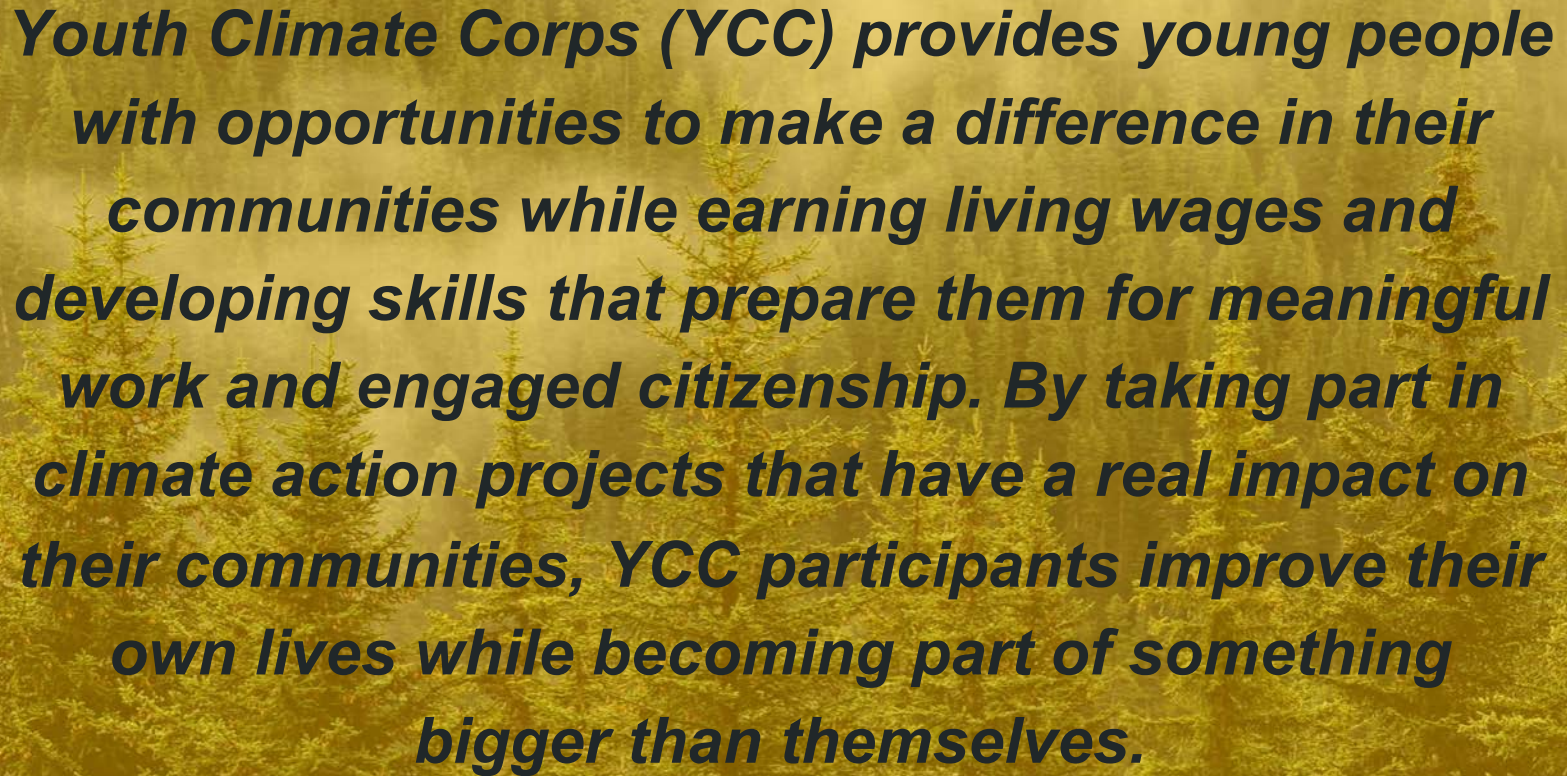




Youth Climate Corps



Youth Climate Corps is grateful to be headquartered on the traditional and unceded lands of the Sinixt, the Syilx, and the Ktunaxa.



