.g. ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, religion, economic inequality). Definition taken from: [https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/IRB\\_2017\\_06\\_AdoI04.pdf](https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/IRB_2017_06_AdoI04.pdf)



# PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

Values are fundamental beliefs that guide and motivate our attitudes and actions, and help us to determine what is important to us. Values describe the personal qualities we choose to embody, the sort of person we want to be, the manner in which we treat ourselves and others, and our interaction with the world around us – they provide the general guidelines for conduct<sup>2</sup>.

At the collective level, societies prioritize certain values and these affect the choices that are made, from healthcare and employment rights to resource management. These choices have lasting impacts on the future. Before we start envisioning the future, it is important to identify the values that we each possess. Here are the most common and shared values among European youth, identified through our collective visioning process, see in the next page.

The values and principles that stand out from the collective visioning process are **trust, equity, respect, love, and solidarity**. We define these terms in the following manner: Trust is to believe that someone is good and honest and will not harm you, or to have confidence in that something is safe and reliable<sup>3</sup>. Equity is the recognition that all human beings are of equal worth, deserving of dignity, equal rights, and equal access to resources, including knowledge and finances<sup>4</sup>. Respect means accepting someone for who they are, even if they are different or have different opinions<sup>5</sup>. Love is to care for, and feel deeply connected to, another person. Solidarity means to practice meaningful allyship with other people and often involves supporting communities with shared interests and responsibilities<sup>6</sup>.

Being guided by values may give us the courage to change situations collectively and inspire us to stay true to who we are or who we want to be. By relying on **respect, communication, and acknowledgment** of our different values, we can work together in solidarity to achieve the positive change we envision for the future<sup>7</sup>.



<sup>2</sup><https://www.ethicssage.com/2018/08/what-are-values.html>

<sup>3</sup><https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/trust>

<sup>4</sup>[https://youngfoee.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/yfoee\\_manifesto\\_final.pdf](https://youngfoee.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/yfoee_manifesto_final.pdf)

<sup>5</sup><https://kidshelpline.com.au/teens/issues/all-about-respect>

<sup>6</sup>[https://youngfoee.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/yfoee\\_manifesto\\_final.pdf](https://youngfoee.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/yfoee_manifesto_final.pdf)

<sup>7</sup><https://take10volunteer.org/solidarity-activism>

# VISIONS

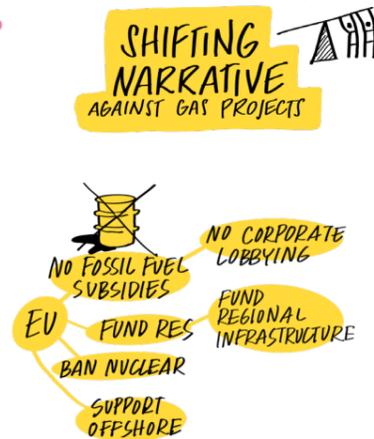
Below we present young people's visions for nine different categories, which are based on the policy areas of the European Green Deal. The visions are formulated as policy recommendations, future priorities, or suggested solutions or actions for four different stakeholder groups - local, national, and European governments, businesses, communities, and individuals.

## 1. Decarbonization: Climate Action, Clean Energy and Smart Mobility

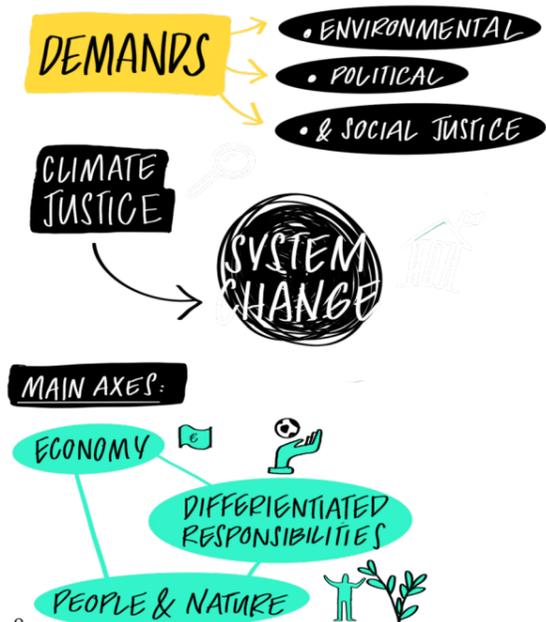
Radical changes are needed to drastically reduce CO2 emissions and decarbonize our society. Youth envisions a society based on degrowth, where fossil fuels are banned, energy is renewable and democratized, and sustainable travel is accessible to all. Protecting the rights of Indigenous people and including their voices in policymaking is also key in decarbonization processes.

