

From Local Action to Global Impacts

23 April 2026, 10:00–12:30



CLIMATE
WEEKS

| Opening

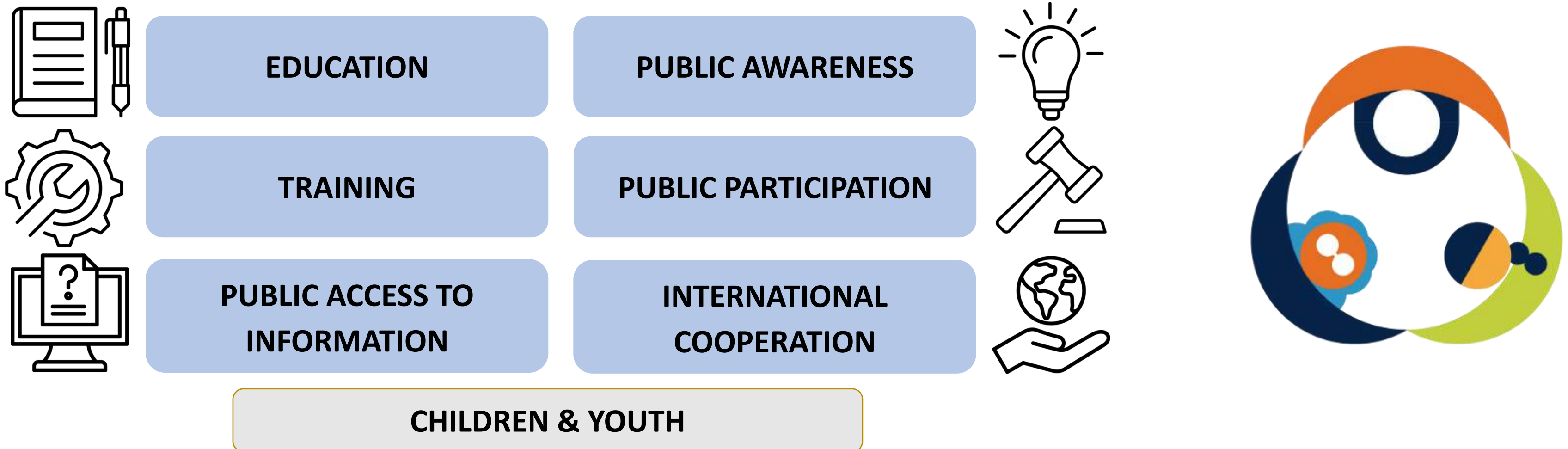


CLIMATE

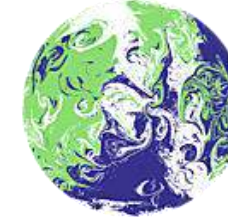
WHAT IS ACE?

Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE):

- Refers to efforts related to implementing **Article 6 of the Convention** and **Article 12 of the Paris Agreement**.
- Plays a key role in promoting the changes in **systems, attitudes and behaviours** needed to foster sustainable development and manage the impacts of climate change.



TIMELINES



1992

Article 6 of the **Convention**

COP13 (2007)

Amended New Delhi work programme on Article 6 of the Convention adopted (2007 – 2012)

COP21 (2015)

Article 12 of the **Paris Agreement**

COP27 (2022)

New 4-year **ACE Action Plan** adopted (2022 – 2026)

COP8 (2002)

New Delhi work programme on Article 6 of the Convention adopted (2002 – 2007)

COP18 (2012)

Doha work programme on Article 6 of the Convention adopted (2012 – 2020)

COP26 (2021)

New 10-year **Glasgow work programme** on ACE adopted (2021 – 2031)

SB64 (2026)

Midterm review of the Glasgow work programme

ACE HUB

Launched in 2022 as a partnership between the German State of North Rhine-Westphalia and UN Climate Change, the ACE Hub works to accelerate climate action and drive the implementation of the Paris Agreement through the implementation of ACE.

The ACE Hub delivers its mission through four pillars:

- Supporting national ACE focal points
- Engaging and empowering children and youth
- Fostering multi-stakeholder collaboration
- Public participation and empowerment



CLIMATE WEEKS

Panel Presentation



CLIMATE



Nehmat Kaur
Director,
Under2 Coalition,
Climate Group



Un Shil Choi
Chair,
Advisory Committee
for Learning Cities



Emani Kumar
Deputy Secretary
General,
ICLEI



Sarah Queblatin
Inclusive Regenerative
Design Specialist,
Iswe Foundation

2026 UNFCCC ACE YEOSU

***Implementing ACE in Korean Learning
Cities :Action for Climate Empowerment***

Choi Un Shil (Former Vice-Chair, UIL)



WHAT IS A LEARNING CITY?

