



# Fostering Youth Engagement at the Municipal Level

Livable Cities Forum 2022 - Victoria, BC

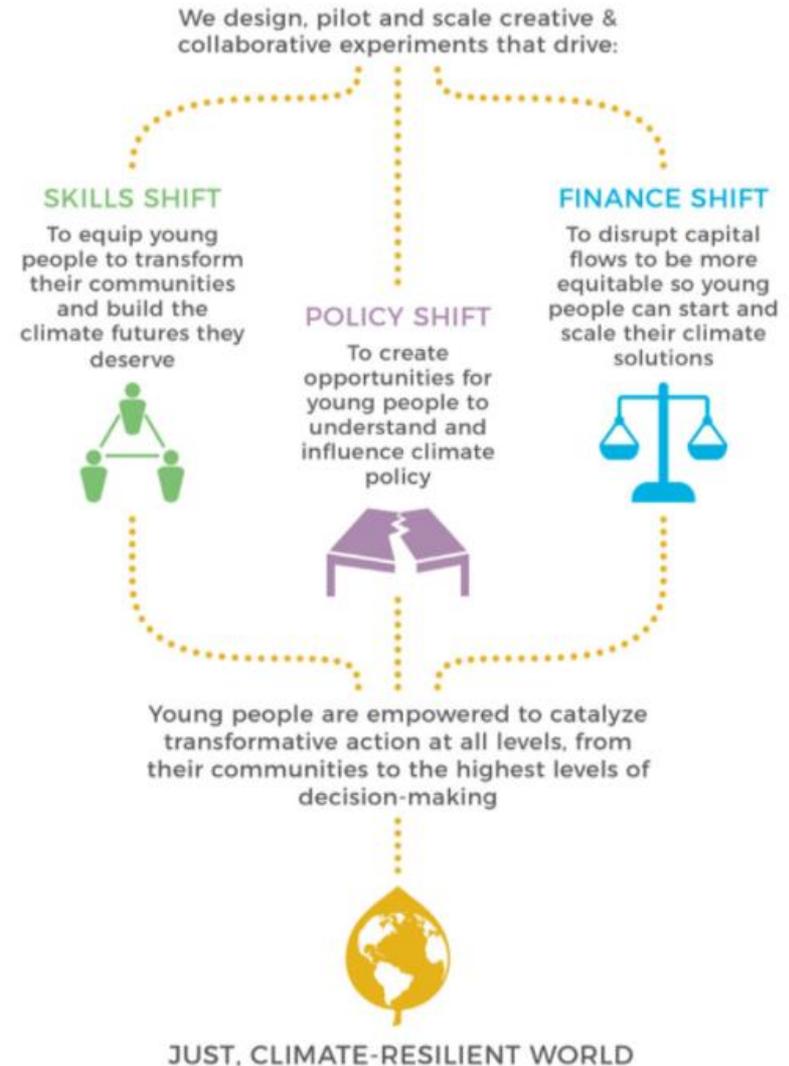
Sabrina Guzman Skotnitsky



# Youth Climate Lab

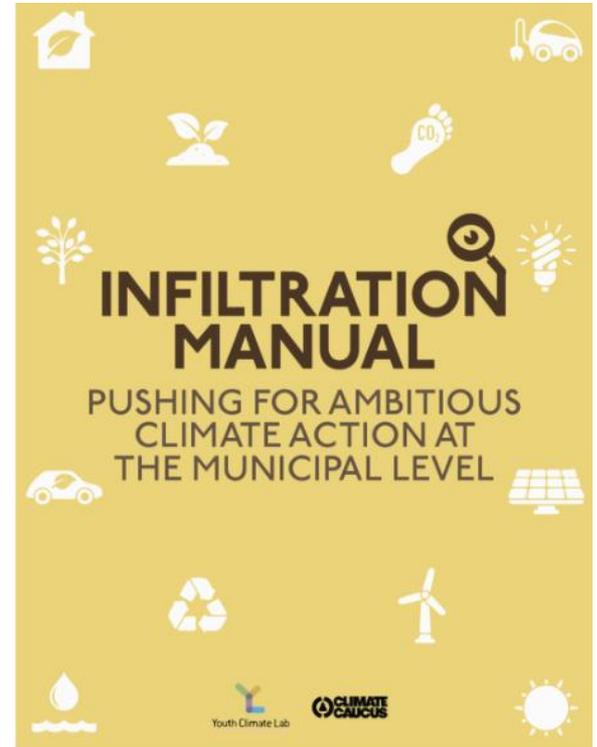
**Who we are:** We are a global lab focused on accelerating youth-led climate policy, projects and businesses. We are a team of young people based in so-called Canada driven by the urgency of the climate crisis and the opportunity to support youth in building the just, climate-resilient futures we deserve.

**Our vision** is for young people – no matter who they are or where they are from – to catalyze transformative climate action in their communities to the highest levels of decision-making.