### What can local, national and European governments do?

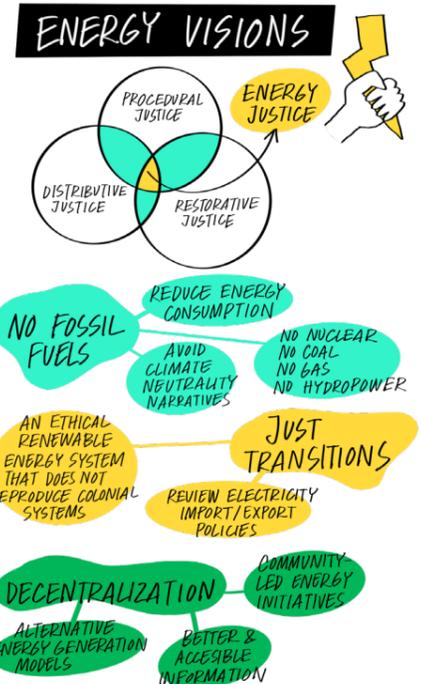
- End their extractive and exploitative relationship with nature. Decisions should not be driven by profit, but by the goal of creating equitable, sustainable, and socially just societies.
- Stop exploiting countries in the Global South and ensure that everyone affected has a seat at the table, including Indigenous people.
- Hold polluters accountable for their climate and environmental damages.
- Declare a climate emergency and integrate social justice considerations in climate solutions.
- Stop promoting false mechanisms, such as **carbon capture\*** and storage, and **geoengineering\***, as climate solutions. These strategies enable greenwashing and deviate people's and businesses' attention from the need to lower emissions.
- Phase out fossil fuel, nuclear, and hydrogen production, while ensuring access to affordable energy for all.



- Support and develop renewable energy sources that have the least impact on the environment. Disincentivize renewable energy sources that are inefficient and damaging for the planet, such as hydropower.
- Stop energy monopolies. Democratize and decentralize energy production so that people can know and decide where their energy comes from and always have sustainable and ethical energy sources to choose from.
- Acknowledge and tackle energy poverty. Collaborate with other countries to make renewable energy easily accessible to all.
- Decarbonize and expand public transport infrastructure to be accessible, affordable, efficient, and safe for all. Car alternatives should be as comfortable, rapid, and direct as cars, and not come at the expense of further mass exploitation of natural resources and habitats.
- Incentivize people to use public transport and travel sustainably.



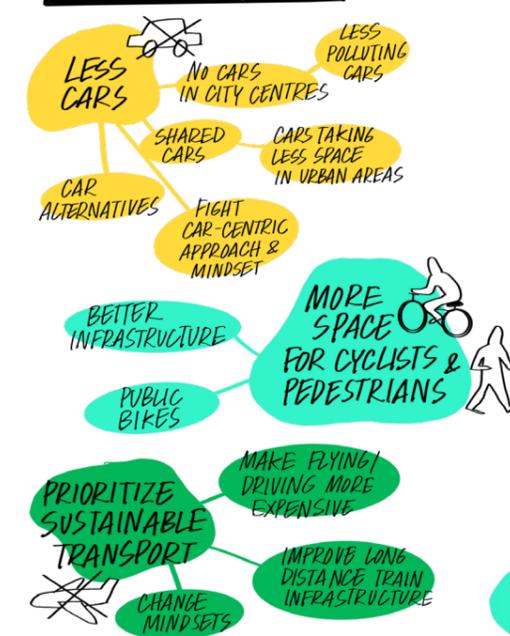
- Stop subsidizing the aviation industry and make companies pay for providing carbon options like planes and cars. Ensure that the price of flying reflects its environmental cost.
- Allocate public spaces to people and communities, not to car parks.



### What can businesses do?

- End their extractive relationship with nature. Update internal policies and investments to be compatible with climate goals.
- Prioritize social and environmental justice and create measurable and transparent commitments to lower their emissions.
- Decarbonize their transportation model - use rail or sea freight instead of cars and air freight, use cargo bikes to make last-mile delivery more efficient and sustainable, stop company car schemes, and utilize digital technologies to reduce travel and unnecessary commuting.
- Support employees to work from home when possible and offer incentives to make use of public transport and cycling and/or walking when possible.
- Use more sustainable and local energy sources and donate surplus energy to communities suffering from energy poverty.
- Help advance energy-efficient technologies and sustainable business models.

### MOBILITY VISIONS



### What can communities do?

- Raise awareness about ways to decarbonize our society and help change cultural norms and opinions. Establish a new mobility culture to fight the car-centric approach and mindset.
- Promote active mobility for physical and mental health (e.g. create events and groups where people can cycle and walk together, map safe cycling and walking paths for children).
- Reclaim car parks for creative community spaces and establish platforms for people to report on mobility and safety issues.
- Mobilize to stop energy monopolies and collaborate to develop fair local energy cooperatives to decentralize and democratize energy systems.
- Establish initiatives for resource-sharing and repair.



