

# ECOS

**Education, Communication  
and Outreach Stakeholders  
a UNFCCC community**

*In support of innovative climate action & engagement*

## **CONTEXT**

The Education, Communication, and Outreach Stakeholder Community (ECOS) is a recently formed community that is recognized by the United Nations Climate Change Secretariat. ECOS supports effective, innovative efforts to build the capacity of individuals, communities, and organizations (both non-government and government) to make informed climate decisions.

As a “network of networks”, ECOS aspires to become a forum and clearinghouse for those involved with Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) and the original goals of Article 6 of the UNFCCC, which call for public involvement in developing meaningful and constructive responses to climate change. In addition, ECOS aims to serve the needs of communities and organizations, as those needs are identified and prioritized. The process of organizing ECOS activities and goals and the products and services offered will evolve over time. Initially the ECOS community is dedicated to surveying existing efforts to build capacity for climate action by identifying effective practices and addressing key opportunities and constraints.

## **Rationale**

The original vision of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was very people-focused. In Article 6 of the Convention, renamed “Action for Climate Empowerment” or ACE in 2015, the parties agreed that education, public access to information, training for relevant professionals, and international collaboration and cooperation would allow the public to be directly involved in developing adequate responses to climate change. But many parties have been limited to their response to fulfilling their commitments to inform and engage the public and professionals, and efforts to build literacy and the capacity for people to make informed decisions was left largely to motivated individuals and organizations to tackle on their own, often with little support. While there have been some important success stories, they have been the exception rather than the rule. ECOS aims to support the UNFCCC Secretariat and its ACE efforts and focal points, as well as other stakeholders and enthusiasts working to build capacity for public engagement and informed climate action.



**KEY GOALS OF ECOS STAKEHOLDERS**

- Awareness raising
- Educating
- Tutoring
- Providing information
- Youth empowerment
- Capacity building

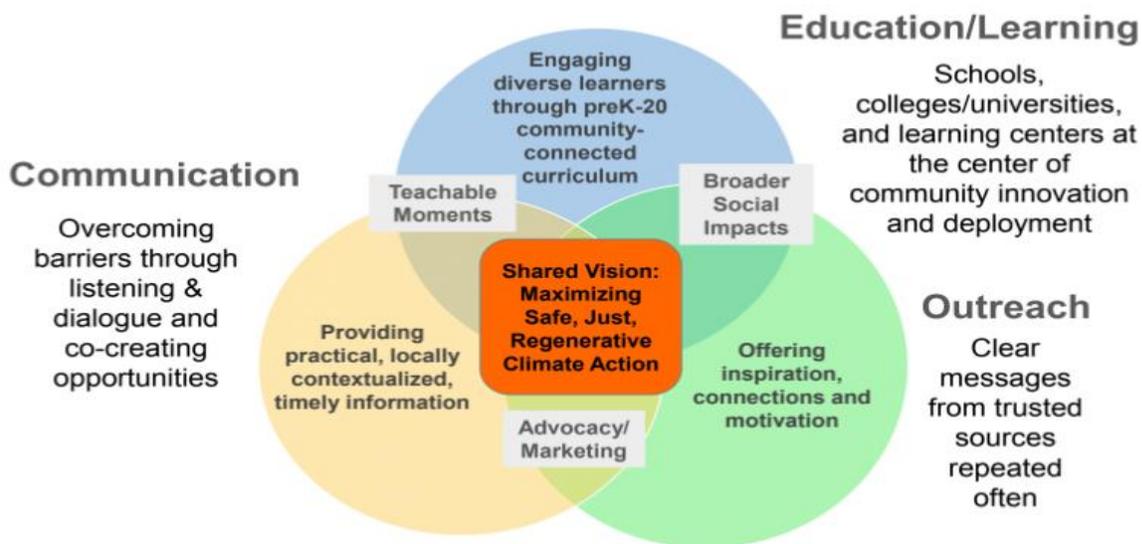
### Project Goals and Objectives

ECOS aims to optimize the potential for safe, just, regenerative climate action through an integrated, methodical approach to fostering climate literacy, communicating relevant, time sensitive information, and inspiring action through outreach and messaging. One member of ECOS who has worked for decades to encourage understanding and action on climate change said “I was so glad to discover ECOS and look forward to helping make is a success since all too often confusion about the causes, effects, risks and range of responses to climate change are not being effectively addressed.”

As part of the global effort to reduce the anthropogenic causes of climate change and to support multi-scale actions to minimize the harmful impacts of climate change through resilience and adaptation, the ECOS Community advocates for (1) climate change education (lifelong learning and climate literacy), (2) climate change communication (information sharing and stakeholder interaction for sound decision-making), (3) climate change outreach (inspiring innovative ideas and actions through meaningful messages), (4) climate change participation (stakeholder voice as part of collaborative, pluralistic climate governance), (5) climate change training (improve capacity in any and all relevant areas of climate science and policy, especially in education), and (6) climate change engagement and empowerment (promoting activities to increase awareness and mobilize action).

In its current phase of development, ECOS is defining through community engagement its purpose, the people it serves directly and indirectly, the process of engaging with stakeholders and the public, the products it develops, and evaluating and improving its performance.

## The ECOS ECO-System



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