



Climate Action Strategy 2025-2030

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Introduction

Climate change is a pressing global issue that demands immediate and sustained action. As a European network of young geographers equipped with knowledge about the Earth and the impacts of climate change, EGEA recognises its responsibility to contribute meaningfully to climate action.

This **Climate Action Strategy** is intended as an internal guideline for EGEA's member entities, individuals and official bodies. It outlines clear and practical actions that support the more sustainable practices within our association. The focus is on integrating climate-conscious thinking into our daily operations, events and structures, as well as equipping members and individuals with the skills and mindset needed to be agents of positive environmental change.

By adopting a more structured and coordinated approach, the Association can enhance its positive impact on both the environment and society.

This strategy outlines key actions that EGEA can undertake as an Association to support the global efforts against climate change. The actions proposed here will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis by the Event Advisor, with the evaluation presented to and approved by the General Assembly.

Aims and objectives

EGEA is committed to supporting the goals of several international climate frameworks, including the European Green Deal and stands in solidarity with non-violent actions aimed at preventing and reversing climate change. As an educational youth network, EGEA actively encourages its members to engage in activities that contribute to achieving the objectives of the Agreement.

This Climate Strategy provides a framework for internal sustainability practices and climate-related initiatives across EGEA's network. It outlines practical approaches to reduce the association's ecological footprint, foster sustainable event practices, and cultivate green competences among members. Additionally, it proposes internal developments to strengthen EGEA's role in climate action.

The objectives of this strategy are structured around seven focal points to be addressed during the period 2025-2030:

1. Local level engagement
2. Reduction of the Association's ecological footprint
3. Structural and procedural support
4. External output
5. Dissemination
6. External cooperation
7. Participation in Climate Action Activities

The implementation of the Climate Strategy relies on cooperation between all official bodies, entities, and individuals within EGEA. The Event Advisor will coordinate the implementation and work closely with motivated members, individuals and event organisers.

The Board of EGEA will ensure the necessary procedural support for climate-related initiatives, as outlined in the Statutory Base and Protocol, or as decided by the General Assembly.

Internal focal points

Local level engagement

EGEA's wide network of independent local entities holds strong potential to engage with their communities and contribute meaningfully to climate action while also promoting the role of geography in understanding and addressing climate-related challenges. As a youth-led, volunteer-based Association, EGEA recognises that local action can have a real and lasting impact when aligned with shared values and community needs.

EGEA encourages and supports the following forms of local-level climate engagement, which entities and individuals can adapt to their local contexts and capacities:

- Continue and expand local initiatives (e.g. Waste Free Week, sustainability challenges, or fundraising efforts) to foster climate-related action within and across entities.
- Encourage collaboration with local climate-focused organisations, youth movements, and community-led initiatives.
- Incorporate short sessions or workshops into EGEA events to share sustainable practices and inspire ideas for local activities.
- Promote and advocate for climate action and sustainability at Higher Education Institutions and local governance levels. Entities are encouraged to engage in constructive dialogue with academic staff, university bodies or local councils.
- Support climate education and visibility through creative and accessible outreach.

Through flexible, small-scale and context-specific initiatives, EGEA can foster long-term engagement and meaningful contributions to climate action at the local level. For more ideas and inspiration, BoE will develop a shared "Local Action Toolkit" with examples of activities, templates for communication and links to partner organisations.

Reduction of the Association's ecological footprint

EGEA is committed to reducing its ecological footprint and embedding sustainability into its day-to-day activities and events.

To support this goal, EGEA encourages the following actions, which can be adapted by organisers and members based on context and capacity:

- Provide clear and accessible guidance to event organisers on integrating sustainable practices throughout the event. The Green Book should remain a key resource, promoted regularly through EGEA's internal platforms and events.
- Encourage and normalise sustainable travel by sharing best practices and collaborating with event organisers on low-emission travel solutions.
- Promote plant-based, seasonal and locally sourced catering as the standard at all EGEA events, with particular attention to large-scale events such as congresses.
- Encourage collaboration with relevant sustainability campaigns and events organised by other associations and in particular with partner associations.
- Incorporate climate-themed sessions or activities within events to raise awareness and foster engagement.
- Encourage events organizers to plan workshops, activities and excursions within walking distance or easily reachable by public transport from the accommodation.
- Support event and congress organizers in using digital tools to coordinate sustainable travel planning (e.g., group transport, carpooling) which helps reduce emissions, improves safety, and strengthens social connections among participants.

Structural and procedural support

EGEA must strengthen its internal structures and processes related to sustainability and climate action. The following measures are proposed to support and expand internal climate-related initiatives in a sustainable and structured way:

- Continue to seek and secure funding opportunities at the European level to support climate-related projects and initiatives. Priority should be given to project-based, clearly defined, and measurable activities that create long-term value for the association.
- Support relevant bodies in identifying and developing partnerships with organisations that align with EGEA's sustainability goals.
- Ensure visibility and continuity of sustainability-focused partnerships through EGEA's communication channels.
- Maintain sustainability as a regular item in strategic planning and budgeting discussions.

External focal points

The phenomenon of climate change cannot be addressed by internal actions alone. While EGEA focuses firstly on internal sustainability, the association also recognises its potential to create a measured and responsible external impact. External engagement should be approached carefully and aligned with EGEA's ongoing development of a formal climate position. All external-facing activities should remain aligned with EGEA's current status as a non-partisan organisation. External communication should focus on geography's contribution to sustainability and promote evidence-based practices, without positioning EGEA as a political or advocacy actor until a formal stance is adopted.