### What can individuals do?

- Stay up-to-date on recent science and politics and engage in critical thinking to take informed climate action.
- Inform themselves on how to reduce their carbon footprint.
- Become a proactive citizen - be active in politics and your community, and use your voice and vote to demand change.
- Walk, cycle, or use public transport. If driving or flying is necessary, choose the most efficient and sustainable option.
- Reduce energy consumption, use renewable energy, and invest in community energy projects.



# VISIONS

## 2. Circular Economy: Sustainable Production, Consumption, and Trade

A circular economy is an economic model of production and consumption where the life cycle of products is extended and waste is reduced to a minimum<sup>8</sup>. This is done by sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing, and recycling existing materials and products as long as possible. Youth envision a circular economy that prioritizes the needs of underrepresented communities, and one which improves the lives of people while protecting our planet. The visions covered in this section would aid collective planning towards reallocating finances and investments to models which guarantee sustainable use of natural resources and just access to basic goods and services to all.

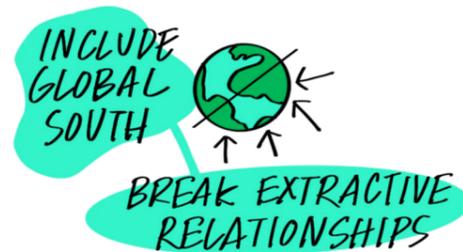
### What can local, national and European governments do?



- Stop treating nature as a resource for unlimited exploitation and as a landfill for waste.
- Transform to a circular economy based on the principle of reduce-reuse-recycle, the common good, happiness, and well-being.
- Regulate the use and extraction of limited materials and resources, and hinder international corporations from taking over local markets.
- Ensure prices better reflect the environmental cost of production.
- Develop proper waste management infrastructure and stop exporting waste to the Global South. Prohibit the production and use of disposable plastic products and microplastics.
- Provide easily accessible information to citizens on how our actions impact the world and our natural environment.
- Ensure consumers have the right to repair their products and create laws against planned obsolescence.
- Consult and involve experts, minority groups, and Indigenous people when developing EU Trade Agreements.
- Abolish the **Energy Charter Treaty\*** and stop including **Investor-State Dispute Settlements (ISDS)\*** in trade agreements.

### What can businesses do?

- Adopt a circular business model based on degrowth, environmental and social well-being, and happiness. All production processes should focus on upcycling, aim for a zero/low carbon footprint, and utilize sustainable technologies and materials.
- Stop exporting waste to the Global South.
- Provide easily accessible and transparent information about the environmental impact of the whole supply chain.
- Stop planned obsolescence and produce products that are of high quality and durable.
- Create repairable products and facilitate repairs for customers.
- Stop the practice of “fast fashion” and use sustainable textiles such as hemp and linen.
- Provide vegetarian/vegan food and buy fresh, locally produced food.



### What can communities do?

- Create a sharing economy and promote a culture of reduce-reuse-recycle.
- Develop digital platforms that connect citizens and waste collectors.
- Prepare food at home with local and sustainable produce. Avoid processed food as much as possible.
- Support local, sustainable entrepreneurship and ecotourism.
- Support and stand in solidarity with Indigenous peoples and other minority groups during EU trade agreement negotiations.

### What can people do?

- Inform themselves about how to live a more sustainable lifestyle.
- Consume less, minimize waste, and help promote a culture of reduce-reuse-recycle.
- Become a conscious and ethical consumer - purchase sustainable products and support local companies that care for the environment.
- Buy fresh, locally produced groceries to reduce packaging and transport and to support your local economy.

<sup>8</sup><https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/economy/20151201STO05603/circular-economy-definition-importance-and-benefits>

# VISIONS

## 3. Depollution: Air, Water, and Soil

A healthy and sustainable environment can only be achieved if the pollution of air, water, and soil is effectively addressed. We are part of an interconnected and irreplaceable ecosystem that has been damaged by human activity. Widespread pollution of air, water, and soil is not only affecting human health and livelihoods, but also the balance of ecosystems. We demand environmental remediation and collective action by all levels of society, including governments, businesses, communities, and people, to restore the health and quality of our air, water, and soil.

### What can governments do?

- Work with other governments and intergovernmental organizations to improve existing international treaties to address pollution.
- Implement retrospective and prospective climate justice legislation that will hold polluting businesses and individuals accountable for climate and environmental damages, for example by making ecocide an international crime.
- Engage with traditional and Indigenous knowledge systems to identify sustainable ways to improve air quality, soil fertility, and human well-being.
- Establish strict control and protection of rivers and lakes by e.g. installing treatment plants at the inflow of sewage, introducing stricter farming regulations, and regulating construction and tourist activities.
- Protect oceans and seas by introducing regulations to prohibit the dumping of waste into the sea and the use of environmentally toxic materials on ships. Governments should also invest in developing effective ocean cleaning technologies.
- Address pollution in space and in seas caused by old satellites, rocket parts, and space stations.
- Establish air quality monitoring stations across the country and provide easily accessible air quality information to citizens.
- Close landfills.

