

Youth Action Team Profile Appendix

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A. *Detailed Sub-Goals and Grassroots Activities* (actual efforts that have taken place over the last 12 months)

Goal #1 - Encourage and facilitate the effective and meaningful participation of youth-led and youth development organizations, their representatives and individual youth in the USPDESD

1. Research and engagement of youth-led and youth development organizations in all sectors and regions

Examples include developing a contact database of effective young leaders in diverse fields, attending and speaking at conferences, tapping into existing youth networks, cold calling organizational leadership, and sending relevant Decade and USP information to youth leaders

2. Initiate conversations with strategic young organizational leaders about the broad goals of the UN Decade and USP.

Examples include informing the Boys and Girls scouts, and various national youth led coalitions and networks such as Energy Action, SustainUS, Emerging Green Builders, Engineers for a Sustainable World, League of Young Voters, etc about opportunities to highlight their work within the context of the USP and UN Decade

3. Inquire about how diverse organizations perceive their role in engaging people in sustainability and formal education for sustainable development.

Examples include phone and live conversations with young organizational leaders asking about their organizations goals, views on education for sustainable development, cross sector collaboration, and leadership development.

4. Advocate for youth organizations and individual youth to register as members of the overall US Partnership and join the monthly Partner Forum for ALL US Partnership members.

Examples include taking the time to describe the simple online registration process, and the benefits of membership in the US Partnership, such as access to the listserve and website to broadcast successes, opportunities, and needs. Also discussing with youth leaders the opportunities to find new strategic partner organizations within the broader membership for specific projects.

Goal #2 – Encourage and enable young members of the US Partnership to take on leadership roles in the USP

5. Advocate for youth organizations and individual youth to join Action and Sector Teams, and take on leadership roles in the overall USP

Examples include USP leaders creating an environment that encourages full participation through practicing servant and distributive leadership, and by describing the benefits of participation and leadership on teams such as opportunities for leadership development, collaborative planning, increased impact of current efforts, and increased network building. Also current leaders can provide clear descriptions of roles and responsibilities of various positions on team steering committees, and the executive committee to help new members understand the structure of the organization. Also current leaders should delegate appropriate tasks to new and interested members that will encourage these members to find meaning in the team structure.

6. Host monthly Youth Action Team national conference calls for young leaders from the environmental, social justice, community development, interfaith, business, and other fields to share their current efforts, learn from other youth approaching sustainability from different angles, and plan collaborative efforts.

Examples include marketing conference calls through email listserves and phone calls, and identifying youth with facilitation skills to host calls that encourage participation from all ages and lead toward new collaborative efforts.

7. Request support from partners to identify and encourage youth within partner organizations to participate in the Youth Action Team

Examples include contacting individual partner organizations such as the Columbia University Earth Institute, and Portland State University Extension to request the assignment of 1-2 young staff for 2-3 hours a week or month to serve as YAT interns for six months.

8. Organize youth participation in the USP executive committee planning process.

Examples include the 2 seats of the Youth Action Team chairs on the executive committee, who participate fully in the overall decision making of the executive committee.

9. Collaborate with other USP leaders to identify and encourage youth participation on all Action and Sector Teams

Youth leaders from Energy Action working with Higher Education Sector Team on a

national partnership between students groups, faculty, and administrators for campus based climate change initiatives, Youth outreach for Faith Sector Team Open Space Forum, sending youth delegates to SOL Sustainability Consortium Conference, Youth representative participates in the monthly Marketing Action Team conference calls

10. Liaison between USPDESD and other domestic and international youth organizations and movements globally involved in the UN Decade for ESD

Examples include the development of proactive information and resource sharing relationships with international youth leadership through the Commission on Sustainable Development Youth Caucus, Global Youth Action Network, Taking IT Global, and other international networks and UN Forums.

Goal #3 - Increase exposure, impact, and capacity of individual and organizational members of the Youth Action Team

11. Use effective communication techniques and dialogue within the framework of the USP and UN Decade to promote youth leadership as an essential component of ESD to all partners and beyond.