Youth Climate Corps (YCC) provides young people with opportunities to make a difference in their communities while earning living wages and developing skills that prepare them for meaningful work and engaged citizenship. By taking part in climate action projects that have a real impact on their communities, YCC participants improve their own lives while becoming part of something bigger than themselves.





Growth of a transformational program



Youth Climate Corps starts
as a grassroots effort in the
Kootenays, quickly builds a
reputation for excellence

The Beginnings

Youth Climate Corps started in 2020 as a program of Wildsight.

The inaugural program was based in Nelson, BC with fourteen youth crew members working for four months on various climate projects in the surrounding West Kootenay region.

In 2021, Wildsight is operating two Youth Climate Corps crews: one in our original West Kootenay location and one in nearby Kimberley/Cranbrook.



Co-benefits in climate action

Youth Climate Corps focuses on not only completing climate action projects but improving the economic well-being of young people, building community resilience in a heating climate, facilitating civic engagement and supporting participation in government systems, and addressing the growing labour shortage.

The background of the slide is a photograph of a dense evergreen forest. In the foreground, several tall, dark green coniferous trees are visible. The middle ground is filled with a thick canopy of similar trees, partially obscured by a soft, white mist or fog that drifts through the branches. The overall atmosphere is serene and natural. The bottom third of the image is covered by a semi-transparent golden-yellow rectangular overlay, which serves as a background for the text.

Climate Justice Is Central

Youth Climate Corps operates from the understanding that climate solutions are only viable if they lift everyone up. The rights of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Colour), youth, women, queer folk, disabled folk recent immigrants, and refugees need to be centred within climate solutions. YCC takes an equity lens to all of our work.

Focus Areas



LOCAL FOOD SECURITY



ENERGY EFFICIENCY



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



EDUCATION



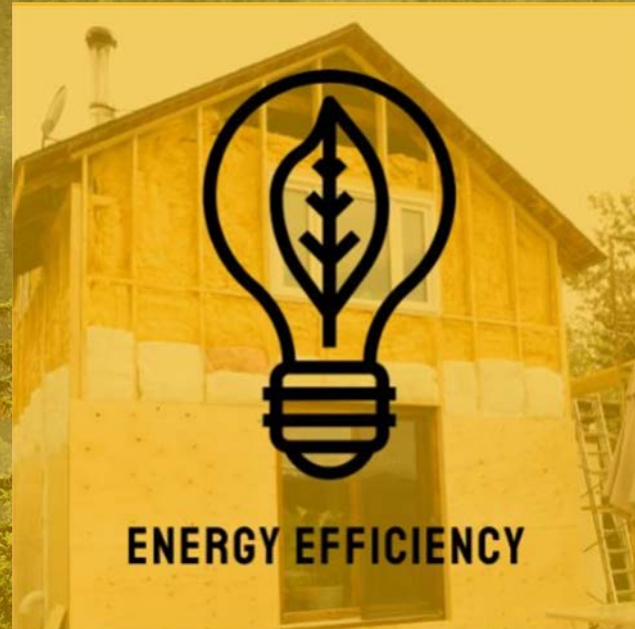
WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION



ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION



**YOUTH LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT**



Retrofitting buildings reduces emissions, costs to residence, and improves comfort in extreme weather.







Food systems are becoming increasingly fragile with the heating climate, YCC scales up projects that sequester carbon, and increase local food security.





Youth are uniquely positioned in communities to be effective educators and communicators. Many community members do not have the capacity or knowledge to access community climate incentives, or know what they can do for climate action.





Part of the curriculum is to help youth understand and address the impacts of the climate crisis, empowering them with the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes needed to act as agents of change.





YCC scales up wildfire mitigation projects, while training the next generation of foresters.





