



**WE  
FIGHT  
CLIMATE  
CHANGE**

**✚350 Africa.org**

**#SCHOOLSTRIKE**

# BACKGROUND

## (WHAT ARE SCHOOL STRIKES)

Inspired by the growing number of students walking out of school and going on #ClimateStrike to call on governments to keep warming below the dangerous level of 1.5 degrees Celsius and protect our future, 350Africa.org Team put together this brief guide to inform and support schools, students and teachers across the region who would like to join this movement and organise/mobilise in various ways for our climate and planet. [See this video](#) from Greta Thunberg if you would like to know more about the #ClimateStrike movement!



## WHY SCHOOL MOBILISATION MATTERS

**Heat waves, floods, and droughts are killing hundreds and devastating communities across the world. Africa is the most impacted and vulnerable region by climate change. For millions of Africans, it is a question of survival. That's why Africans, especially the youth must organise and mobilise now more than ever before to urge their leaders at different levels to take action and implement decisions which will ensure a safe future for the current and next generations. We have only 12 years to reverse course, and while some politicians seem to be ignoring that reality, youths have decided to take action right now, teaching politicians a lesson in leadership. [Read more here.](#)**

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

With the right information, you can inform and inspire your peers to take action on climate. Communicating about climate change doesn't require certified expertise or degrees. Students and passionate pupils are now able to articulate and amplify climate change messages. Information, resources, guides on climate change are available, and our team can help you customize the message to your audience.

## SHARE WITH OTHERS ON CLIMATE ISSUES AND ACTIONS:

you can record a 60-second video message on climate impacts experienced in your communities and what people are doing about it. Such simple, but yet inspiring messages can be shared regionally and globally to tell the climate story of your community, and eventually inspire others to take action.

## CLIMATE COMMUNITY FORA:

jointly presented with teachers/community or faith leaders. Tell them why you care about climate change and ask them to join you.

## CLIMATE WORKSHOPS:

A 2-3 hour session to dig a bit deeper into specific aspects of climate change (causes, impacts, solutions). These sessions can be practical and creative in the form of activism where posters, placards, banners and other beautiful visuals, chants and songs can be created.

Students go to school wearing something simple in solidarity every Friday, eg. a green armband, where they could share photos of a classroom quietly continuing studying, but all demonstrating support of climate justice.

## CLIMATE CHAMPIONS COMPETITIONS/DEBATES

this type of activities are not necessarily intellectual-based, but could also encourage creativity and involve various art forms to convey the urgency of climate action.

## DELIVERING A MESSAGE TO YOUR POLITICAL/ELECTED LEADERS,

saying that they need to take urgent action on climate change. Perhaps there are some good examples of your country/region?



# FOR STUDENTS



1. **TALK TO YOUR PARENTS** explaining what you are doing and why, and ask them to support you.
2. **RECORD A VIDEO TELLING YOUR STORY**, telling your story, and post it on social media tagging your friends, YouTube influencers, leaders, and others -- calling on them to join the **#ClimateStrike**
3. **MAKE A SIGN** calling for whatever you want your leaders to do on climate. could be "100% clean energy!" or "listen to science!" It's your call -- be creative!
4. **TALK TO YOUR SCHOOLMATES AND TEACHERS** - tell them why you care about climate change and ask them to join you on **#ClimateStrike**.
5. **JOIN THE #ClimateStrike** on a Friday or another day that works best for you. Make sure to agree a specific time in advance so everyone knows when to join! When the time comes, walk out of school and gather for your protest.
6. **HOW THIS HAS AN IMPACT** share photos and videos of -of the **#ClimateStrike** on social media, and tag your leaders.
7. **PLEASE KEEP THE #ClimateStrike** peaceful and non-violent at all times.

# FOR PARENTS



1. **TALK TO YOUR CHILDREN** who are in school and explain this campaign to them if they do not know yet. Show them Greta's video.
2. **ASK THEM IF THEY'D LIKE TO STRIKE OR ORGANIZE AN ACTION/ ACTIVITY AT SCHOOL** and give them your approval and encouragement.
3. **TALK TO TEACHERS AT THE SCHOOL** saying that you support your children's decision to strike or organize an action to make a stand for climate action to protect our future.



4. **TALK TO OTHER PARENTS** inspiring them to speak with their children as well. Share with neighbours and community gatherings.
5. **HELP YOUR KIDS PREPARE FOR THE #ClimateStrike** by brainstorming and making signs, helping coordinate, prepare them to present to classmates and teachers, etc.
6. **JOIN THE STRIKE** with your kids if possible and make it a family action!

## FOR TEACHERS & SCHOOL STAFF



1. **TALK TO YOUR STUDENTS** students about the strike and explain this campaign to them if they do not know yet. Show them Greta's video and host discussions.
2. **ASK THEM IF THEY'D LIKE TO STRIKE OR ORGANIZE AN ACTION** and give them your support.
3. **TALK TO FELLOW TEACHERS** to inspire them to do the same with their students.
4. **SPEAK WITH THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION ALONG WITH FELLOW TEACHERS** to show your support for the school students taking a stand to protect our future.
5. **ASSURE PARENTS** who may be uncertain or opposed and support your students.
6. **JOIN THE STRIKE** with your students if possible!

# SPREAD THE WORD

## SHARE YOUR ACTIONS WITH OTHERS

Everything is done - your action is happening! Now you want to know how to best cover it online using just your mobile phone (and a few other tools) -- here are some tips. With just a few steps, you can ensure that many people see and hear about what happened.

### CAPTURE THE MESSAGE AND SPIRIT OF YOUR #CLIMATESTRIKE ACTION

- Plan how you will showcase your action and especially what the main story and purpose is.
- Show people being hopeful, energetic, determined.
- Interview people (with their permission) and ask them why they decided to take action.
- For videos, it's best to hold the phone horizontally (unless it's an Instagram Story).
- Be strategic about which social media platforms you use. You don't have to share on all of them. Focus on what you have access to. Check with the people you photograph and film if they are okay with you using their image on social media.

### SOME BASIC EQUIPMENT CAN HELP.

- Backup battery pack for your phone.
- Monopod or tripod for stability. Hold that phone steady!
- Microphone for audio. (If you don't have a microphone just be as close as possible to people when you interview).  
Encourage everyone to share their experience.
- Remind participants to share on their social media about the event – and use the hashtag ([#ClimateStrike](#), [#ActNow](#))!



# ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE.

- Remind participants to share on their social media about the event – and use the hashtag (#ClimateStrike, #ActNow)!

## DO I HAVE TO SKIP SCHOOL?

**NO**

In some places skipping school can lead to very harsh consequences, and for many, merely being able to attend school is a massive privilege. Climate change is an existential crisis for all of us however, and our action should match the scale of the catastrophe. If you are unable to walk out of school, for whatever reason, that doesn't mean you can't take action. You could mobilise after school, on the weekends or during your holidays.

One of the most effective strategies of the School Strikes movement is that action is taken repeatedly. You could stand outside your parliament or offices of your leaders every Friday afternoon for instance. The important thing is that they get the message that we will not let climate inaction continue.





# MESSAGING?

We are currently on course for a climate catastrophe. Young people cannot live on a dead planet - we must act now to keep global temperature rise below 1.5°C.

## HOW TO GET MORE HELP

You can get in touch with the

350Africa.org team here: [350africa@350.org](mailto:350africa@350.org)

Facebook: /350Africa

Twitter: @350africa Whatsapp: 0608761881