### What can businesses do?

- Establish treatment plants and ensure supply chains are based on environment-friendly practices.
- Stop producing and selling polluting vehicles.
- Stop using environmentally damaging fishing techniques and dumping fishing nets and other waste into the seas.

### What can communities do?

- Establish local and regional groups and projects to reduce pollution and develop community action plans to keep the environment clean and healthy.
- Encourage authorities to plant fruit and nut trees in public areas to improve air, soil, and water quality, as well as animal and human welfare. Harvested products and income generated from its sale can be used for supporting socially vulnerable groups and funding local projects to address pollution.

### What can people do?

- Educate themselves about human rights and environmental regulations to hold business and state authorities accountable for their actions.
- Become stewards of nature and contribute to societal and cultural change.



# VISIONS

## 4. Sustainable Food Systems & Rural Areas

The current food system is based on inequitable industrial agriculture and aquaculture, which is damaging for our climate, biodiversity, animal welfare, public health, local economies, and racial justice. We need a massive expansion of diversified, sustainable, organic, and regenerative farming systems that are based on practices that draw carbon out of the atmosphere and produce nutritious food using less energy, land, and water. Everyone must also drastically reduce food waste and their consumption of animal products. Through the collective visioning process, European Youth has contributed with the following visions for sustainable food systems:

### What can local, national and European governments do?

- Financially support small-scale, young, regenerative, sustainable, and organic farmers and cooperatives, and introduce initiatives to reduce the number of industrial farms and farmed animals.
- Use the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) to support the transition from industrial agriculture to regenerative organic agriculture.
- Ban harmful pesticides.
- Improve food waste management and food safety regulations to support food donation and composting. Introduce laws to ban or limit food waste by businesses.
- Ensure that everyone has access to a garden to grow and (re)connect to food.
- Ensure policy development is not influenced by big agribusinesses.
- Develop certification schemes for ethically produced food so it is recognizable on the market.
- Restrict the selling of foreign fruits and vegetables.
- Review and upgrade the curriculum for farmers and other agricultural workers to include sustainability and biodiversity considerations.
- Organize educational workshops for farmers to increase the quality and sustainability of their food production.
- Educate the public about the source and environmental impact of their food
- Stabilize the price of crops on the European market and guarantee that farmers are able to sell their produce.
- Stop subsidizing the meat industry. Invest in and support alternatives to meat which are better for people and the planet, such as cultured meat and plant-based meat.



### What can businesses do?

- Engage in sustainable and regenerative farming that increases soil fertility and recycles nutrients efficiently. Use land that is used to produce livestock feed to produce food directly for people.
- Stop producing genetically modified fish, animals, seeds, and plants.
- Include more organic, local, and plant-based products, and less animal-based products, in their menus and supply chains. Donate surplus food to prevent food waste.
- Contribute to cultural and behavioural change e.g. promote balanced portions, offer less animal-based products, and popularise “ugly food” (food that is not aesthetically pleasing but still edible).
- Stop influencing agricultural politics and farming policies.
- Provide transparent information about the sustainability of the food supply chain, including the source of their products and which pesticides are used.

FEED LIVESTOCK WITH SURPLUS



### What can communities do?

- Support young, local farmers and help establish alternative and sustainable food production such as **community-supported agriculture (CSA)\***, food cooperatives, and community gardens.
- Stand in solidarity with underrepresented groups and help ensure food and nutrition security for the whole community.
- Learn from local and Indigenous food systems and farming practices.
- Teach children the importance of sustainable food production, the meaning of the food we consume, and where it comes from.
- Connect urban and rural environments and help ensure that all people have access to land where they can grow their own food.
- Learn from international food sovereignty movements such as La Vía Campesina.