External output

EGEA aims to contribute to broader climate awareness by sharing relevant educational and scientific output created by its members and network. Where appropriate, activities will be coordinated with relevant official bodies and different event organisers. The following actions can help EGEA's external communication and visibility on sustainability topics:

- Support the dissemination of educational material and insights from EGEA members and individuals that contribute to broader understanding of sustainability and geography's role in climate issues. The Association works to improve the position of geography as an educational subject and advocates the inclusion of climate awareness and knowledge within the curriculum.
- Promote the scientific and educational contributions of individuals (e.g. theses, scientific articles, local reports) through accessible formats and encourage entities to share these outputs with relevant local stakeholders.
- Encourage content creation that showcases best practices in sustainability from across EGEA, with the aim of inspiring peers, partners, and the public.

Dissemination

To maximise the visibility and impact of the actions outlined in this strategy, a flexible and collaborative approach to dissemination is encouraged. Dissemination efforts should be supported by individuals, entities, teams and other bodies throughout EGEA's network.

EGEA's outreach potential should be actively used to raise awareness, share knowledge and promote engagement within the association and, where appropriate, with external stakeholders. Individuals, entities and the wider EGEA network are encouraged to play a proactive role in these efforts.

Suggested channels and methods for dissemination include:

- Hosting or participating in public-facing formats such as panel discussions, webinars and live Q&As, in cooperation with partners or institutions, to share insights on geography, youth action and sustainability.
- Publishing articles, reports, and visual content (e.g. photo stories, short videos, infographics) that showcase EGEA's local and regional climate initiatives.
- Highlighting EGEA's climate-related work in institutional reports, such as the Annual Report or congress/event reports, and making these available to external partners, universities and relevant stakeholders.
- After approval by the Board or the General Assembly, public-facing documents such as position papers or statements, when approved should be communicated. These should reflect the collective stance of the Association and be framed to influence institutional and policy-level stakeholders where appropriate.

This approach aims to support visibility, credibility, and collaboration with external actors. By sharing EGEA's grassroots efforts, educational contributions and youth perspectives, the Association can contribute constructively to wider conversations on climate and sustainability.

External cooperation

EGEA actively seeks collaboration with a diverse range of actors involved in climate and sustainability, while maintaining its non-partisan stance and basing all activities on scientific evidence. The Association's bodies, its members and individuals are encouraged to identify partnerships that reflect EGEA's mission and strengthen its visibility in the European youth and climate landscape.

Priority areas for external cooperation include:

- Joining or partnering with relevant youth and student-led organisations working on climate and sustainability at the European level. Examples of relevant networks include:
 - Generation Climate Europe (coalition of major youth-led climate organisations)
 - European Students' Union (ESU)
 - Global Student Forum (GSF)
 - European Youth Forum (YFJ)
 - International Young Naturefriends (IYNF)
- Building relationships with European and international institutions, particularly those that support youth engagement, education and sustainability.
 - Council of Europe
 - European Union institutions and programs
 - UNESCO
 - YOUNGO (The Official Youth Constituency of the UNFCCC)
- Fostering cooperation with higher education institutions, research centres and educational networks to explore joint initiatives, student engagement and geography-focused sustainability projects.
- EGEA is committed to working with actors that demonstrate meaningful, science-based climate engagement. The association aims to avoid partnerships that involve greenwashing or tokenistic climate commitments, particularly by corporations or institutions.

Effective cooperation can help amplify EGEA's work, contribute to knowledge exchange, and increase visibility for young geographers in environmental dialogues.

Participation in Climate Action Activities

EGEA recognises that individuals and entities across the network may choose to engage in climate demonstrations, advocacy campaigns or other forms of peaceful civic participation in line with their personal values and local realities. As a youth organisation grounded in geography and sustainability, EGEA supports the rights of students and young people to participate in peaceful, lawful actions that express concern for climate-related issues and request environmental justice.

While EGEA itself remains non-partisan, members are encouraged to act responsibly, reflect EGEA's values when representing the Association and promote science-based and constructive contributions to public discourse.

Entities and individuals may consider:

- Participating in peaceful and lawful climate demonstrations in a personal or entity capacity.
- Signing or supporting climate-related petitions that align with scientific consensus and EGEA's values.
- Sharing climate events or campaigns that promote geographic awareness, environmental education or youth engagement.
- When representing EGEA in any public activity (e.g. carrying the EGEA logo or participating as a named entity), individuals are expected to:
 - Act respectfully and within the laws of the respective country.
 - Follow the EGEA Code of Conduct.
 - Avoid affiliations with political parties or polarising campaigns when representing the Association publicly.

Inappropriate behaviour or misuse of representation may be addressed under the Code of Conduct. EGEA dissociates itself from illegal, violent or discriminatory actions and trusts its members to uphold the values of mutual respect, responsibility and peaceful civic engagement.

EGEA encourages open communication about planned participation in public actions, so that individuals and entities can support each other, share experiences and ensure safety and solidarity when engaging in climate-related initiatives.

Conclusion

This Climate Action Strategy outlines EGEA's commitment to fostering sustainability within its network through practical, inclusive, and flexible actions. EGEA stands not above its members, but alongside them, enabling a future where sustainability is not an afterthought, but a guiding principle. Through collective effort and ongoing reflection, the Association can build a more sustainable future for its members, its activities and the communities it engages with.