Examples include using the USP (www.uspartnership.org) and Youth Action Team (<http://projects.takingitglobal.org/uspyouthactionteam>) websites, listserves, and monthly newsletter to highlight youth leadership accomplishments such as Billy Parish of Energy Action in Rolling Stone Magazine, Evon Peter of Native Movement in a new documentary on Native American activism, Emily Freeburg of Lutheran International participating in the WTO 6 talks in Hong Kong, or Josh Tulkin and SustainUS highlighted in a NYT article on the Montreal Climate Treaty negotiations. Also the development of attractive Youth Action Team marketing materials such as posters and postcards to distribute at events

12. Through conference calls and other communication channels collaboratively identify and promote youth led ESD projects, programs, campaigns, and initiatives that will increase collaboration among diverse youth organizations and other sectors.

Examples include the identification of and engagement with UN World Environment Day, disaster relief situations, the Speak Young American Campaign, the National Youth Council for Sustainability, the One Campaign, the World Social Forum, the World Urban Forum, and the Commission on Sustainable Development as opportunities to increase collaboration among youth organizations and other sectors.

13. Work with individual members of the YAT to identify mentorships that will enable accelerated personal development and leadership capacity.

Examples include the pairing of current YAT members with new members, and the formation of a YAT Resource Council of professionals that can work with the Youth Action Team to identify resources and opportunities for personal and professional development such as seminars, trainings, internships, jobs, and innovative projects.

Goal #4 – Focus the collective capacities of the Youth Action Team and the overall US Partnership on innovative projects, campaigns, and enterprises that involve multiple partners and show potential for substantial achievement of UN Decade of ESD and US Partnership goals

14. Promote the formation of a network of county youth councils for sustainability and a National Youth Council for Sustainability

Examples include the national gathering of youth leaders from diverse organizations in April of 2005 organized by the co-chairs of the Youth Action Team, the lobbying of federal and state agencies and cooperative extension offices to support the formation of such bodies, and the creation of a National United States Coordinator position within Global Youth Action Network.

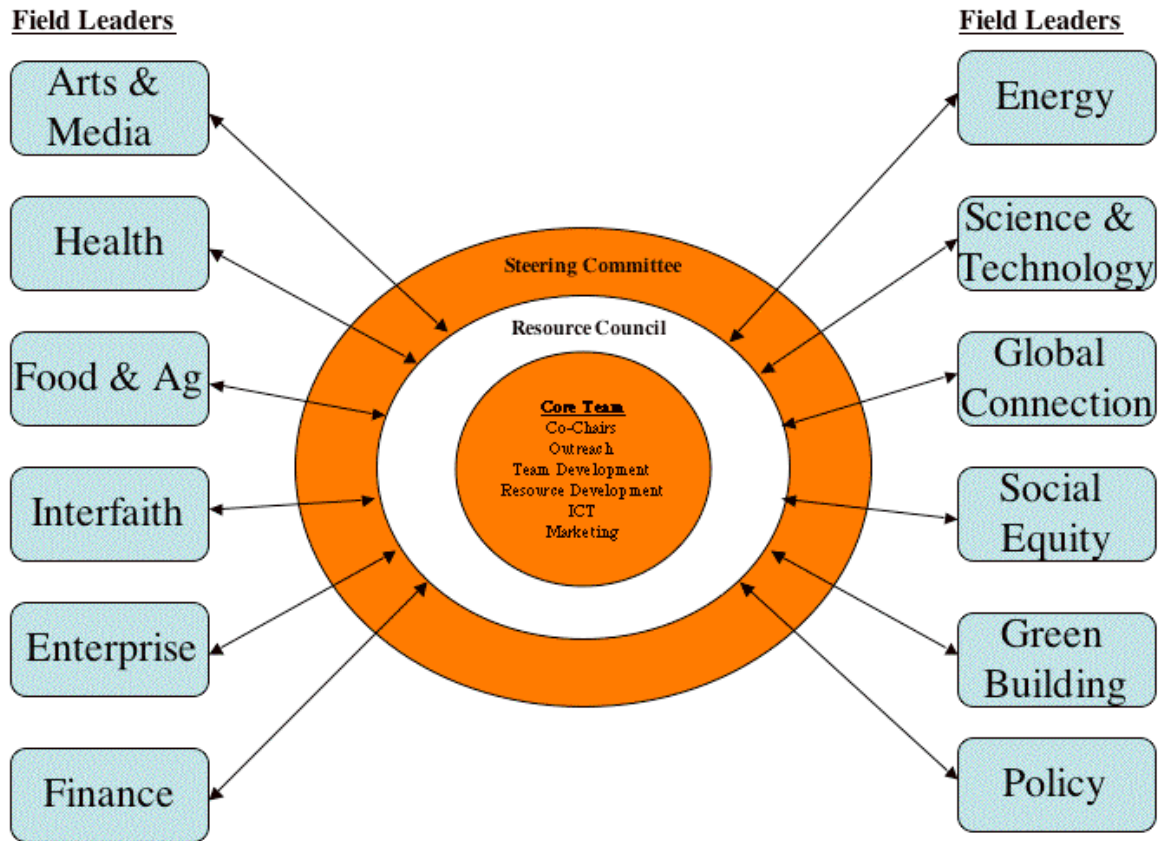
15. Promote national, high visibility events, produced by youth that highlight the role of youth leadership in the achievement of UN and US Partnership goals