COMMUNITY GARDENING



FOOD COOPERATIVES

### What can people do?

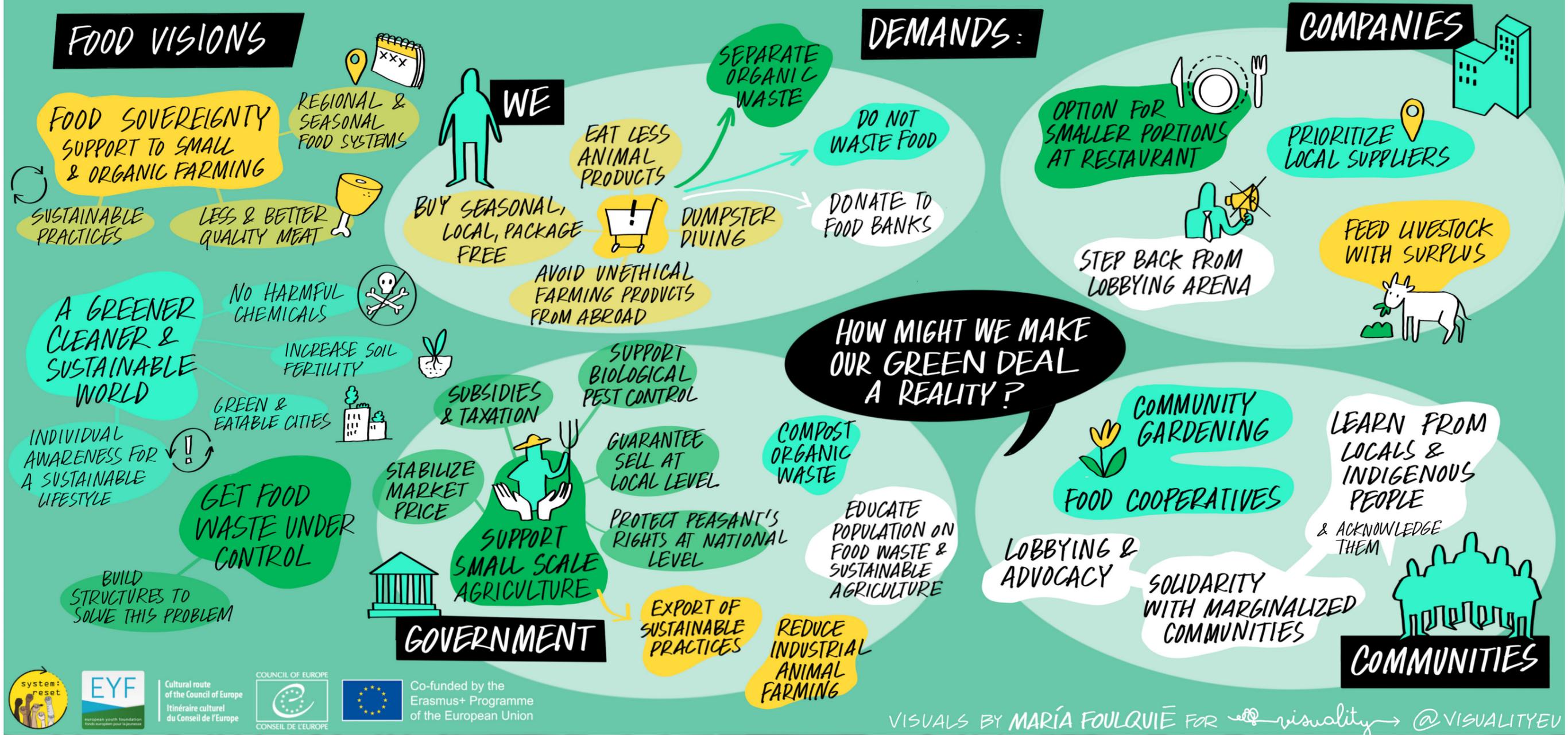
- Organize themselves and use their voice to demand food justice for all.
- Join community gardens and other alternative and sustainable forms of food production.
- Educate themselves about how food is produced and where it comes from.
- Eat more plant-based, local, sustainably produced, and package-free food.
- Eat less, and better, animal products.
- Not waste food.



