



Jen Kretser - Director of Climate Initiatives

December 14, 2023

[wildcenter.org](http://wildcenter.org)

[jkretser@wildcenter.org](mailto:jkretser@wildcenter.org)





An aerial photograph of a river meandering through a lush, green forest. The river is a vibrant blue, contrasting with the surrounding greenery. In the foreground, a wooden boardwalk with circular viewing platforms winds through the trees. The background shows rolling hills and mountains under a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds.

# THE W!LD CENTER











# Organize a Youth Climate Summit

Convening young people on climate change science, justice, impacts & solutions

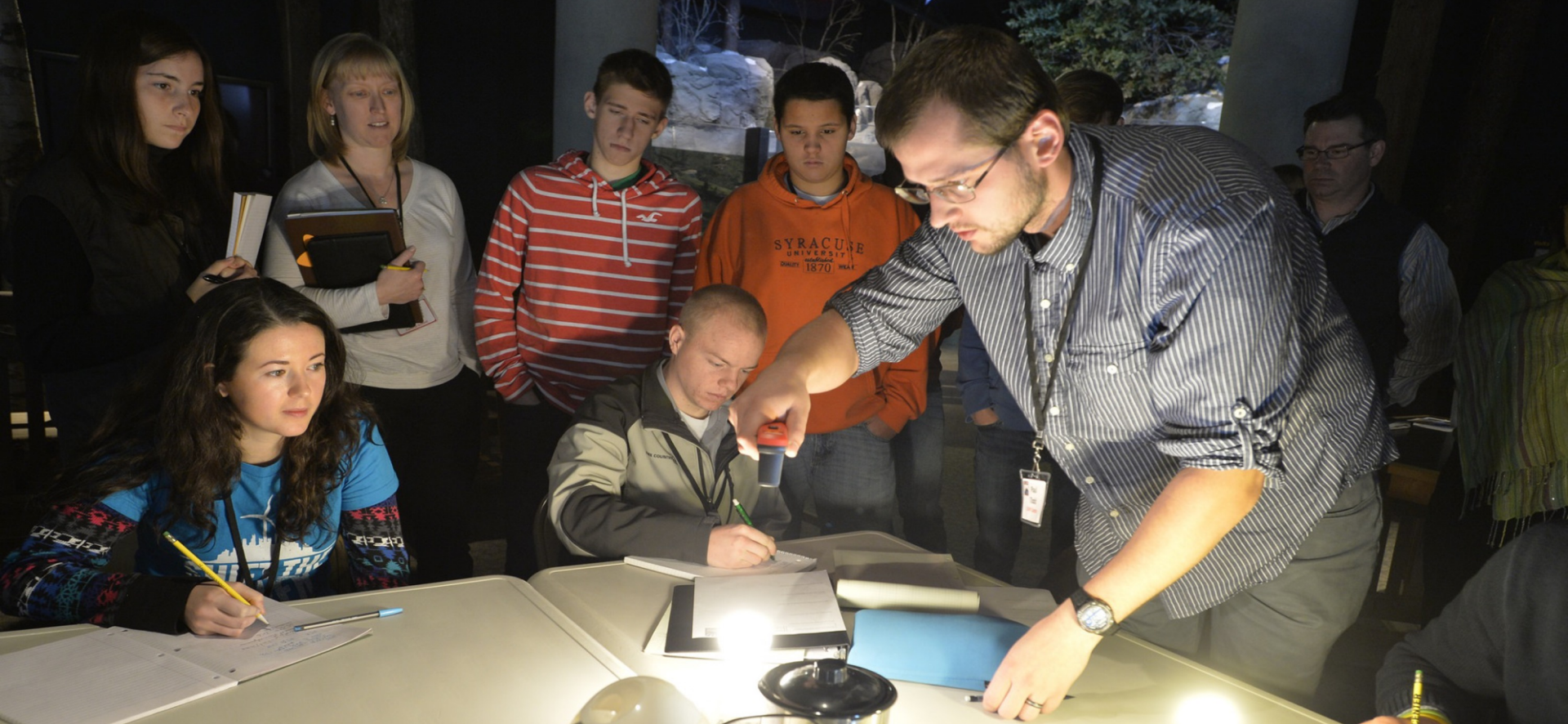






**Strong place-based science content knowledge provides a foundation for discussion and local action**

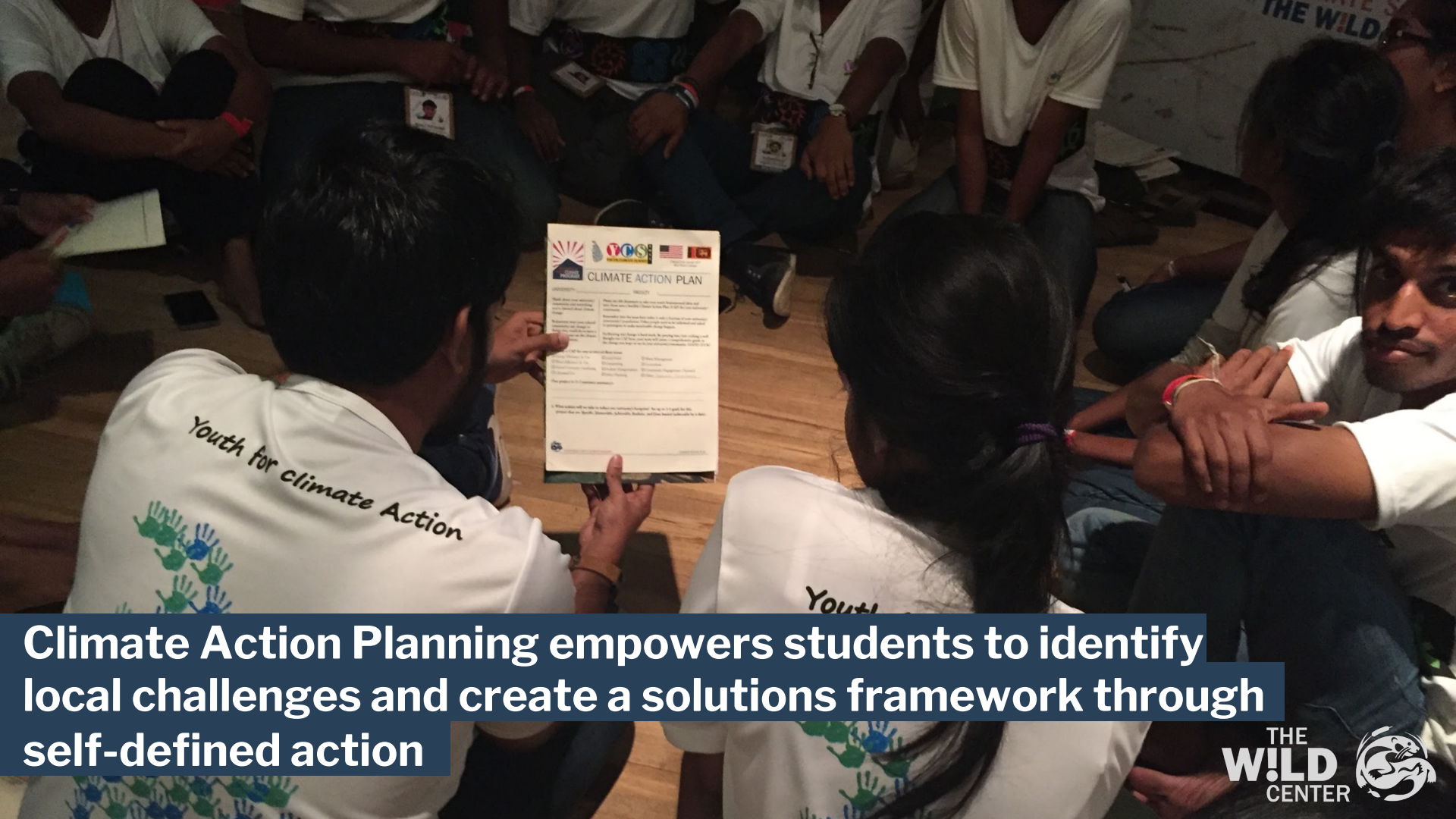




**Hands-on, experiential workshops for youth on climate change topics and solutions**







**Climate Action Planning empowers students to identify local challenges and create a solutions framework through self-defined action**





