



2021 - 2022

YOUNG *ZINE*

Annual Report

DEAR FRIENDS,

We are excited to share our very first newsletter as a new and improved online platform working towards one mission: building environment and climate literacy in today's youth and empowering them to contribute to a just and sustainable future.

As events in 2022 and the recent past have shown us, we are facing a climate emergency with increasingly frequent and intense extreme weather events, imminent tipping points, and a record loss of biodiversity. Our home state of California, in a prolonged drought, is in itself an example of how drastic climate change's impact has been on the future of freshwater in the Golden State.

The climate crisis is a complex and interconnected issue that requires large-scale action at the pace of modern technology, and to prepare our youth for these opportunities. With that in mind, we re-launched Youngzine last Fall with relevant climate news categories and comprehensive core content that we developed in collaboration with a climate scientist at Stanford University. We continue to mentor high school students as scientific writers and are proud to showcase the work these passionate and dedicated interns put into our articles.

Over the past year, we've developed thorough and engaging lesson plans, piloted our content in classrooms, and presented at teacher conferences and at SXSW EDU 2022 this past March.

Furthermore, we piloted a new initiative this summer: our very first Youth Climate Fellowship program! The program was designed to educate high schoolers on climate change and mentorship as students developed their own capstone sustainability project. This program was a resounding success, with a couple of the students continuing on to build a website and an app based on the projects they developed during the program.

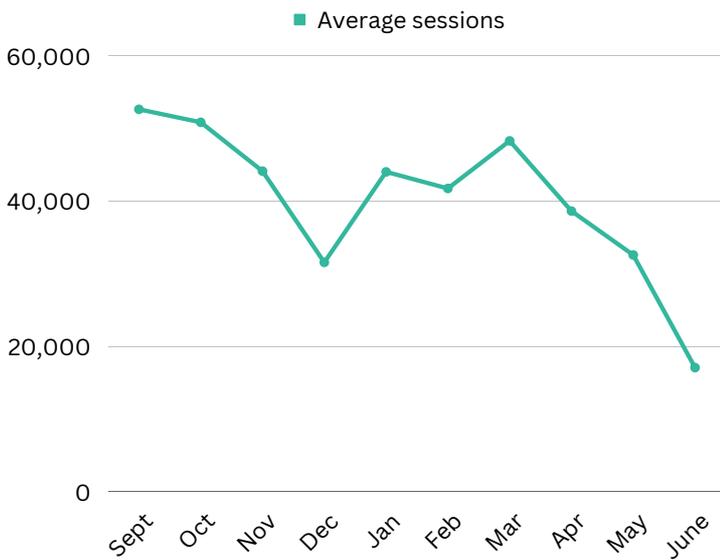
Through all these changes, we are extremely grateful to our supporters who believe in Youngzine's new mission and are passionate about fighting for an equitable future where our children can thrive and have the same opportunities as previous generations. We cannot do this alone— with your continued support, we look forward to expanding our programming and reaching many more students and classrooms nationwide.

Sincerely,

Deepa Gopal
Youngzine, Founder & CEO

2021 - 2022 CALENDAR YEAR

YOUNGZINE IN NUMBERS



AS SCHOOLS TRANSITIONED TO IN-
person learning from online, we've settled into the cadence of traffic in certain months, which has slowed down during school holidays and testing periods. However, it is also notable that through our transition into a climate literacy platform this past calendar year, we still maintained the traffic bump we settled into at the beginning of the pandemic—**our traffic has increased by 200% since pre-pandemic.**

11 HIGH SCHOOL WRITERS

244 ARTICLES PUBLISHED (ENGLISH + SPANISH)

603 NEW TEACHERS WHO JOINED YOUNGZINE

21 TEACHERS IN OUR PILOT PROGRAM



A NEW PLATFORM

OUR NEW WEBSITE SHOWCASES IN-DEPTH, core content on climate change that introduces students to the interconnected nature of the issue; from the basics of weather and climate and the science behind climate change to its impacts on different ecosystems and the actions needed to mitigate and adapt to climate change. This content was the culmination of an intense two-year development effort by the Youngzine team under the guidance of Michael Mastrandrea, a climate scientist at Stanford University who also serves on the Youngzine advisory board. The content is published at multiple reading levels for students and features engaging multimedia and quiz modules. In addition, we also re-categorized the news categories on the home page and changed them to reflect the Youngzine’s new direction.