# VISIONS

## [ FOOD ] JUSTICE NOT FOUND

JUNE 14TH



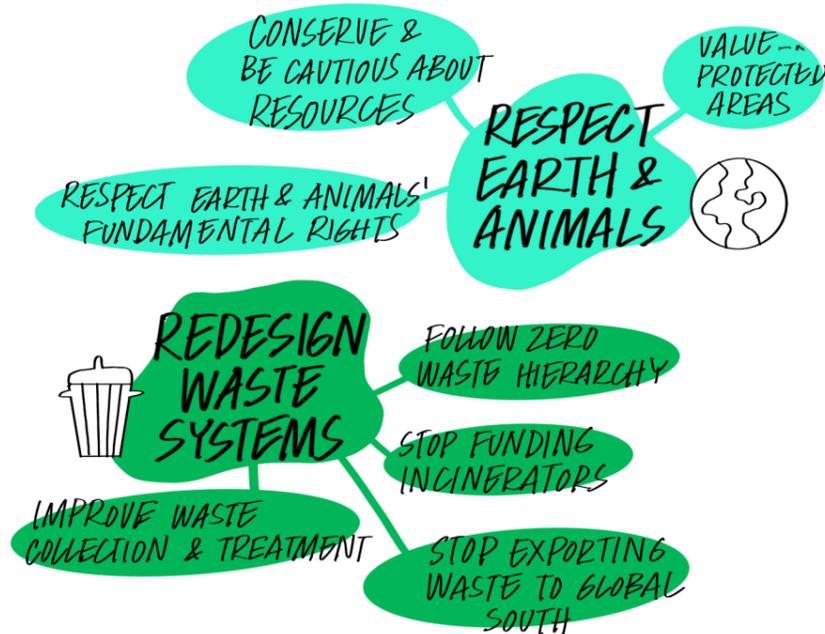
# VISIONS

## 5. Commons: Protection & Restoration of Ecosystems

The Commons refer to natural and cultural resources that are shared by everyone e.g. air, water, and forests. Common resources should be available and accessible to everyone, not privately owned or controlled by corporations. Youth recognize that Mother Earth, nature, and all living beings have fundamental rights, which should be respected. Many visions focus on developing a society where people are in harmony with nature and work collectively to conserve, restore, and protect ecosystems. The Global North's boundless quest to access and extract natural resources should be stopped and the Global South's right to access and preserve its own ecosystems should be protected.

### BIODIVERSITY VISIONS :

VARIETY OF LIFE ON EARTH THAT ENCOMPASSES THE EVOLUCIONARY, ECOLOGICAL & CULTURAL PROCESSES THAT SUSTAIN LIFE



### What can local, national and European governments do?

- Take an intersectional approach to biodiversity and ensure the protection of ecosystems is prioritized at all institutional levels.
- Implement laws that recognize ecosystems and natural environments as rights-bearing entities.
- Limit urban development and occupation of land, and ensure a minimum portion of urban space is dedicated to parks and other natural spaces. Increase the share of natural and protected areas.
- Listen to and engage Indigenous people in policymaking processes, as they are the original custodians of the land.
- Raise public awareness about the importance of protecting biodiversity and diverse habitats.
- Develop disaster risk reduction plans and increase the capacity to deal with natural hazards and other climate-related crises.
- Protect and restore native and endangered species, and develop biosecurity plans to manage potential risks to human, animal, and plant life.
- Stop EU policies that support land grabbing in the Global South.

### What can businesses do?

- Protect ecosystem services by changing products to include more sustainably produced ingredients and components.
- Include more natural life on their premises.

### What can communities do?

- Get organized and advocate for fair and equal distribution of resources within Europe and between the Global North and the Global South.
- Develop initiatives for land restoration, environmental protection, integration of city life and nature, and learning about different ecosystems.
- Engage in public consultations and societal discussions.

### What can people do?

- Learn about the importance of preserving ecosystems and the interconnectedness of human and natural life, especially from Indigenous people, who are the original custodians of the land.
- Move from a human-centred (anthropocentric) to a nature-centred (ecocentric) worldview.
- Contribute to raising awareness about environmental issues and advocate for more citizen involvement in environmental protection.
- Boycott companies whose activities are harmful to the environment.



# VISIONS

## 6. Arts, Culture, Education and Learning

Youth envisions a society where individual and collective knowledge, skills, and know-how are integral parts of everyone's life. Education should be objective, free for all, and accessible in various forms. Learning about the environment and the colonial roots of the climate crisis, as well as integrating Indigenous peoples' knowledge and perspectives is specifically important. Schools should be an open and safe place, where no racial, homophobic, ableist, or sexist discrimination is tolerated and where different identities are respected. The education system should prepare current and future generations to tackle social and environmental challenges and help the visions of youth become a reality. Education will facilitate system change by embracing diverse ways of thinking, promoting cultural change, and teaching new skills.

### What can local, national and European governments do?

- Include more education outside and in nature.
- Offer free therapy sessions for students and anti-bullying and parenting programs at school.
- Implement sustainability pilot projects in schools.
- Break down gender stereotypes in the education system, including at schools and in training for teachers.
- Prioritize creating a strong bond between children, nature, and living beings from a young age.
- Move away from one-size-fits-all education. Support alternative pedagogical practices and teaching methodologies that aim to enhance emotional, social, and environmental well-being, and are built on principles such as inclusivity, justice, reciprocity, democracy, and community.
- Invest in research and provide funding to develop effective climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.
- Ban all cultural events and services that involve harm to living beings or nature, such as bullfighting, horse-drawn carriages, etc.

The following topics should be included in school curriculums: climate and social justice, sustainable mobility, sustainable agriculture, food sovereignty, racism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, Indigenous people and their role as protectors of biodiversity, civic education, intersectionality, sex education, alternative social systems and economies, critical thinking and reading, emotional intelligence, communication, collaboration, creativity, gardening, repairing, how to adapt to changes, how to study successfully, how to remain calm in new situations, how to know and understand ourselves.