YCC works on projects that promote nature's contributions to humans, such as wetland restoration that will sequester carbon, reduce flooding risks, improve biodiversity, and increase access to drinking water.







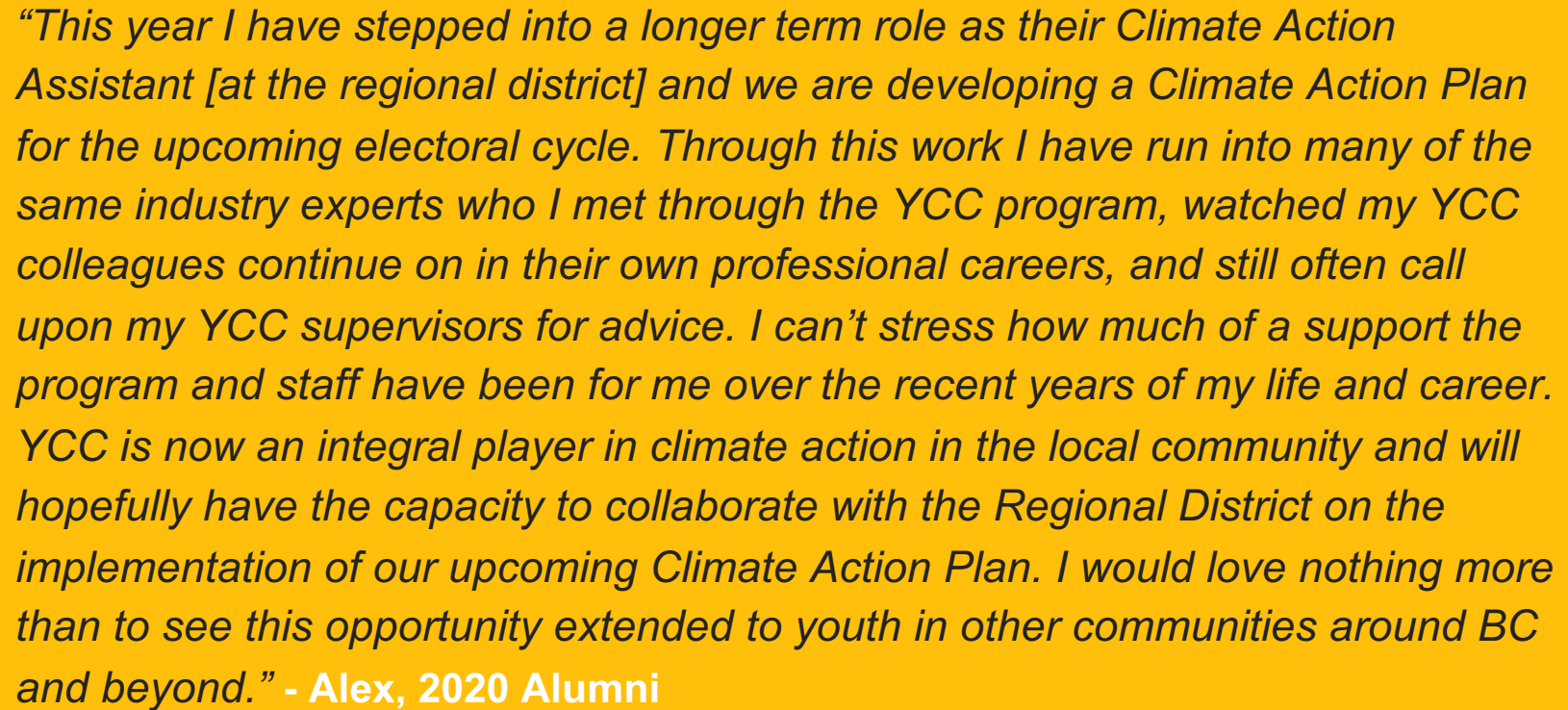


Leadership development helps expand the capacity of youth to perform in leadership roles within a disruptive world. By building resilience we empower youth within your community.



