



All Hands On Deck: This Is Zero Hour

Jamie Margolin, Zero Hour
Seattle

☀ Call to Action

Join Zero Hour to demand climate action now! thisiszerohour.org

Buy Jamie's book: www.youthtopowerbook.com

Follow Jamie on Twitter: [@jamie_margolin](https://twitter.com/jamie_margolin)

☀ Values

- Initiative
- Ambition
- Determination
- Courage
- Leadership

☀ Lessons Learned

It's better to take action than to complain about the inaction of others.

The climate crisis is not just one isolated issue: there are multiple and overlapping problems related to climate change.

Ensuring climate justice for future generations is an enormous task: it will take well-organized collective action.

Jamie Margolin is a youth climate justice activist inspiring the world to take action on behalf of the planet.

In the wake of Hurricane Maria, the Canadian wildfires, and other environmental disasters, Jamie decided that enough was enough: if political leaders weren't going to take the climate crisis seriously, then she would. And so, at age 15, she cofounded the Zero Hour Organization. Zero Hour is a youth-led movement that aims to get young people involved in the conversation around climate and environmental justice. Zero Hour provides training, resources, and support systems for those who want to make an impact in the fight against climate change. On July 21, 2018, the inaugural Youth Climate March took place in Washington D.C. With this first-of-its-kind event, Jamie changed the game for the youth climate movement, inspiring activists from around the world, including Greta Thunberg.

Jamie went on to organize the first Youth Climate Summit, a three-day climate justice event in Miami. All in all, the summit trained more than 350 youth, as well as older allies, in climate justice activism and organizing. In 2018, at the age of 16, Jamie was named one of People Magazine's 25 Women Changing the World.

☀ Language Arts

Jamie mentions the word “intersectional.” Create a 15-20-second Tik Tok video explaining this concept, and how it applies to climate change. Then create a series of at least four Tik-Tok videos designed to bring awareness to the way climate change affects various areas of society. On a separate sheet of paper, explain your choices: Why did you choose the issues you chose? Why did you decide to present the information the way you did?

Create a fake [Instagram profile](#)¹ for an (imaginary) organiza-

tion that is dedicated to spreading awareness about the interconnectedness of social justice issues and climate change. In a separate document, explain your choices: why you chose to use the images you used, and why you think Instagram would be a good platform to create awareness of this particular issue. Then submit your template to a [Zero Hour Chapter](#)² near you, explaining why you are interested in this issue, and how you plan to create awareness of it.

Thinking about Jamie’s experience with the Seattle legislator who dismissed her for being “too young,” create a script for a fake conversation with this person: How would you convince them to listen to you? Knowing that their main focus is economic, what kind of argument would you present to them in order to get their attention? The script must be at least three pages long.

STEM Activities

Climate change is a broad topic to address, under the umbrella of sustainability. Identify one species or part of an ecosystem that is drastically affected by climate change, and explain the consequences of losing this organism as part of our ecosystem.

- Example: One of the organisms that is most commonly affected by climate change is coral. Coral reefs serve as a coastline’s natural protection against storms and erosion, and they are being drastically affected by climate change.

In addition to the effects of climate change on our local ecosystems, it has adverse effects on our coastlines as well. Find [aerial photographs](#)³ and articles about coastal erosion in the U.S. over the past 100 years. Explain how coastal erosion has affected humans and wildlife in these areas.

Now that you are an emerging expert in climate change, create an outline for a climate campaign that you would like to hold at your school. Describe the three most prevalent issues you would like to address, and for each of them, propose an actionable solution that you and your peers can take within your community.

Sustainability Innovations

Jamie has shown that identifying communities that are unable to speak for themselves is just as important as taking action. After researching and understanding [Intersectional Environmentalism](#)⁴, identify three such communities and write an article that shares their stories. Explain the importance of Intersectional Environmentalism and how it pertains to these communities.

In addition to Zero Hour’s individual efforts, [#Vote4OurFuture](#)⁵ is a joint campaign between Zero Hour and the National Children’s Campaign that aims to galvanize Americans to fight for future generations. Identify a political issue that is not being adequately addressed in your community and write a letter to Jamie about why this should be at the forefront of the joint campaign.

Hurricane Maria is just one of many natural disasters with long-lasting effects in the U.S. Write a letter to a [Zero Hour Chapter](#)⁶ near you detailing a natural disaster that has affected you personally, or people that you care about, and explaining why you would like to get involved in Zero Hour’s efforts.

Sustainability Career Pathways

Climate Justice Organizer. Engaging one’s community around important environmental and social challenges (and how they interconnect) is an important career path in community service. There are many programs to learn organizing, from online courses ([such as](#)

[this one](#)⁷), to one-year environmental organizing field schools like [Green Corps](#)⁸.

Environmental Lobbyist. When Jamie was 15, she was already talking with a Republican legislator about climate change. Asking elected officials for change is an essential part of campaigning (especially when supported by grassroots organizing). Some make a full-time career lobbying (though few are able to do so, admittedly, for environmental or social change). Want to be a lobbyist? [Start here](#)⁹.

Democracy Advocate. In this [video](#)¹⁰, Jamie mentions that she was the youngest delegate at the 2020 Democratic Convention. Engaging in the democratic process--not just as a voter but as an organizer, campaign volunteer or staffer, or in party politics, is another important pathway of change. [Here's a good introduction to how to get involved in politics](#)¹¹.

Elected Official. Along with getting people engaging with their government, it's important that they have good candidates to vote for. Might you want to run for elected office? One typically starts by running for a local office, or working for an elected official to learn the ropes. But there are many paths you can take. [Listen to this NPR story to get a better sense of the process of running for office](#)¹².

1 <https://mediamodifier.com/mockup/instagram-highlights-mockup-generator/8109>

2 <http://thisiszerohour.org/chapters/>

3 <https://climate.nasa.gov/images-of-change?id=723#723-drought-shrinks-chiles-el-yeso-reservoir>

4 <https://www.intersectionalenvironmentalist.com/>

5 <https://nationalchildrenscampaign.org/news/press-releases/virtual-vote4ourfuture-campaign-launched-on-july-23rd/>

6 <http://thisiszerohour.org/chapters/>

7 <https://www.coursera.org/learn/community-organizing>

8 <https://greencorps.org/>

9 <https://www.princetonreview.com/careers/88/lobbyist#:~:text=There%20are%20no%20licensing%20or,future%20lobbyists%20in%20good%20stead.>

10 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R6imDtM_eQo

11 <https://www.nytimes.com/guides/year-of-living-better/how-to-participate-in-government>

12 <https://www.npr.org/2019/10/15/770332855/how-to-run-for-office>

