



# Policy Resource Pack

S. 4189 (118th): Youth Climate Leadership  
Act of 2024

NaturAlly

## Objective:

Demonstrate support for the Youth Climate Leadership Act of 2024 to bolster youth involvement in climate policy, effectively addressing the needs of diverse communities.

## A. Context for Youth–Led Climate Activism

As climate change escalates, it is becoming increasingly important to ensure that the younger generation is actively involved in policy decisions concerning global warming and environmental conservation. Youth are the [most confronted](#) by the long-term impacts of climate change, including severe weather caused by decades of declining environmental conditions. For example, someone born in 2020 is 6.8 times as likely to encounter a heat wave and 2.8 times as likely to experience river floods compared to someone born in 1960. Furthermore, if emissions continue in the future at their current rate, younger generations, such as Millennials, Gen Z, and Gen Alpha, will face about [double](#) the warming throughout their lifetime as the Baby Boomer generation.

As of [2020](#), Millennials and Gen Z comprise a substantial portion of the eligible voter population. Youth are generally more concerned about climate change than older generations but tend to exhibit less frequent political activity. Young people are typically more engaged in grassroots activism such as contacting political representatives, donating to climate organizations, and volunteering. It is imperative that organizations and government officials initiate efforts to more extensively involve youth in climate decisions on a national and global scale.

Connecting youth with world leaders and organizations to examine climate issues through networking and [mentorship](#) will help young individuals influence climate-related decision making. There are numerous youth-based organizations that highlight the impact of youth in the future of climate change.

- Youth Climate Strike: An organization primarily piloted by children to initiate climate strikes for environmental health and social justice.
- Plant-for-the-Planet: An organization that supports youth to help rebuild natural ecosystems and receive climate change training.
- The Climate Action and Advocacy Club: An organization that provides teenagers with educational content about environmental protection and global warming.

In addition to offering more resources for climate leadership, some organizations like [zoos and aquariums](#) are providing programs that assist youth with learning about the environment and preparing to be future climate activists. These programs are founded on the idea that youth are a crucial demographic that consists of future leaders who should

be well-informed about environmental health and policy. For example, aquariums across the country from New York to Seattle have initiated their Youth Ocean Advocate internship program to engage young people in conservation volunteering and policy training. These opportunities allow youth to gain access to valuable resources involving climate change and policy. As we develop more environmental advocacy training for younger generations, it is vital to ensure that their voices are actually being [represented in policy discussions](#). Efforts by youth including rallies and social media campaigns have highlighted the impending threats of climate change. Therefore, in order to enact meaningful initiatives against climate change, governments and organizations should actively engage youth in the decision making process.

For too long have youth been limited from holding positions of significant influence with regards to climate policy despite being on the frontline for future impacts of global warming. Acknowledging youth as primary stakeholders and accounting for their ideas will allow for more just and sustainable environmental practices. The Youth Climate Leadership Act of 2024 will allow us to integrate youth opinions in governmental decisions to more robustly address the needs of younger generations, propelling more innovative policies that effectively consider the wellbeing of diverse communities.

## B. Youth Climate Leadership Act of 2024 Fact Sheet

- **Title:** Youth Climate Leadership Act of 2024
- **Primary Sponsor:** Senator Laphonza Butler [D–CA]
- **Date Introduced:** Apr 18, 2024
- **Track Bill:** [www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/118/s4189](https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/118/s4189)

The Youth Climate Leadership Act of 2024 will strengthen youth-led activism by employing the input of young people to alleviate environmental issues faced by young and marginalized communities. Instituting youth councils will prioritize the needs of future generations, leading to more sustainable and climate-resilient policy. Information from key subsections of the bill is presented below.

### *Section 3: Youth Advisory Councils*

#### A. ESTABLISHMENT

- a. The head of each government agency (Environmental Protection Agency, Department of the Interior, Department of Energy, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Commerce) will organize a Youth Advisory Council to provide input on environmental issues and how they affect youth communities.
- b. Each Youth Advisory Council can research, discuss, and report on topics including, but not limited to, climate change mitigation, environmental justice, pollution management, and environmental data measurement.