## Projects:

Students built a garden and greenhouse to grow fresh and local produce for food pantries





**Students install  
water bottle  
refill stations  
to encourage  
other students to  
bring reusable  
water bottles to  
school**





Students  
worked with a  
community  
arts  
organization  
to do a  
Trash Couture  
Show



The poster features the title 'Trash Couture' in large, colorful, block letters at the top, with various pieces of trash like plastic bottles, cardboard, and paper scraps integrated into the letters. Below the title, the event details are listed in bold black text. At the bottom, there are logos for 'THE GARAGERY', 'Community Arts Center BLUSEED STUDIOS', and 'THE WILD CENTER'. A woman in a black trash couture dress is shown in the foreground, and a colorful abstract background is visible behind the text.

**Earth Day Fashion Show Fundraiser**  
**Saturday April 22nd**  
**AT THE GARAGERY**

Proceeds benefit BluSeed Studios and  
The Wild Centers's Youth Climate Program  
DOORS: 6PM SHOW: 7PM

\$25 ADULT / \$15 STUDENT ADVANCED  
\$30 ADULT/\$20 STUDENT AT THE DOOR

BUY TICKETS AT:  
[WWW.BLUSEEDSTUDIOS.ORG](http://WWW.BLUSEEDSTUDIOS.ORG)

THE GARAGERY  
Community Arts Center  
**BLUSEED** STUDIOS  
THE WILD CENTER



THE  
**WILD**  
CENTER





Students start  
their own  
**composting**  
**business**





Students  
engage with the  
**NYS Climate  
Smart  
Community**  
Program and  
partner with  
local  
governments





# Examples of Student-driven Climate Action Projects

## School Projects

- Carbon and energy audit of school campus
- Replaced all the school lights with LED
- Organized school events: Earth Day, “green” dances, sustainability weeks, and speaker series
- Build a school garden & grow food for your school
- Reduce Plastic Waste
- Install Solar Panels on the school