Examples include the annual events of Energy Action, Engineers for a Sustainable World, and Emerging Green Builders.

Goal # 5 –Evaluate and celebrate the impact of Youth Action Team goals and activities and the role of the YAT in the achievement of US Partnership and UN Decade goals.

Currently not in progress

B. Organizational Structure Chart



C. YAT Organizational Descriptions

Core Team (Leadership and Administration)

The Core Team is the administrative and leadership hub of the Youth Action Team. These seven staff, volunteers, and interns commit 3-10 hours a week to enable the YAT to function as an effective organization responsible for optimizing the engagement, participation, and leadership of youth (15-30 years old) in the activities of the US Partnership and the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

Current Positions

Team Stewards – The two Team Stewards are selected by the steering committee to ensure effective team coordination and management

Steward: Daniel Roth

Steward: Empty

Outreach – The Outreach Coordinator is the primary contact person for all inquiries about the YAT and proactively researches and engages new members.

Outreach: Ann Gray

Information and Communication Tech – The ICT Coordinator maintains the team website, moderates the listserv and maintains the YAT contact database

ICT: Farah Hussain (temp)

Marketing – The Marketing coordinator designs the publicity strategy of the YAT and all other public and media communications

Marketing: Amy Mosher (temp)

Resource Development – The Resource Development Coordinator researches and writes grants that will support the core functions of the Youth Action Team. In addition the RD Coordinator engages other potential resources such as sponsors, and philanthropists.

RD: Empty

Team Development – The Team Development Coordinator helps optimize the Core Team's human resources through techniques of organizational learning, participatory evaluation, and leadership development

TD: Daniel Roth (temp)

Resource Council (Mentorship and general support)

6 Current Members

Doug Cohen

Dan Hoyanaki

Barbara Baker

Cathy Coleman

Amory Lovins

Steering Committee (Strategic Planning)

All 7 members of the Core Team

3 rotating members of Resource Council

2-5 representatives from other USP Action and Sector Teams

Field Leaders (Point people for diverse constituencies)

Description:

The Youth Action Team is currently identifying and recruiting key, innovative organizations that are **field leaders** within the diverse youth and student movement toward a sustainable future. These organizations are respected in their field and have the capacity to engage with other organizations across sector boundaries. Each field leader organization is already or becoming a formal member of the US Partnership.

Young leaders from these partner organizations act as point people for different constituencies and regions such as food, health, arts and media, energy, finance, interfaith, science and technology, higher education, international, policy, social justice, green building, first nations, and more.