#### B. MEMBERSHIP

- a. Each council will consist of 15 to 25 individuals aged 16 to 29 years of age at the time of appointment as selected by the head of the respective agency.
- b. The selection of council members will involve both geographic diversity and a diversity of backgrounds including a) business and industry, b) academic institutions, c) State, local, and Tribal governments, d) public interest groups, e) environmental organizations, and f) service groups. At most 60% of any council may be of one of the above groups.
- c. At least half of the members of a Youth Advisory Council must come from an underprivileged community. The head of an agency must include diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in the selection process.

- d. A member of a council will serve for two years.
- e. The head of an agency can reappoint a member of the respective Youth Advisory Council. Any vacancy in the council will be filled through the same appointment process.

#### C. MEETINGS

- a. Meetings must occur at least once annually.
- b. Meetings of a Youth Advisory Council will generally be open to the public unless determined otherwise by the head of the respective agency. Those who are interested in the discussions of a council or would like for the council to consider a certain topic can attend meetings of and submit comments to the council.

#### D. SUBCOMMITTEES

- a. A Youth Advisory Council can create subcommittees of the council.

#### E. EDUCATION

- a. The head of each agency will develop education materials to provide to their respective council that inform council members of the structure and initiatives of the agency.

#### F. REPORTS

- a. A Youth Advisory Council will submit a report to the respective agency head with recommendations for environmental issues as provided in the Establishment subsection.

#### G. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

- a. The head of an agency will offer administrative support to their respective Youth Advisory Council.

## C. Advertising Materials

Instructions: Use the following sample social media posts to spread awareness about youth-led climate activism by supporting the Youth Climate Leadership Act of 2024.

### Sample #1:

Someone born in 2020 is 7 times more likely to experience a heat wave than someone born in 1960. Support the Youth Climate Leadership Act of 2024 to create a greener future for young generations! #YouthActivism

### Sample #2:

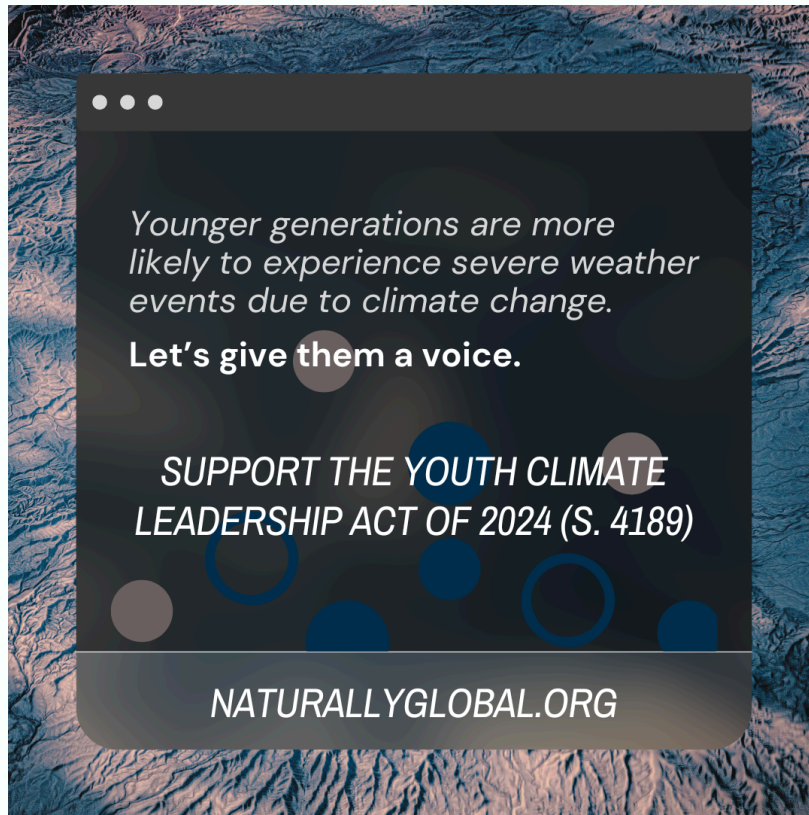
Support the Youth Climate Leadership Act of 2024 to help young people have a say in the future of climate change! #SupportThisBill #ClimateChange

### Sample #3:

Ensuring that young people can give input on climate policy is vital for creating a sustainable future that guarantees the wellbeing of diverse communities. Let's work together to help youth influence environmental decisions. #YouthClimateAct

The following page consists of sample social media graphics to accompany written social media posts to prompt more support of youth initiatives for environmental advocacy.

