

Climate Justice and Health for People and Planet: Centering Youth Voices in Planning for Healthy, Just, and Sustainable Civic Environments

Lakewood Teens for Climate Justice & Dr. Robin Evans-Agnew

Tacoma, USA: Fall, 2021



LAKEWOOD TEENS FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

H O N E S T Y . R E S P E C T . C O M M I T M E N T . U N I T Y .



voices unbound

FUNDED BY EARTHLAB • UW TACOMA

justice, equity & our shared environment



CLIMATE JUSTICE: EVERYTHING IN THE PLANET HAS A RIGHT
TO BE/BECOME CLEAN AND SUSTAINABLE

People + Planet

AJ

“Hi my name is AJ and i'm 16 years old and my pronouns are she her, and the reason I joined was because I want to care for the environment and my surroundings, and because I want to help create awareness about what is going on in our environment and the negative things and how we can do something to resolve those issues and to be able to live in a healthy home”

Boeing 757

Commercial aircraft production has a big role in Washington's economy, and because of that the population has grown in our state. Aircrafts produce a lot of carbon dioxide and pollution that spreads around the atmosphere, which makes it unhealthy for us, and wildlife and the rest of our surroundings. This is happening because transportation by aircrafts is very common. It's the easiest and fastest way to travel. People like to travel for vacations and entertainment, not just for work. Doing something about it is really difficult, I think the best way is to limit transportation by aircrafts, and find a way to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide that aircrafts produce that effect the environment.



Covered Wagon

This wagon is symbolizing Ezra Meeker's voyages, and he was a famous settler on this land. It shows that he used wagons to transport cargo and also to get to places, but it also shows that it was such a common way of transportation. Now the most common thing is to travel by car and airplanes. This has increased the pollution that those vehicles spread, and you can clearly compare the impact that the new vehicles we use have on the environment and obviously back then it wasn't the same as it is today. Society is trying to find more modern ways to travel. And I think the best way to do something about it is to find a way to limit the usage of those vehicles, to stay away from unnecessary traveling, and find a way to decrease the output of CO² and other harmful gases.



Wooden Boxes

Wood was one of the biggest and easiest sources to build containers, and a lot of their belongings were also reusable for storage, including wagons. It shows the major change in how reusable items are used. Now most of the items we use in our daily lives are made out of plastic and metals, and making plastic is also hurting the environment because it contains a variety of oils and gases that spread around in our environment and affect us negatively. Especially because plastic factories cause so many toxic gases to spread in the atmosphere, and that this harms us, physically. Plastic is always the most common thing you find when you see litter, and it creates plastic pollution. And I think a way to get rid of that is to limit the incineration of plastic waste in open fields, which produces the air pollution.



CHA

Hi my name is CHA I'm 16 years old and my pronouns are he and him. I joined this group because I want to see change in my community and also around the world, so that everybody can see there is a major problem going on with this environment. I've seen how the environment has been hurt due to all this pollution and all these different types of machinery and how they are being used. Things are just getting so bad, but we don't pay attention to them, and when we try to do something about it with technology, the more we seem to hurt things. I want to try and see if we can get more people to do something about this problem, where we can stop this from happening.

Horses

These are horses and clothing from the Yakama, Umatilla, and Nez Perce Native American tribes and Nations who live in our state. I think, as you can tell here like you can see bags and clothing. You can tell they used horses back then to travel to wherever they needed to go or whatever they needed to get, and also hunting as well. This was another use of transportation without using, as we know, cars and airplanes. Probably the best thing was that Native Americans used without hurting the environment, because they used and they also gave because since they were more into nature than other people were. This was a big benefit for a long time: they helped, took care of, and treated the earth as though it was its own thing. Maybe we can use different types of transportation. Not saying that we should stop using like cars and all that, but maybe we can use alternatives like buses or walking or bikes and skateboards as well to reduce the chemicals and harmful things. If we didn't use cars as transportation as much and used other means of transportation, we could be in a more sustainable environment. We can teach others and do change ourselves.