## Community Projects

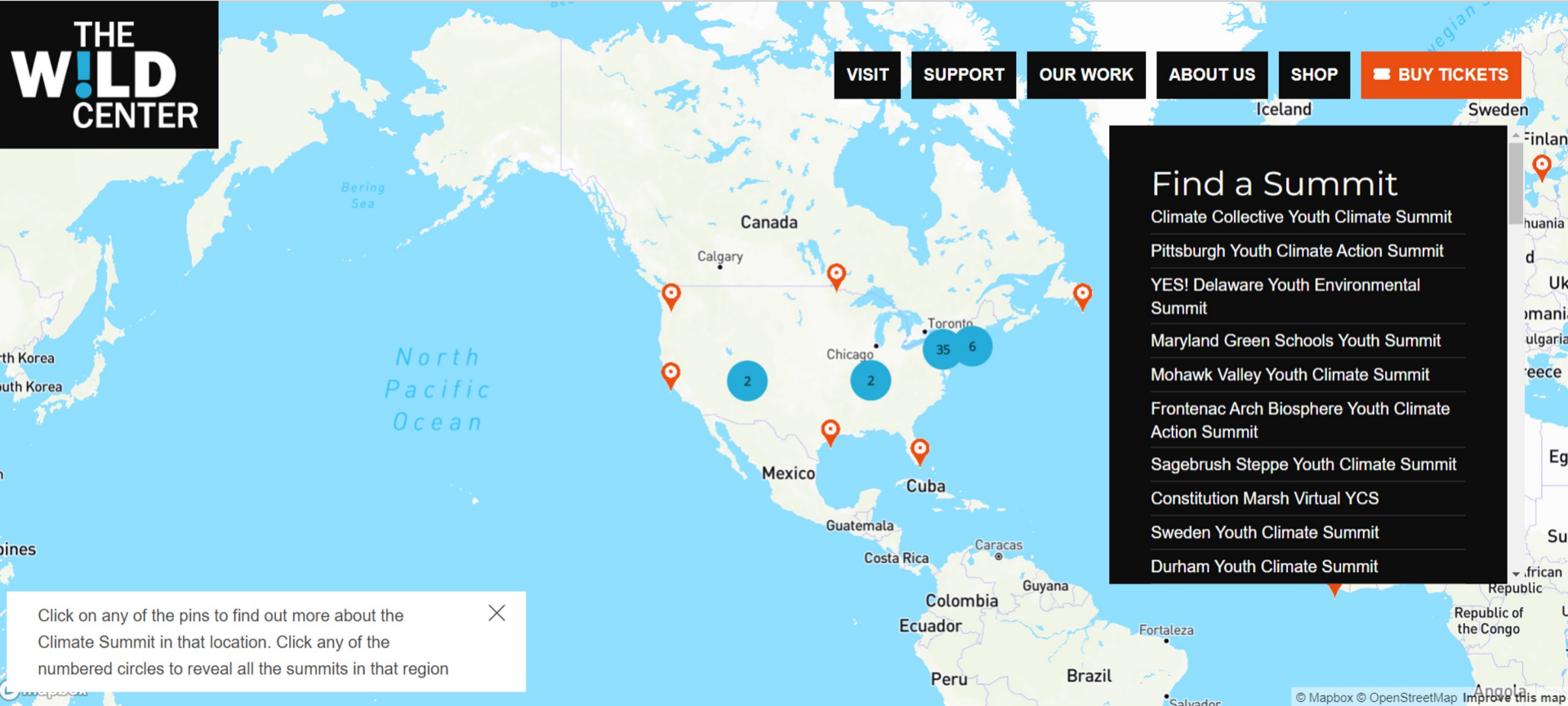
- Create a community pollinator garden
- Build a nature trail and outdoor classroom
- Organize a beach or park clean-up event
- Host a climate-themed movie night
- Do a biodiversity inventory
- Organize a bike-share program
- Volunteer with local farms and support local & organic food
- Host a ‘Trashion Show’



# Youth Climate Summit Network



- VISIT
- SUPPORT
- OUR WORK
- ABOUT US
- SHOP
- BUY TICKETS



- ### Find a Summit
- Climate Collective Youth Climate Summit
  - Pittsburgh Youth Climate Action Summit
  - YES! Delaware Youth Environmental Summit
  - Maryland Green Schools Youth Summit
  - Mohawk Valley Youth Climate Summit
  - Frontenac Arch Biosphere Youth Climate Action Summit
  - Sagebrush Steppe Youth Climate Summit
  - Constitution Marsh Virtual YCS
  - Sweden Youth Climate Summit
  - Durham Youth Climate Summit

Click on any of the pins to find out more about the Climate Summit in that location. Click any of the numbered circles to reveal all the summits in that region



# Download the Free Youth Climate Summit Toolkit

[www.wildcenter.org/youthclimate](http://www.wildcenter.org/youthclimate)







CLIMATE  
SOLUTIONS



REBUIL



**Big Idea:** People across sectors, generations, and backgrounds are building a web of climate solutions and are inviting all of us to find our place in the climate movement.







## Key Findings:

Using a climate solutions framework for the exhibition was clear and effective





The focus on solutions and personal storytelling in the exhibition content played a significant role in making visitors feel hopeful about climate change.



Visitors appreciated that the exhibition was inclusive of many voices and experiences related to climate change.









**Many visitors welcomed the general invitation that everyone has a place in the climate movement, but on a personal level, visitors fall on a spectrum of climate action.**







# Thank You!

Jen Kretser, Director of Climate Initiatives

[jkretser@wildcenter.org](mailto:jkretser@wildcenter.org)

[www.wildclimatesolutions.com/virtual-visit/](http://www.wildclimatesolutions.com/virtual-visit/)

[www.wildcenter.org/youthclimate](http://www.wildcenter.org/youthclimate)



@wildcenter



The Wild Center