# Infiltration Manual

- > Guide to demystify & lead youth through the steps of addressing climate change at the municipal level
- > Intergenerational approach: youth steering committee + climate friendly councillors
- > One of many tools/options that can lead to more ambitious climate action



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# Why is the Infiltration Manual Important?

- > In what is currently known as Canada, 50% of greenhouse gas emissions are within municipal control
- > Opportunity to undertake climate activism at the local level
- > For many people, youth included, municipalities are the most accessible level of government, and where they can see the most impact in their daily lives





STOP  
BURNING  
OUR FUTURE

MAKE THE EARTH GREAT AGAIN

SAVE

COOL

Stop...

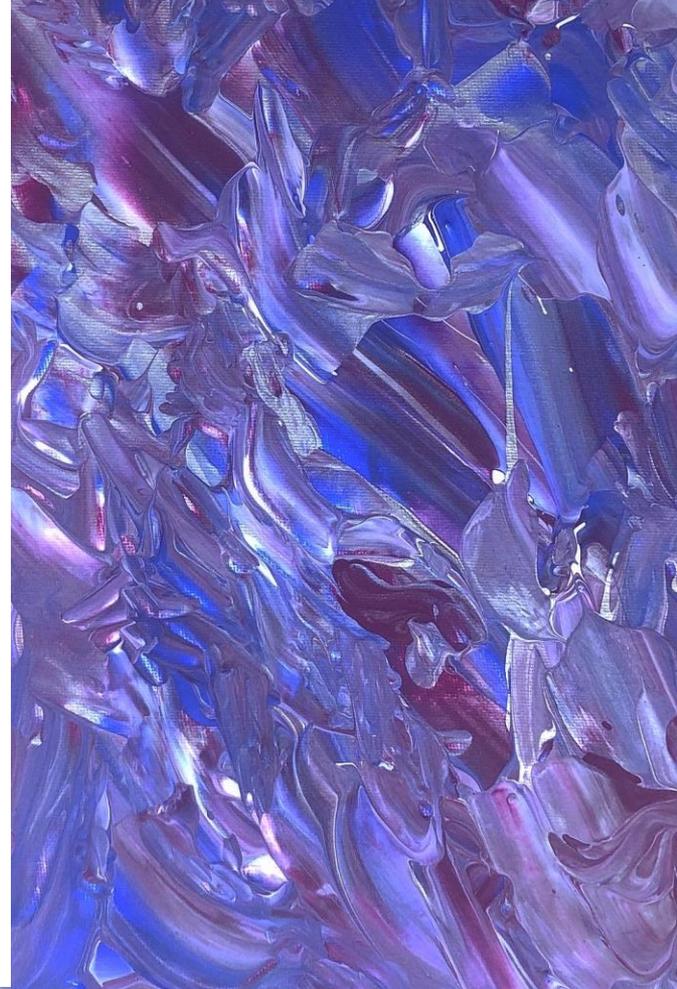
# Meaningfully Engaging Youth

- > Listen to youth concerns and treat their lived experience as expertise
- > Prioritise youth needs by putting their input into action and giving them opportunities to step into their leadership
- > Attend youth-led events and support youth-led causes throughout the year, not only at election time
- > Create social media pages/campaigns to raise awareness of the work you are doing and where youth can get involved
- > Host regular events focused on community/relationship building



# Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

- > Youth are not a monolith - we have a diversity of lived experiences, privileges and barriers
- > Due to historical and intersecting systemic forces, such as colonialism, racial capitalism, and patriarchy climate change impacts vary greatly among youth
- > Each community is unique, so identify your local networks while still ensuring intergenerational equity
- > When welcoming and involving new people, be aware of different cultural norms, power imbalances, and historical injustices



# How to Avoid Tokenism

- > Ensure they are not the only youth at the table, and that they feel confident about the rules and expectations
- > Be transparent and accountable about how youth input will be used to influence policy and/or operations, and keep updating them on progress
- > Compensate youth: ideally monetarily (through honorarium or employment) but if that is not possible there are other ways to show you value youth participation:
  - > offer to provide a volunteer/participant certificate, be a reference for job/scholarship applications, mentor youth longer-term, feature them on your social media etc...



To change everything

We need everyone



pilot and scale projects to enable young people to build the just, climate-resilient futures they deserve. Since our inception in May 2017, we have worked with over 40 partners to design and deliver 30 projects reaching young people in 77 countries.

YCL TOOLBOX



### ABOUT THE YCL TOOLBOX

The Youth Climate Lab (YCL) Toolbox is an open access digital library of interactive resources to help you(th) leverage their lived experiences as expertise and take action on key climate issues. These tools and activities were created to demystify climate policy processes, increase knowledge of the intersections of climate justice, and build skills such as critical thinking, design, advocacy, and effective communication.

*"Love letter to the land" by Sabrina Guzman Skotnitsky*

[youthclimatetoolbox.com](https://youthclimatetoolbox.com)



**Stay in touch at @youthclimatelab  
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