CLIMATE CURRICULUM

DURING THE SUMMER OF 2021, we developed and shared four extensive, user-friendly lesson plans designed to guide teachers on building interdisciplinary learning in their classrooms using our climate content and news articles. Our goal was to demonstrate how climate change can be integrated into ELA, Math, Science, and/or Arts subjects, and how relevant data visualization tools from NASA and NOAA could be used to enhance the learning experience for students. These lesson plans laid the foundations for our presentations at conferences and our summer youth program in 2022.



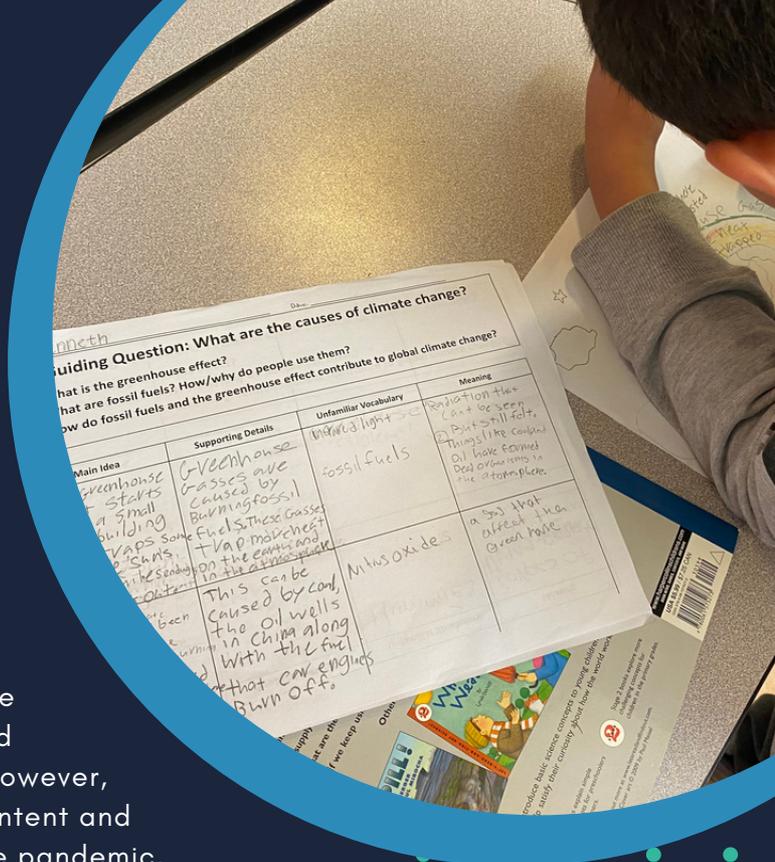
TEACHER PILOT PROGRAM

IN FALL 2021, WE SOUGHT OUT AND

enlisted 21 teachers to apply our content in their classrooms and followed up regularly to support them. We were pleased with the feedback from teachers who actively used our content—Mrs. Garg in Cupertino, who used our concept mapping with her students, said, “The students could visualize how interconnected the climate issue really is, giving them the tools and resources they need to brainstorm solutions.” However, 75% of the teachers were unable to use the content and cited the impacts of remote learning during the pandemic, their own decision to retire, or peer resignations and added responsibilities as the reason.

IN DECEMBER 2021, WE ALSO PRESENTED AT THE SAN MATEO

Teacher Fellowship Program as a supplementary partner where we introduced our content and lesson plans to 60+ participating teachers. Additionally, we had the pleasure of presenting on renewable energy to a fourth grade classroom in the SF Unified School District and were pleasantly surprised at the level of understanding and the questions these students asked.



