



# YOUTH SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The Youth Sustainability Leadership Program (YSLP) is anxious to reveal what sustainability looks like during a pandemic, with our youth leading the way. This program is a chance to highlight and showcase the new innovative and creative ways each of our students demonstrate sustainability and sustainable practices at school, home, and in the community.

This year we're excited to add more content, virtual fieldtrips, special peer demonstrations, and more opportunities for students to learn about sustainability in everyday life. We're looking forward to hearing all about student efforts when we convene next month at the Sustainable Cleveland Summit on October 14-15, 2020!

## YSLP Program and Objectives

Annually students are invited to attend the [Sustainable Cleveland 2020 Virtual Summit](#). With generous support from our sponsors, participating students learn the impact Sustainable Cleveland has had in our city and region and opportunities to interact with leaders in the community. Guided by members of the City of Cleveland Mayor's Office of Sustainability and a team of community stakeholders, students will design, record and implement sustainability projects that will have a positive impact on their school, peers and community.

## Roles and Requirements of Youth Leaders

- Attend the [Sustainable Cleveland 2020 Virtual Summit](#) (October 14th & 15th, 2020) and actively participate in all activities.
- Have an interest in sustainability and in developing leadership skills, and be self-motivated, open-minded, and eager to learn.
- Select an area of focus from tracks (Content Development and Implementation, Peer-to-Peer Mentoring, Ecopreneurship, and/or Cohort Content Capturing).
- Use the skills and experience gained at the Sustainable Cleveland Summit to develop and implement sustainability projects at home, at school, or in the community.
- Hold leadership roles at student conferences and/or public outreach events, helping to engage peers and community members in sustainability and climate action.
- Develop project ideas or ways to incorporate sustainability into existing school/community projects at the Sustainable Cleveland Summit.
- Attend and participate in a total of 6 virtual monthly meetings on specified topics (sustainability, natural environment, built environment, and art or the creative environment).
- With support from the Mayor's Office of Sustainability, continue to develop/implement projects throughout the school year – specifically for peers.
- Share projects with peers and community members through activities and presentations.
- Provide feedback on how YSLP can be improved for future generations.
- Have FUN!

## **YSLP 2020-2021 SCHEDULE (October 14, 2020 – April 10, 2021)**

The 2020-2021 cohort of YSLP will include experiences in all aspects of sustainability, filled with lots of information, lessons to learn and even activities for students to conduct with their peers. The tentative program schedule is detailed below, including meeting schedules, agendas and information on the final project. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, all 2020-2021 YSLP meetings will be held virtually via WebEx.

**OCTOBER 14 - 15, 2020**

**Topic: Sustainable Cleveland 2020 Virtual Summit**

The annual Sustainable Cleveland Summit will bring people together from all walks of life to learn more, say more, and do more to support sustainability efforts in Cleveland. This year's summit will continue the conversation virtually, and will be filled with presentations, panel discussions from experts, and facilitated discussions on a variety of sustainability, equity, and climate action topics.

**NOVEMBER 14, 2020**

**Topic: Sustainability**

Defining Sustainability and the avoidance of the depletion of natural resources in order to maintain an ecological balance.

**DECEMBER 12, 2020**

**Topic: The Natural Environment**

Exploring the definition of the natural environment, which encompasses all living and non-living things occurring naturally on earth or some region thereof. It's an environment that encompasses the interaction of all living species.

**JANUARY 9, 2021**

**Topic: The Built Environment**

Exploring the definition of the built environment, which encompasses all of the physical parts of our environment, where we live and work (e.g., homes, buildings, streets, open spaces, and infrastructure).

**FEBRUARY 20, 2021**

**Topic: Our Environment**

Understanding what makes up our surroundings and affects our ability to live on the earth—the air we breathe, the water that covers most of the earth's surface, the plants and animals around us, and much more.

**MARCH 13, 2021**

**Topic: The Creative Environment**

Students demonstrate their final projects, focused on how they plan to help spread sustainability at school, home and in the community, to peers for feedback.

**APRIL 10, 2021**

**Topic: Presentations**

Students present their final projects to the Mayor's Office of Sustainability through various outlets. One to two students will be given the opportunity to lead breakout session(s) during the Sustainable Cleveland Summit and report out on the programs and/or projects completed.