



News & Updates



Reflections from It's Our Future's Maddie Howe

Maddie is a senior at Oak Park and River Forest High School and member of It's Our Future. Maddie recently addressed attendees at the PlanItGreen Annual Leaders Forum.

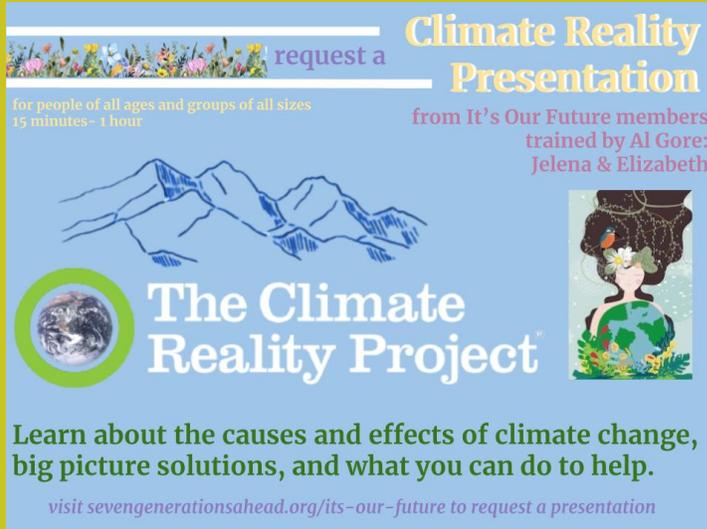
Over the past few months, I have been a part of the It's Our Future and One Earth Film Festival collaboration. Through this, I have realized how fortunate our community is to have the One Earth Film Festival as a partner who not only helps to educate residents, but also assists in the overall strategic plan to help us reduce our environmental footprint and help advance common sustainability objectives.



Both *It's Our Future* and *One Earth Film Festival* youth cohorts believe that now more than ever, we need communities all across the Chicago region and beyond to come together for action, hope, and resilience on issues pertaining to the environment, as well as racial and social justice. In our past two screenings, we have been committed to highlighting young voices of color, especially in fields that are too often whitewashed, such as agriculture, sustainability, and restoring nature spaces.

By being involved with these film screenings, and *It's Our Future* as a whole, I have recognized so many things about myself and the world around me.

Read more from Maddie [HERE](#).



request a **Climate Reality Presentation**

for people of all ages and groups of all sizes
15 minutes - 1 hour

from *It's Our Future* members
trained by Al Gore:
Jelena & Elizabeth

The Climate Reality Project

Learn about the causes and effects of climate change, big picture solutions, and what you can do to help.

visit sevengenerationsahead.org/its-our-future to request a presentation

Youth Action

Trained Climate Reality Project Leaders, Jelena and Lizzie, kicked off their first Youth Action Circle meeting last month. They will continue to co-facilitate monthly meetings and build bridges with increased student led advocacy towards climate solutions. As a reminder, Jelena and Lizzie are offering Climate Reality presentations to various audiences. Jelena and Lizzie believe in climate action and a future with sustainable communities across the globe. Read more and contact us via our [WEBSITE](#).

Our first Public Comment

It's Our Future submitted Public Comment during a Village of Oak Park Board meeting on Dec. 7. *It's Our Future* has been advocating for increased participation in curbside composting programs in Oak Park and River Forest since earlier 2020.

Vicki Scaman, Oak Park Village Clerk, read the statement into the public record and Oak Park's Environmental Services Manager, Cameron Hendricks, has since reached out to SGA's Senior Program Manager, Jen Nelson.



It's Our Future plans to participate in the Village of River Forest Board meeting on Jan. 11 as well. You can read the entire statement [HERE](#).

"Let's reclaim Oak Park and River Forest's forward thinking mindset. We are beginning to fully

understand the science, and we know what Oak Park and River Forest must do. We know that you have a responsibility to our communities. It is time to increase access so that more residents can participate in curbside composting programs.

You have the chance to be a part of this climate solution if you choose to take it. Thank you for your time and attention to these community matters. We look forward to working with you."



Looking for a meaningful platform demanding action on the impacts of climate change being felt across all of society?

The United Nations, United Kingdom and France were proud to be co-hosting the Climate Ambition Summit 2020, in partnership with Chile and Italy. This is a monumental step on the road to the UK-hosted COP26 next November in Glasgow.

Check out the Climate Ambition Summit 2020 recording [HERE](#).

Greta Thunberg dismisses 'empty words' in a new climate crisis appeal video [HERE](#).

Recommended Reading



Take a look at some books about climate change and the fate of our planet from Team Climate of the New York Times. Be sure to get your hands on [All We Can Save](#), a collection of essays, poems and artwork by more than 40 women on topics ranging from sustainable architecture to how Indigenous values could inform the climate movement.

[READ MORE ABOUT ALL WE CAN SAVE](#)

[Seven Generations Ahead Website](#)