SXSW 2022

YOUNGZINE WAS SELECTED TO RUN A 90-MINUTE educator workshop for teachers and school district officials at the 2022 SXSW EDU, held in Austin, Texas in early March. We presented on CER (Claim-Evidence-Reasoning) analysis and on how Youngzine’s core and news content on corals could be used in different classroom subjects. The participants worked together on a concept mapping group activity, a method that exemplifies the systems nature of climate change, where they had to identify one impact of climate change and brainstorm solutions. The presentation was well received by the attendees which included K-12 teachers as well as school administrators.



YOUNGZINE ISSUES JOINT STATEMENT ON CLIMATE EDUCATION



IN THE RUN-UP TO COP26 IN GLASGOW, Scotland in November 2022, Youngzine partnererd with prominent organizations across the country on behalf of educators to urge government leaders to "situate education for climate action at the very heart of K-12 schools in the U.S." The statement called for "significant funding investment in our school facilities, curriculum and instruction, and overall community and culture."

HEAR FROM OUR TEACHERS:

WE'VE REALLY APPRECIATED

having Youngzine as a core component of our climate change unit—we've used many of the text features to emphasize that key ideas and information come from a variety of features (not just text) in nonfiction texts. They've also given our students much needed practice in making sense of graphs and diagrams.

**ROSA MILLER &
STEPHEN GREEN,
5TH GRADE
NEW YORK**

THE ONLINE MODULES ARE

very user friendly for teachers and students, and new articles are being added that are relevant to current events. The accompanying quizzes are helpful a sit allowed my students to check their understanding and get immediate feedback.

**GEN GREENE,
MIDDLE SCHOOL
NORTH CAROLINA**

SPECIFIC TO STUDENTS

doing research projects, writing persuasive essays, or simply learning about environmental science topics, your website has a lot of organized information, videos, and visual photographs—I look forward to using the website, and having you visit our class virtually again next semester!

**TRACY TRUONG,
5TH GRADE
CALIFORNIA**

YOUTH CLIMATE FELLOWSHIP

Youngzine's inaugural high school summer program—aiming to build climate literacy in today's youth & empowering them to take action in their local communities!

WEEK 1

Climate
Mitigation
Solutions
(9am - 2pm)

WEEK 2

Climate
Adaptation
Solutions
(9am - 1pm +
Office Hours)

WEEK 3

Putting it all
together
(9am - 1pm +
Office Hours)

IN JULY 2022, WE PILOTED A UNIQUE THREE-WEEK PROGRAM IN WHICH WE TOOK

our vision for building systems and solutionary thinking and worked directly with a group of high school students. The program included lectures where students learned deeply about the climate issue, focusing on solutions needed to mitigate and adapt to climate change. They also engaged in breakout discussions where they analyzed climate data and policies, shared book excerpts on environmental justice, and heard from guest speakers in industry and academia who shared knowledge and experience from their respective fields. Finally, the program featured a capstone project, where students identified an idea that addressed sustainability in their community and, under our mentorship, developed it into a tangible plan of action that they presented at the end to a panel of judges.

IT TOOK US SIX MONTHS CONCEPTUALIZING THE PROGRAM, DEVELOPING THE content, as well as marketing it through local schools and social media. The feedback from the participants has been extremely positive and we are in the process of identifying the next steps to scale this program.



FEATURING GUEST SPEAKERS IN...



Renewable Energy



Climate Modeling



Corporate Sustainability



Polar Research



Marine Conservation



Climate Policy



Valley Water Supply



Water Conservation



THE GUEST SPEAKERS GAVE US AN AMAZING INSIGHT INTO DIFFERENT FIELDS OF STUDY; IT WAS INCREDIBLE TO SEE HOW PEOPLE FROM AROUND THE WORLD ARE CONTRIBUTING TO CLIMATE STUDY.

LINDSAY, FRESHMAN

AS A SENIOR IN HIGHSCHOOL, IT WAS NICE FOR ME TO

see people in different fields and start to think about which one I would like to go into. It was also great to learn about real world data because it showed the reality of issues. Although sometimes the data was shocking, it educated me and I'm sure it educated others as well.