### What can businesses do?

- Invest in research that can help us tackle the climate crisis.
- Private universities should update their programs and research priorities to address future societal needs that will emerge as a result of the climate crisis.

### What can communities and people do?

- Help build a society based on care and solidarity.
- Raise awareness, and provide education for youth, on the topics of climate and environment.
- Embrace cultural change and support local artists and activists.
- Provide a safe space for youth to talk about issues that concern them.

# VISIONS



## 7. Governance and Decision Making

Youth envisions a society where decision-making is transparent, belongs to the people, and includes the voices of underrepresented individuals and communities. These visions highlight the need for a just system, where governments take responsibility for tackling environmental issues, decisions are made in a collective and participatory way, and global power dynamics and capitalism are challenged.



### What can governments do?

- Implement bold laws, regulations, and policies to tackle climate change and other environmental challenges.
- Implement a legislative framework to protect the rights of peasants and Indigenous peoples.
- Meaningfully involve diverse people and communities, including Indigenous peoples and other minority groups, in planning and decision-making processes.
- Ensure global climate politics is a meeting point for constructive dialogue and action, and that the Global South has a fair amount of power and influence.
- Ensure all governments, decision-making processes, investments, and proposed policies and solutions take into account environmental health and gender issues.
- Amend the Procurement Act so that the service provider with the most sustainable solution and the highest quality should be chosen.
- Include the protection of the environment in the constitution and make ecocide a crime applicable to both businesses and governments.
- Ban advertisement of polluting goods and services.



### What can businesses do?

- Acknowledge their responsibility as big players in society and take action accordingly.
- Reduce advertising of products or services that are unsustainable and/or unhealthy.

### What can communities do?

- Develop initiatives to drive and demand change.
- Develop, or get involved in, pilot projects for sustainable community development.
- Support, and stand in solidarity with, Indigenous people in their fight for political, cultural, human rights.

### What can people do?

- Get organized and use their voice to demand a more just and transparent governance system where people are included in decision-making.
- Know their rights as citizens and take an active part in participatory processes.
- Stand in solidarity with those whose right to self-determination and self-governance has not been granted.



# VISIONS

## 8. Financing the System Transformation

Finances need to be redirected towards supporting social justice and well-being and redistributed from the Global North to the Global South. Youth demand that governments and corporations take financial responsibility for their current and previous damaging (colonial) actions, and stop financing activities that are harmful to the environment. Business as usual is accepted anymore.

### What can governments do?

- Redirect finances and investments towards the protection of human and natural life, social justice, and the development of ethical and sustainable technologies.
- Ensure natural resources are equally used across generations. Countries in the Global North should support the Global South through colonial and climate reparations.
- Stop financing companies that are harmful to the environment, including oil, gas, and coal production, and create new, green jobs in sectors such as renewable energy, regenerative farming, ecosystem restoration, etc.
- Ensure a fair and equitable tax system, including wealth and CO2 taxes. The tax money should be reinvested in sustainable projects for transformative change.
- Be transparent about public expenditure and inform and involve people in decisions about public spending.
- Hold banks and other financial institutions accountable for their contribution to the climate crisis. Implement laws to ensure transparency towards customers and limit their investments in fossil fuel production, especially production that exploits the Global South.
- Develop alternatives to measuring value added and well-being (instead of GDP) and institutionalize their use.



### What can businesses do?

- Discontinue business-as-usual and stop greenwashing. Invest in environmentally friendly and socially responsible business practices that protect natural resources, lead to minimal carbon emissions, and ensure social justice.
- Use pension funds that invest in people and the planet.
- Stop all fossil fuel production, and invest in green, low-carbon jobs.
- Utilize pre-existing non-Western knowledge and practices, as it can often provide inclusive and cost-effective ways towards transformation.

### What can communities do?

- Establish an alternative economic system for the community (e.g. sharing economy) that has the capacity to exist independently of global markets
- Listen to Indigenous people and communities - they deserve the time, space, and platforms to take the lead in stopping the climate and biodiversity crisis.

# VISIONS

## 9. Healthcare and social justice

Climate justice also means health and social justice. For example, the COVID-19 pandemic is not just a health crisis, but also an environmental crisis, as it originates from the destruction of biodiversity and nature, and our current capitalist economic model. In turn, the climate crisis poses a number of health risks, for example by raising the number of premature deaths through extreme weather events such as heatwaves. The climate crisis affects different people differently, often based on factors like their location, economic status, age, (dis)ability, and structural discrimination they face because of e.g. their race, gender, and sexual orientation. That is why an intersectional approach plays a crucial role. The social aspect must be acknowledged and addressed in EU policies if we want to achieve a just Green Deal for Europe that leaves no one behind.