The Car: That Causes Major Pollution Problems

I don't know if many of you know it's been about 100 years since cars have been made, we've been having them for more than 100 years since 1890 in Germany. So it has been put into our head to use cars everywhere. And so this machine has been, has given us good: we've been told that this gives us the best way to transport, to get around. But, due to this great invention of faster travel it caused major pollution and problems to the environment which is killing us slowly. It is hurting the environment and hurting us as well with the chemicals that it brings out. This has caused a major problem for 100 years of this thing going around using all these harmful chemicals giving it to the air, and also hurting plants and trees. It has gotten to the point where we are losing trees and wildlife and everything due to these being used. Maybe we can use other transportations, like buses or bikes as I said to get around, so that we wouldn't have to use this machinery that could hurt us more than it has helped us.



Hospital Design

You see a big building for emergencies and cars, it looks generally big and all that but in reality, once you enter it's like more cramped it's more like it's more small space it's not as like as big and spacious as shown in the outside. I think this can harm us because it is just a one location, that like many people would have to like try to get here, or need to drive here, which would harm the environment as well. I think there would be another alternative possibility that if hospitals were more spread apart to help everyone in the neighborhood all around the community: so that they wouldn't have to go too far and that they could just take bus, walk, or ride a bike to get to the clinic. So that it's closer and safer for them so that they wouldn't have to drive all the way over here which led to more problems to their environment and led to more problems.



TJ

“Hi my name is TJ, I’m 14 years old and my pronouns are she, her. The reason why I joined this group is to inform my community about our environment and what’s going on with climate change and the way we are harming the environment: I think it's important more people should get informed, especially youth, because this is an environment that we're going to grow up in and start families and to create a safe environment for the generations to come.”

Owens Beach for the Public

As you can tell in the picture, they're remodeling Owens Beach or they're taking pieces of it down and building new things, because in the next 100 years or so the sea level will be rising. So they're ripping out parts of the park and moving it up so it can avoid flooding and the parks getting destroyed. This is caused due to climate change, which made glaciers and ice sheets to melt and fill the ocean, more so it's filling up warm water. And I guess at this point this is all we can do. I think it's good that we're taking precautions and we're doing a right now so it's not too late by the time that the sea levels have rise even more. Knowing sea level will rise will be more predictable for our next relatives in taking action before it is too late. You can't go back on climate change, like it's already happening, you can't reverse it. But I think the only way we can help is to try to do things that are more eco friendly, and try to stop doing things that make climate change, pollution or using factories and using better stuff for the environment.