Goals:

Through conference calls and online communication platforms such as the US Partnership website and the Youth Action Team site on Taking IT Global, the Youth Action Team – Core Team supports field leaders to:

- 1) **Increase Collaboration** – Through facilitated collaborative learning the field leaders identify and take action on emerging opportunities to work together across traditional sector boundaries. Participation in this environment increases organizations capacity to collaborate broadly and engage in strategic partnerships.
- 2) **Increase Exposure** – The rapidly growing visibility of the US Partnership on the domestic and international stage presents an opportunity for youth, student, and young professional organizations. The USP Youth Action Team is a doorway for these organizations to increase their exposure to partner organizations and at large scale domestic and international forums.
- 3) **Increase Impact** - The primary goal of strategic partnership and collaboration is to enable individual organizations to achieve their missions more effectively and in a more sustainable fashion. Participation in the Youth Action Team supports groups to optimize their capacities through collaboration with other willing groups.

Benefits:

- Wider recognition of leadership within field
- Increased exposure to future funding streams
- Direct network development with other field leaders of all ages
- Highlighted involvement in all USP YAT endeavors and materials
- First access to emerging collaborations
- Support from YAT Core Team in development of partnerships across sectors

Responsibilities:

As a field leader an organization has one seat on the **steering committee** of the **Youth Action Team**. Through the steering committee structure diverse field leaders bring their unique perspective to the strategic planning process of the Youth Action Team and the US Partnership overall.

Specific responsibilities include:

- Participate in monthly YAT conference call
- Lobby for organization and others in field to register as members of US Partnership
- Set up profile on the YAT Taking IT Global Site and link to own organization
- Set up web links from own website to US Partnership website
- Update USP web calendar with events from that field
- Provide feedback and input to Core Team on overall strategy and direction of YAT
- Identify projects appropriate for cross sector collaboration
- Commit to be responsive and available to inquiries from other partners

To inquire about Field Leader positions please contact Ann Gray, Youth Action Team Outreach Coordinator at Ann.Gray@oregonstate.edu or (503) 587-7897

For more information about the Youth Action Team, the US Partnership, or the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development please visit our website at www.uspartnership.org

D. Application for Membership

What is the YAT Steering Committee?

The Youth Action Team STEERING COMMITTEE of the US Partnership is a small committee of no more than 15 persons (14-30 years old) from diverse communities, organizations, businesses, and schools. The committee has the principle function to engage the diversity of young leaders and youth organizations from across the United States in the sweeping mission of the US Partnership; to integrate sustainable development into teaching and learning in the US. The committee includes 1) all *Action Team Chairs*, 2) *Core volunteers/interns*, and 3) *At large members*.

What are the short-term goals?

- Formalize Web based communications platform on Taking IT Global and US Partnership websites
- Solidify levels of commitment by previously engaged groups and individuals
- Develop 1 and 5 year strategic plan for YAT including:
 - Indicators and Participatory Evaluation and Marketing plan
- Catalogue and highlight ongoing initiatives and past successes

What are the criteria for participation?

- Willingness to do outreach
- Strong knowledge and experience of youth organizing and sustainable development
- Participation in monthly conference calls (possibly more, depending on circumstances)
- A 'team player', participatory approach to all communications and collaboration
- Willingness to spend a minimum of one to two hours per week working on team tasks

How do I apply?

To apply, send (a) a short bio (half page) and (b) a statement of interest (half page) to the interim chair for the YAT, Daniel Roth at dnr6@cornell.edu

What if I have more questions?

Please feel free to contact Daniel Roth with any questions, comments, or suggestions
dnr6@cornell.edu

E. National Youth Council for Sustainability

On April 16, 2005, 30 Youth Leaders from diverse youth organizations around the country were brought together by the Youth Action Team to begin a strategic planning process to found a National Youth Council for Sustainability. Over several months time, a working group of this meeting developed the following purpose statement.

Cohesive Voice of U.S. Youth

- Develop and advance national strategies for sustainability, and overall capacity for collective action by youth;
- Increase communication between youth and government (local, state, and federal) through the collaboration and action of our continuously developing youth network;
- Discern an ongoing learning process among groups of how to acknowledge and integrate diverse regions, concerns, and populations.