Sample Social Media Graphics:



## D. Communications Kit

### Template #1: Demonstrating Legislative Support – Email Template to Congressional Officials

Instructions: Use the following email template to communicate with your local representatives about supporting the bill. See Section E (Important Resources) on finding contact information for your local congressional officials. Fill in information in the brackets [ ].

Subject: Support Needed for S. 4189 Youth Climate Leadership Act of 2024

Dear [Representative/Senator] [Last Name],

I hope you are doing well! My name is [Your Full Name], and I am writing to you to express my support for the Youth Climate Leadership Act of 2024 (S. 4189). I hope you will consider endorsing the Act as a co-sponsor in Congress.

Today's youth are the most confronted by the damages of climate change, especially the long-term impacts. If our current situation continues, younger generations from Millennials to Gen Alpha will experience twice as much warming throughout their lifetime compared to Baby Boomers. Young people significantly contribute to the climate movement through rallies, protests, and social media campaigns, yet they are not sufficiently represented in policy decisions by organizations and governments.

This legislation will ensure that the nation's youth can contribute to crafting more sustainable and climate-resilient policies, helping create a future that equitably meets the needs of young and marginalized communities. I thank you for your time and consideration to promote youth engagement in climate-related decision making.

Sincerely,

[Your Full Name]

[Your City, State]

[Your Email Address]



## Template #2: Mobilizing the Community – Email Template for General Awareness

Instructions: Use the following email template to spread awareness about the bill in your community. Consider communicating with local businesses, media outlets, and mailing list subscribers to promote awareness. Fill in information in the brackets [ ].

Subject: Support the Youth Climate Leadership Act of 2024!

Hello,

I hope you are doing well! I am excited to inform you about an essential piece of legislation, the Youth Climate Leadership Act of 2024. This bill will institute councils for youth engagement in environmental government agencies so that young people can influence the climate movement to create more effective policy.

This legislation is critical to ensure the role of youth in crafting environmentally friendly practices. By supporting this program, we can promote youth-driven activism. You can support the movement by:

1. Contacting your local representatives and requesting them to endorse the Youth Climate Leadership Act of 2024
2. Sharing this policy resource pack with members in your community to increase awareness about youth involvement against climate change

I appreciate your commitment to ensuring that youth can contribute to climate policy to improve the environmental wellbeing of future generations. By working together, we can create a positive impact in the community.

Sincerely,

[Your Full Name]

[Your Email Address]

## E. Important Resources

### Find Your Congressional Officials:

- Congress.gov: [www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member](http://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member)
- House.gov: [www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative](http://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative)
- Senate.gov: [www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm](http://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm)

### Reading Materials:

- [Bloomberg Philanthropies Launches Youth Action Fund to Activate Tens of Thousands of Young People in Driving Climate Solutions in 100 Cities Across the Globe](#)
- [The Next Big Way to Tackle Global Climate Challenges? Youth-Led Solutions](#)
- [Youth Participation in Climate and Environmental Action](#)
- [Youth activists win 'unprecedented' climate settlement in Hawaii](#)
- [Why youth climate change activism must be taken seriously](#)

### Questions?

- Contact NaturAlly at [www.naturallyglobal.org/contact](http://www.naturallyglobal.org/contact)
- Email us at [naturallyglobal.org@gmail.com](mailto:naturallyglobal.org@gmail.com)

## F. References

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- “S. 4189 — 118th Congress: Youth Climate Leadership Act of 2024.” *www.GovTrack.us*, 2024, [www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/118/s4189](https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/118/s4189).