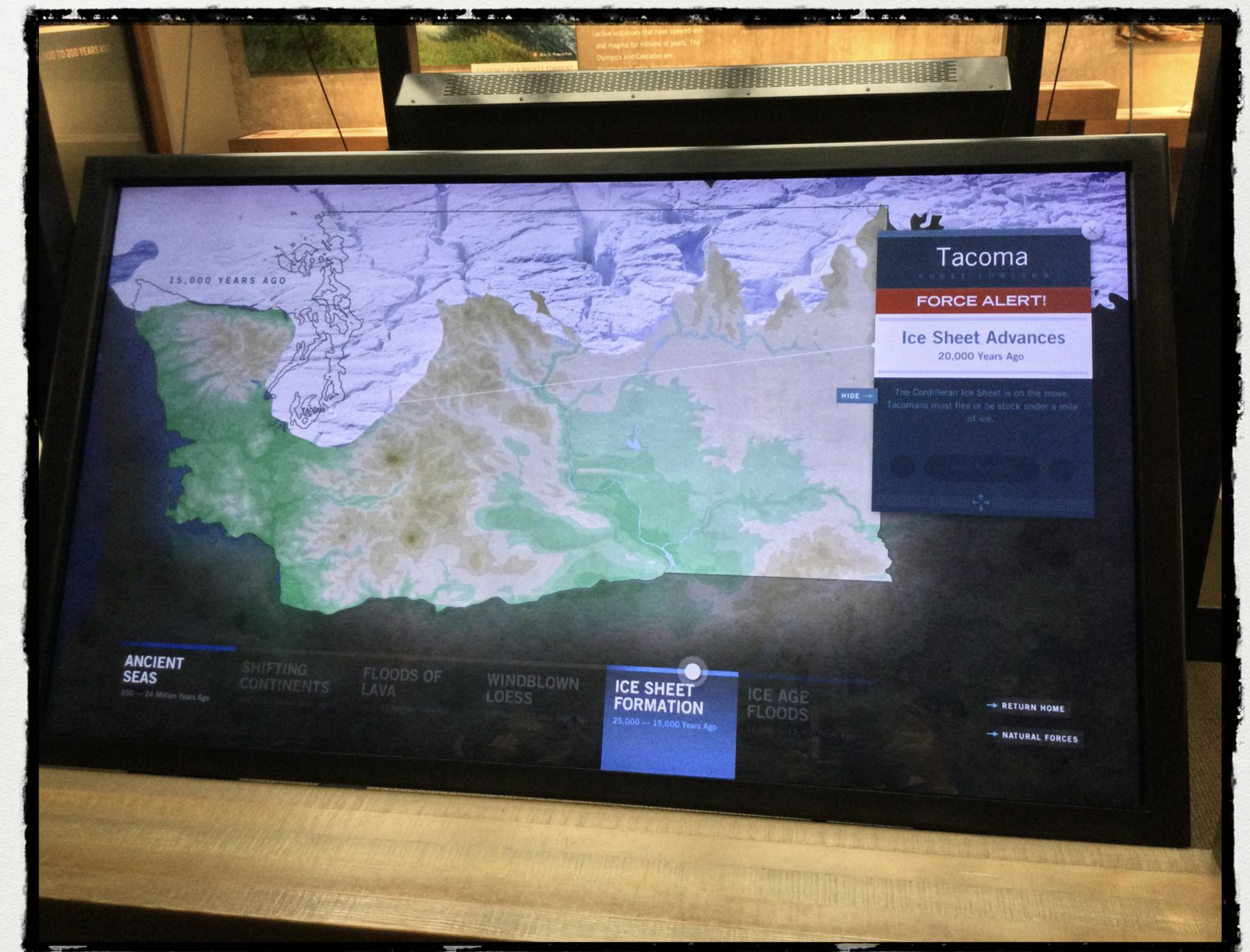
Vintage Wood

These are wooden barrels and oat sacks or bags. It caught my attention because it made me realize that back then they would use resources around their houses to make stuff, and be able to reuse all the things around them. But now a lot of people want to fit into society and be more modern so they buy things like plastic, aluminum, steel and glass storage containers, which make or cause more factories to open up. And by doing that now, a lot of these things like aluminum are releasing a lot of toxic chemicals, and it pollutes the air, especially from all the machines working to make them. So, definitely, we can start using less plastic and switching to eco friendly containers that are made in a safe way to make a healthier environment.



Healthy Ice Sheets

This is 15,000 years ago when there were ice sheets across Washington. And because it was moving forward it caused people in Tacoma and the Puget Sound to move away or flee from ice sheets because they could be covered with miles of snow. I think this is a great example to show that, back then, there wasn't a lot of climate change, because obviously back then there wasn't a large population or factories. Climate change caused the ice glaciers to melt and ice to melt: Which is why now it's no longer there. At this point in time you could say it's too late because it is not like we can go back in time and undo what we did. I think instead that this is a sign that we have to pay more attention to the environment and take care of the area we live in. To try to do things that will prevent and decrease climate change or global warming that we are causing through pollution.



Litter

This is by a salmon stream. I was walking, taking pictures and I realized that there was a lot of litter and trash around the trails. I was trying to look around to see if there were any trash cans or signs, but there wasn't any trash cans on the trail. People get encouraged to throw their trash anywhere. And I think a lot of people that go there and they see that there's already trash there that kind of gives them like the green light to just leave their trash there because they're like, "Oh well no one else is doing it, no one comes and picks it up, we should just leave our trash here". So I think it's important if the park managers, the people that run the place or own that property to invest in putting trash cans and putting signs to encourage people to take care of the planet, and take care of the trails in the parks. Not just remodel but replace stuff and make it more eco friendly for the people that go there so its clean for all the people that are going to go there to hike.



AD

“Hi my name id AD and I am 13, my pronouns are he, him and the reason why I joined was because I like things like parks, and I would love to see stuff not go away - like parks and all that and other wildlife. Because now we have a right for things like parks to still be here, and rivers to be cleaned. I think we have to do something about it before it gets worse.”

