



Climate Movements in a Digital World

Iris Zhan, Fridays For Future Digital
Maryland

☀ Call to Action

Learn how to take digital climate action to the next level with Iris at Fridays for Future Digital (FFFD): fffdigital.carrd.co

☀ Values

- Curious
- Courageous
- Initiative
- Perseverance
- Leadership

☀ Lessons Learned

When you see what needs to be done, if no one else is doing it, find a way to begin to make it happen.

Iris is shy, so they found a way to use their skills and talents to make a contribution. You can do the same!

Iris found their place working in digital media platforms. Think about what your skills are, and what you like to do. Then find a way to use them to help protect our planet, and make the way for a better future.

Iris Zhan first learned about the climate crisis in the third grade. “When our teacher told us about climate change, it really took a toll on me,” they say.

They went to school the next day ready to learn more about what could be done. But their class was already on to another subject. “We were presented with our dire situation, and that was the end of our climate education,” they say. But that wasn’t going to stop Iris from making an impact. First they educated themselves on the topic; later they went on to found HoCo Climate Action, and Fridays For Future Digital (FFFD). “Everybody can play a part,” they say. “And it takes all kinds of people...It doesn’t matter who you are or what you look like. If you can light the fire in somebody, that person will live an inspired life because of you.”

☀ Language Arts

Working in small groups, create a 16-week week-by-week outline of what an ideal Climate Change curriculum should look like (choose between four and eight issues to teach in the class). After you have completed your outline, choose one of the topics you selected, and write a lesson plan for the rest of the class. Your lesson should include the information you will present to the class through lectures, videos, discussion, etc.); several class activities; and one way to measure what students have learned (for example, a short quiz).

In your opinion, what is the most pressing climate issue in your region? Write a five-paragraph essay explaining what this issue is, who is affected by it, and how they are affected. Draw on at least two secondary sources, and document these sources in [MLA format](#)¹.

How did Iris’s story impact you personally? How would you

collaborate with their organization? Create a 2 to 4-minute video explaining how their story affected you, how you would like to contribute to FFFD, and why it is important for young people to be involved in environmental organizations.

STEM Activities

Iris found their passion and was able to transform their introverted nature, and criticism from their peers, into positives. Design a short story/animation about climate change that can enhance your peers' knowledge base and their motivation to create sustainable change. Develop an animated character that best displays your personal attributes and explain how animated characters can help to create a positive impact on others.

Create a 5-7 question survey via Google forms about climate change that is designed to identify what you already know about climate change. Then, based on the responses you receive from your peers and family, create a virtual presentation to share with them that will help educate them in areas that they might not be as knowledgeable in. You can include information about organizations targeting aspects of the issue, as well the history and projected future of climate change.

Iris maximized their impact among their peers by cofounding Fridays for Future Digital (FFFDD) in order to expand digital climate protests. Due to the global pandemic, the country has shifted to digitally focused learning and working. Research the negative and positive impacts that the shift to virtual media has had on climate action. Create a presentation to share with your peers how society can maintain some of the positive changes, and decrease or eliminate the negative ones.

Describe your ethnic background. Then choose one thread of your ethnic heritage, and research the sustainability-focused challenges that people in your family's (or ancestors') country of origin have faced or are currently facing. Share this with your class and create a project that displays the ethnic diversity of your class and explains how countries around the world are helping to positively impact climate change.

Sustainability Innovations

Today there are many online tools that can help you reach more people.

- [350 Campaigns](#)² is an open platform available to anyone who would like to start their own campaign to impact our climate crisis.
- [Patagonia](#)³ is one of the most impactful companies that is addressing climate change. They currently have a teen-focused climate crisis campaign that you can get involved in.

[Sunrise Movement](#)⁴ is one of the major climate change projects that Iris participates in. Identify one aspect of the Sunrise movement that you would like to introduce to your peers.

Sustainability Career Pathways

Climatologist (Climate Scientist). Iris studied our climate challenges in depth in order to understand them. Climate scientists devote their careers to better understanding the scope, causes, and effects of the climate crisis—and communicating them to others. Want to become a climate scientist? [Here is an introduction to the field](#)⁵.

Climate Educator. Currently few schools require climate change as part of the curriculum. But there are efforts to change that in many states: [New Jersey is the first state to require climate education](#)⁶. Teachers will have both the opportunity and the expectation to

teach their students about climate change from K-12, to help better prepare them for the future they're inheriting. There are many opportunities to be a climate educator: certainly in schools, but also in museums and parks, or organizations like [Alliance for Climate Education](#)⁷.

Web Manager. Because Iris is an introvert, they were most comfortable becoming an online activist/organizer. At the heart of every organization and social movement is a website. Website design and management is a field that involves making websites easy to navigate and engaging, and it offers boundless employment opportunities. If you are interested in a career in maintaining websites, read more about the [specifics here](#)⁸, and a [day in the life of a web manager here](#)⁹.

Social Media Manager. Building a movement online now requires the effective use of social media. Many organizations hire a full-time social media manager to manage their 'brand' across a variety of platforms. Good writing, social media, and general communication skills are essential. You can [learn more about social media management in this introduction](#)¹⁰. And here are [9 key skills you'll need to thrive in this field](#)¹¹.

1 <https://www.easybib.com/guides/citation-guides/mla-format/>

2 <https://campaigns.350.org/>

3 <https://www.patagonia.com/climate-goals/>

4 <https://www.sunrisemovement.org/?ms=SunriseMovement>

5 <https://www.environmentalscience.org/career/climatologist>

6 <https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/nj-introduces-climate-change-curriculum-schools/>

7 <https://acespace.org/about-us/>

8 <https://www.zippia.com/web-manager-jobs/>

9 <https://www.careerprofiles.com/job-seeker-advice-tips/one-day-in-the-life-of-a-web-content-manager/>

10 <https://www.mediabistro.com/climb-the-ladder/skills-expertise/what-does-a-social-media-manager-do/>

11 <https://sproutsocial.com/insights/social-media-skills/>