### What can governments do?

- Ensure that everyone has an adequate standard of living.
- Provide accessible healthcare to everyone.
- Ensure that vaccines are accessible and fairly distributed to everyone.
- Ensure that everyone has decent work and a sufficient salary, as well as healthy, safe, and fair working conditions.
- Fairly compensate all care work, both at home and in society.
- Introduce minimum and maximum wages to decrease economic inequality and overconsumption.
- Secure and protect the rights of minority groups and promote a culture of diversity, openness, and inclusion.
- Ban all animal testing.
- Support and encourage companies to integrate gender equality measures, and ensure there is no discrimination towards minorities in the public employment process.

### What can businesses do?

- Provide decent working conditions and salaries, as well as health insurance for their employees.
- Ensure a diverse, transparent, and positive working environment with no discrimination and where mental health can be openly discussed.
- Show solidarity with, and support, those in need.
- Break down stereotypes and stop producing gendered products.
- Stop deceiving marketing strategies, including **greenwashing\*** and **pink washing\***.

### What can communities do?

- Empower people to speak up and provide help to vulnerable groups and individuals in the community without stigma and judgment. Share resources with less privileged communities.
- Create an environment of solidarity, inclusiveness, and care to increase resilience in the community.
- Help ensure all identities and occupations are treated with respect and dignity.
- Establish strong and trustful unions that protect workers' rights.
- Raise awareness on climate justice.

### What can people do?

- Educate themselves and be aware of their own and others' privileges.
- Put pressure on governments to take action and implement just solutions.
- Be open, fair, and understanding towards people, and create a sociable, and relaxed environment where everyone feels comfortable and welcome.



# CONCLUSION

This Youth Proposal presents European youth's visions for a socially just and ecologically sound future. Representing thousands of voices that need to be heard, young people - and particularly those who remain underrepresented - have identified the way forward for a just and inclusive Green Deal for Europe. We are calling for climate and social justice, as the climate crisis is significantly impacting people around the world and those who suffer the most are underrepresented people and youth. We are currently at a turning point, and decisions taken today will not only affect the present but will have great implications for the future. We are therefore demanding to be included in decision-making processes and the development of institutional frameworks like the Green Deal to ensure a holistic approach to current and future challenges and sustainable and intersectional transformation for people and the planet.

This Youth Proposal shows that European youth is engaged, full of ideas, and ready for change. After months of brainstorming, visions for nine different sectors are presented in this Proposal - now what is left is their implementation!

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# GLOSSARY

**Geoengineering** is intentional, large-scale interventions in Earth's natural systems and processes to reduce the effects of climate change. There are mainly two types of geoengineering: solar geoengineering, which aims to reduce the amount of radiation the Earth receives from the sun, and carbon dioxide geoengineering, which aims to reduce carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Geoengineering techniques represent efforts to manipulate the climate on a global scale and are heavily criticized as they come with their own environmental and social impacts, are favored by the Global North as an "easy" technological fix to climate change, and derive from the same capitalist system that causes global warming.

**Climate capture and storage** involve capturing carbon dioxide emitted from fossil fuel power stations, energy-intensive industries, and other large sources, transporting it to a storage site, and injecting it into the ground. Similar to geoengineering, carbon capture and storage is often proposed by the Global North as an easy technological fix to climate change and is often proven to be an expensive failure that only prolongs the life of fossil fuel production.

**Greenwashing** is when a company or organization markets themselves as environmentally friendly without actually doing much to minimize their environmental impact. This type of marketing strategy is often used to persuade and mislead people into believing that the company or organization is more sustainable than it really is.

**Pink washing** is when companies take the opportunity to profit from PRIDE-related merchandise or benefit from selling diversity without actually trying to improve the lives of the LGBTQ+ community.

**Investor-State Dispute Settlements (ISDS)** is a mechanism that is included in many investment and trade agreements to settle disputes. It allows foreign companies to sue governments for measures that might impact their profits. The mechanism can force governments to stop the implementation of policies that are in the interest of the public and the climate, and pay millions to companies in compensation.

**The Energy Charter Treaty (ECT)** is an international multilateral framework for energy cooperation that applies to over 50 countries. The Treaty is designed to promote energy security but is highly controversial as it gives foreign investors in the energy sector the power to sue states for government actions that have supposedly damaged their investments. This can obstruct the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy and is already happening in the Netherlands, which has been sued by the coal company RWE for 1.4 billion euros in compensation for the Dutch coal phase-out. The Energy Charter Treaty includes an Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) explained above.

**Community-supported agriculture (CSA)** is an alternative form for food production that connects farmers and consumers to help create a more transparent, sustainable, and local food system. CSA can take many forms, but the responsibilities, risks, and rewards of farming are often shared between farmers and consumers. Consumers can for example be involved through investment in the farm, sharing the cost of production, or providing support with farm activities.

# DISCLAIMER

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# CO-SIGNATURES

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