Baskets

These baskets are reusable, and they are made of wood. This is good, because when we throw these away, or when we use them, it doesn't cause harm, and they're really easy to clean. Unlike now we have plastic bags that we just throw in casually, without thinking. This is happening because people want things to look better. These plastic bags do a lot more harm than we think. And we're just throwing them away without thinking. And in the ocean, they found a lot of plastic bags and animals like sea turtles and fishes and salmon, that get stuck in these plastic bags or sometimes eat them. And this is bad because when they eat stuff like that, us humans are consuming these fishes that have this plastic inside of them. And that isn't good. Not only is it harming other wildlife but it's harming us. They rip really easily and aren't durable and a lot of people just like to throw their plastic bags out into things like parks and that's also why we need more trash cans. we aren't using regular baskets because we think it's not fancy. We want to look more modern, and maybe we could start using the more reusable stuff. Because I've seen in stores where they're using, They're selling reusable bags. But I think that's so bad because those bags. A lot of people still throw them away instead of reusing them. And I think that there needs to be a lot more clarity on that, of why we need to reuse them. One way I think we could maybe stop doing that is by using more reusable bags, or maybe use baskets out of more natural and durable material, so that even when they throw stuff away like this in the ground it degrades faster, and it's more safe.



Clothes Hanging

This is a natural way of drying clothes, unlike using a dryer or maybe to wash it using a washer and you could see at the bottom there's a bucket which they use to wash it. And this, you don't need a washer for this either, because there's actually a bucket, which they use to wash it. Washers use detergents, which actually, some are very harmful. When you put on your clothes, You may smell good, but it's not actually good. Now these days we don't use as much hanging our clothes to dry, we use things like dryers, and that causes us to use a lot of power. I think we need to limit the amount of stuff we use in our houses like dryers. We want things to be faster and warmer. Also dryers have filters and we need to clean those out and a lot of people throw it on the ground, and I think that is really bad because animals like to eat that, because they don't know what it is, maybe it's food, maybe it's something else but they would eat it because they think it's just food. And it's not clean anymore. Things are this way, because us people want things to be faster and cleaner. We have to avoid



Sewer

This is a sewer, which is next to a salmon stream. It's very disgusting it probably hasn't been cleaned in a long time. A lot of people don't pay attention to the sewers, and it smells really bad. And this is affecting the river. And it is letting harmful chemicals into the water, where salmon are swimming, and we eat those fish, and that's really bad for us and them. And also, it kills them. And we won't have fish like salmon anymore. it goes into the ocean and the harms fish, and it travels around the world It's not only affecting us, it affects everyone. People have a lot of waste and we just like to throw away stuff. And to things we love: like fishes and deer and other wildlife. We have this problem, because we have a lot of things that we don't need. And so what ends up happening is, it gets wasted and all this waste goes into these rivers. We have to stop buying unnecessary things. I think that one way we could maintain this sewer is maybe we could have people come in and clean and make sure it doesn't go into the ocean.



TH

“Hi I’m TH and I’m 12 years old. I joined because I want to have a future and I want to help keep the earth clean and take care of the planet. I want to make the world a better place because there's a bunch of things happening right now.”

Letters, Paper

Back then People used to use this typewriter to write stories, letters, but they used paper and they didn't know what technology was. Now we use a bunch of technology to do things, computers, phones, ipads. I use a bunch of technology. And so, we can't go a day without using it, and so we got pretty addicted to using technology. People keep using it and keep making things we do for a living. We are addicted to technology because there's a bunch of different apps people use and they get used to using it a lot. This situation exists because we wanted to keep things modern and we wanted to make things look nice and build big machines. We can start making things with less technology



Fountain

This water fountain is outside of a hospital. This water fountain can be harmful for us. Because if we have an emergency, we have to go around the fountain. And I also think they put the fountain in there because they're trying to make the hospital look nice, putting a bunch of flowers around the hospital and having a fountain in front of it. So, I think they're trying to make the hospital look better and try to compete with other hospitals, so more people can go to their hospital and not other hospitals. What we should do, I think, is not care what our hospital looks like on the outside. Just because one hospital has a bunch of flowers and a fountain outside of it and the other one doesn't, it doesn't matter how it looks like on the outside because



Recommendations

- Hospitals should not be in competition with other hospitals and focus on caring for people, not “looking good”, not taking health but building health
- Reduce travel, increase active transportation; not taking more travel, but creating environments to play in right at home
- Promote eco-friendly alternatives to our daily lives
- Make waste systems clean and healthy
- Spread out health care to neighborhoods
- Include youth and photo-taking in planning decisions
- Organize youth in neighborhoods and communities for climate justice!