NAYA, SENIOR

I UNDERSTAND NOW THAT WE HAVE TO LOOK AT WHAT IMPACT SOMETHING WILL

have on each part of Earth's system, and be very careful with how we take our next steps. Going forward, I see myself using this knowledge to educate other people in my community and spread the word. We can only make a difference if we are able to change our habits together as a whole.

KAAVYA, JUNIOR

I REALIZE THAT PRIOR TO THIS COURSE, I ONLY HAD A SURFACE-LEVEL

understanding of climate change and its adverse effects. This fellowship has taught me so much about how things are interconnected in systems and how there are many stakeholders in this large of an issue. I plan on going into environmental science as a career, and I hope that this program expands and becomes annual if not even more often.

TAARA, JUNIOR



INTRODUCING OUR 2022 YOUNGZINE CLIMATE FELLOWS!



Top left to bottom right: Naya Ramaswami, Deepa Gopal (instructor), Yuanyuan Sun (instructor), Taara Shastri, Kaavya Ahuja, Bryce Plant, Anurag Poddar, Lakshya Kalra, Akshay Walia, Lindsay Li, Elizabeth Liu

From the following cities: Sunnyvale, Cupertino, San Jose, Saratoga, Los Angeles, Phoenix

OVER THE COURSE OF THREE

weeks, our students teamed up to design and present their own version of a capstone project based on what appealed to them most about sustainability. From food waste management to water supply & conservation, watch the video to hear what our fellows have to say:



FINANCIALS



REVENUE - \$17,681.72

Donations
47%

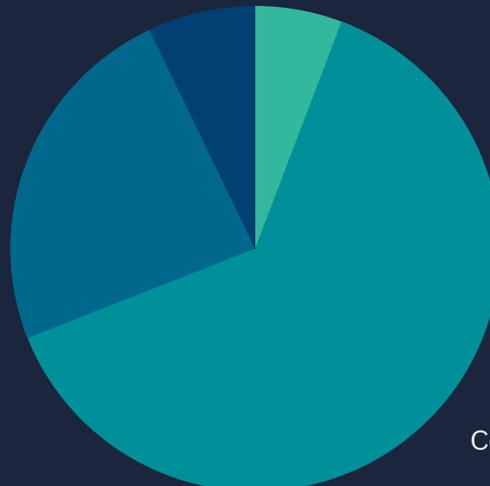


Content License
53%

EXPENDITURES - \$11,071.63

Operations (web hosting)
23.9%

Office Marketing
7.1% 5.7%



Content Development
63.3%



THANKING OUR TEAM...

CORE TEAM

ADVISORY BOARD

SUMMER PROGRAM

TEACHER CURRICULUM

DRUPAL SITE SUPPORT

EDITORIAL SUPPORT

SPANISH CONTENT

FINANCE/TAXES

SOCIAL MEDIA

HIGH SCHOOL WRITERS

Deepa Gopal, Yuanyuan Sun

John Henitz, Michael Mastrandrea, Meera

Ramachandran, Genevieve Greene, Natasha Garg

Aanchal Garg

Cayla Salvador

Wilson Wang, Aero Design (contractor)

Chekesha Brazeal

Rosita Puig Diaz

Figen Ezer

Avantika

Aaditi, Christina, Angelina, Lauren, Vedant, Ritali,

Michelle, Aarushi, Genesis, Celine

... AND OUR DONORS

Through your donations, you continue to make it possible for us to develop content and programs that teach our children to become climate literate, engage with news, and form opinions grounded in facts and data—skills important for their future as eco-conscious individuals.

Climate change is a shared destiny. We cannot do this without your support. If you or someone you know are passionate about climate education, please consider making a monetary contribution at

youngzine.org/donate.

SOWMYA ATHREYA

SUDHAMA SHASTRI

SUBA SHRI

SANDYA PRABALA

MEERA RAO

NIRANJANA NARASIMHAN

ANAND RAMACHANDRAN

KATHIK GOPALAKRISHNAN

AJIT THYAGARAJAN

JOHN HENITZ

CHARLINE HAO

ARAS KANNU

SHUBA KRISHNA

WILSON OHNO