Education

- Promote high quality holistic education for sustainable development including: arts and sciences, community leadership, ethical enterprise, etc.;
- Support youth media production and outlets to connect with broad populations, especially those that recognize the need for the many aspects of sustainability;
- Reach out to the next generations of youth in order to continue the movement, this especially includes educators (non-youth);
- Reach out to older generations to educate and include them as supporters of our movement on many levels– educational, financial, and experiential.

Networking Point

- Build the capacity of youth and youth organizations for leadership and collaboration through networking for community sustainability and sustainable development;
- Develop capacity of youth organizations to access the resources (human and material) necessary for regional sustainability;
- Connect to global networks that focus on sustainability working to maintain communication on a global level, to learn from the experience of other groups, and to support groups struggling to achieve our vision as best we can.

Resource Center

- Be a center for resource sharing and distribution of best practices as well as print, internet and media resources for education.
-

F. County Youth Councils for Sustainability

What: The County Youth Council for Sustainability (CYCS) will bring together leaders from 14-30 years old to establish a relevant youth voice to effect positive changes in all sectors of life at the county, state, and national levels. The council will leverage the energy and commitment of diverse youth leaders to have a significant collective impact. By tapping into the capacities of youth for leadership, the potential for positive community change will be enhanced. The County YCS will engage with peers, politicians, businesses, planners, local boards, activists, and academics alike.

Why: Youth leaders will be drawn to participate through the opportunities to gain meaningful leadership experience, put their ideas into action, develop new social relationships with peers and the community at large, advance scholastic and career ambitions, achieve wide recognition for civic responsibility

Broader Impact: The CYCS will bridge across social divides including age, gender, class, race, and culture. The council will provide a new, action oriented body to connect mentors and mentees. The council will provide inspiring role models for all ages to be leaders in positive community change. The council will act as a resource hub for sharing of best practices in leadership from a variety of sectors (school, non-profit, private, and government). Over time the council will build new and strengthen existing communication networks among local organizations and assist in the effective funding of youth led and youth focused initiatives and organizations.

G. Letter of Support from CNN



ONE CNN CENTER, Atlanta, GA 30303

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Vice President, Network Bookings
404.827.1320
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joy.dibenedetto@turner.com

May 1, 2005

Mr. Douglas Cohen
Co-Chair - National Youth Team
The US Partnership for the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development
3 Hemlock Ct.
Maplewood, NJ 07040

Dear Mr. Cohen:

Please accept this letter as my pledge of support to working with The US Partnership for the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development and its collaborators in celebration of World Environment Day, June 1-5, 2005.

The reach of CNN offers a perfect opportunity to highlight the work which both The US Partnership and its collaborators are undertaking to educate and inform the world of the critical situation the world finds itself in if we do not pay attention to the state of our environment now, and what could happen if we do not begin to make changes immediately.

This is a global responsibility – and the environment knows no boundaries. Bringing young people into the concept of positive, systemic, sustainable environmental change now will only guarantee their commitment to improvement and a better future for all of us.

In my role at CNN, I will make it a priority to help the US Partnership for the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development and its collaborators, gain awareness and publicity for the tremendous efforts and events which will take place in honor of World Environment Day, 2005.

I look forward to working with all organizations involved in this very important celebration and on their very significant and progressive work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Joy DiBenedetto'. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Joy DiBenedetto
CNN

H. Letter of Partnership from the City of San Francisco



April 24, 2005

Douglas Cohen
The United States Partnership for the Decade
of Education for Sustainable Development
c/o ULSF
2100 "L" Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037
USA

Dear Douglas:

On behalf of the United Nations World Environmental Day team (WED), I am excited to confirm the approval of a "Planning Partnership" between WED and the United States Partnership for the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (US Partnership).

The purpose and intent of this Partnership will be to develop successful opportunities for youth involvement in WED and to pursue opportunities for joint sponsorship and support.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, a founding force behind the United Nations, is memorialized at Muir Woods in the declaration that "a love of nature is common among men of all nations." In that spirit we look forward to working with the US Partnership to increase the visibility of environmental issues to youth throughout the world.

Sincerely,

Jared Blumenfeld
Director, SF Environment

Cc: Mayor Gavin Newsom



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