Workforce readiness





“This year I have stepped into a longer term role as their Climate Action Assistant [at the regional district] and we are developing a Climate Action Plan for the upcoming electoral cycle. Through this work I have run into many of the same industry experts who I met through the YCC program, watched my YCC colleagues continue on in their own professional careers, and still often call upon my YCC supervisors for advice. I can’t stress how much of a support the program and staff have been for me over the recent years of my life and career. YCC is now an integral player in climate action in the local community and will hopefully have the capacity to collaborate with the Regional District on the implementation of our upcoming Climate Action Plan. I would love nothing more than to see this opportunity extended to youth in other communities around BC and beyond.” - Alex, 2020 Alumni







Benefits for Youth

- Low barrier access to climate related jobs that spark careers
- Diverse activities and skill sets that align with the values of young people
- Dignified work that pays a living wage
- Leadership training, networking, building a sense of community and belonging
- Training, certifications, and resume building
- Ongoing support for program alumni



Meeting Canada's Climate Goals While Supporting Communities

Youth Climate Corps scales up climate action projects to reduce emissions, and improve community resilience





Community-led


Working with local governments,
Indigenous rights holders, and
organizations that are on the
front lines of climate change.

Benefits for Community

- Reducing emissions and building resilience
- Increasing supply of jobs for youth, increasing supply of labour for employers
- Building public support for climate action
- Furthering collaboration between all levels of government, non-profits, and corporations
- Shows tangible leadership in climate action
- YCC provides many co-benefits beyond climate action

Economic wellbeing of the community

- Retrofit projects connect residents with incentives and reduce energy costs
- Resiliency projects such as wildfire and flood mitigation protect critical infrastructure
- Connect and train local youth in sustainability-related careers
- Completes climate projects in a cost-effective way through cost sharing and program expertise

A group of four young adults, three women and one man, are standing in a snowy, wooded area. They are all wearing winter clothing, including hats and jackets. The background shows a bright sun low in the sky, creating a warm glow, and bare trees with some snow. A large yellow speech bubble is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing a quote. The overall scene is a winter landscape in a forest.

"Participating in the Youth Climate Corps has shifted my values and worldview, and it has also provided me with a deep sense of purpose."

- KATE WATT, YCC PARTICIPANT, 2021

YCC CREW, SLOCAN VALLEY, BC, NOVEMBER 2021

Funding options for YCC

- Local Government Climate Action Program funding (LGCAP)
- Fee for service from the municipality for climate related work
- Government grants
- Investment from businesses to support just transition work
- Private foundation grants
- Once initial investment is made, it can be multiplied from a diversity of funding sources
- Average six month YCC program budget is \$300,000 - \$350,000 depending on living wage and project focus

Start a Youth Climate Corps In Your Community

STEP 1 - RELATIONSHIP BUILDING & CONNECTION

Making the necessary connections with local governments, Indigenous rights holders, and organizations that will commit to supporting a YCC program. Explore base funding options.

STEP 2 - CAPACITY BUILDING

Evaluation of the funding strategy that align the best with community projects. Working with local partners and YCC admin to hire a Regional Coordinator to be the primary local contact.

The background of the slide is a photograph of a community garden. Several people are visible working in raised garden beds filled with various plants and vegetables. The scene is outdoors, and the overall tone is warm and community-oriented. The text is overlaid on this image in white and yellow colors.

Start a Youth Climate Corps In Your Community

STEP 3 - PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

The Regional Coordinator will work with YCC admin and local contacts to develop programming with all tiers involved (communities, local governments, Indigenous rights holders, and organizations, etc.) and hire YCC crew and crew leaders.

STEP 4 - YCC IN ACTION

The Crew Leader and YCC Crew work to make meaningful change in your community.

Subscribe to our Newsletter Now

YCC EXPRESSIONS





Thank you!