A city that empowers all people to **learn**, **apply**, and **grow** together for a better future.



A LEARNING CITY IS A CITY THAT **EMPOWERS** ALL PEOPLE TO **LEARN**, **APPLY**, AND **GROW** TOGETHER.

CORE PRINCIPLES



1. USE RESOURCES
for learning



2. REVITALIZE LEARNING
in communities



3. FACILITATE LEARNING
in the workplace



4. USE MODERN
LEARNING TOOLS



5. IMPROVE QUALITY
of learning



6. FOSTER A CULTURE
of learning



EMPOWERED
PEOPLE



INCLUSIVE
SOCIETY



SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT



STRONGER
COMMUNITIES



LEARNING TOGETHER. SOLVING TOGETHER. GROWING TOGETHER.

WHAT IS A LEARNING CITY?

A city that connects all resources to empower every citizen through lifelong learning.



THE UNESCO GNLC

An international policy-oriented network providing inspiration, know-how and best practice.

- ✓ Support and accelerate the practice of lifelong learning in communities worldwide
- ✓ Promote policy dialogue and peer learning among member cities
- ✓ Forge links and foster partnerships
- ✓ Build capacities and develop instruments
- ✓ Encourage and recognize progress in building learning cities



LEARN

Use learning to improve lives.



CONNECT

Bring people and institutions together.



GROW

Build a sustainable future together.



TRANSFORM

Drive inclusion, resilience, and positive change.



EMPOWERED
CITIZENS



INCLUSIVE
SOCIETY



SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT



STRONGER
COMMUNITIES



LEARNING TOGETHER. SOLVING TOGETHER. GROWING TOGETHER.



Host the Seventh International Conference on Learning Cities (ICLC 7) [→](#)
Call for Applications

Greening Communities [→](#)
Guidance:
Lifelong Learning for Climate and Sustainability Action

The UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities features in UIL's global webinar series [→](#)
Learn more

UNESCO Learning Cities Progress Report 2022-2024 [→](#)
Highlighting Local Impact in Lifelong Learning

425 UNESCO
learning cities
foster a culture of learning at the local level.

91 countries
host UNESCO learning cities
thereby fostering international collaboration.

> 498 million
inhabitants of UNESCO learning cities
benefit from learning opportunities across the lifespan.

By 2030,
the global community seeks to
provide lifelong learning opportunities for all and make cities sustainable.



 **THE GNLC NETWORK DRIVES SUSTAINABLE CHANGE**



SUPPORTS ALL 17 SDGS
Especially SDG 4 and SDG 11



PROMOTES LIFELONG LEARNING
Inclusive, equitable, and quality education for all



BUILDS SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES
Safe, resilient, green and healthy environments



ADVANCES EQUITY & INCLUSION
Empowers people and leaves no one behind



DRIVES LOCAL ACTION & INNOVATION
Decent work, entrepreneurship, and local solutions



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1 NO POVERTY  | 2 ZERO HUNGER  | 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING  | 4 QUALITY EDUCATION  | 5 GENDER EQUALITY  | 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION  |
| 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY  | 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH  | 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE  | 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES  | 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES  | 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION  |
| 13 CLIMATE ACTION  | 14 LIFE BELOW WATER  | 15 LIFE ON LAND  | 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS  | 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS  |  |

 **TOGETHER, WE BUILD LEARNING CITIES FOR A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL.**

Korea's Learning Cities, Driving Sustainable Change

From learning to action, for people, planet, and future.



1 **STRONG LOCAL LEARNING ECOSYSTEM**

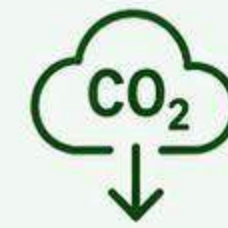


206
Lifelong Learning Cities

59
UNESCO GNLC Cities



2 **BEYOND EDUCATION TO SUSTAINABLE, CLIMATE-ACTIVE COMMUNITIES**



3 **LEARNING CITIES AS A COMMUNITY MOVEMENT FOR CLIMATE ACTION**



HOMES



SCHOOLS



NEIGHBORHOODS & COMMUNITIES



CITIZEN NETWORKS



KOREA'S LEARNING CITIES CONNECT LEARNING WITH ACTION, BUILDING A MORE SUSTAINABLE, RESILIENT, AND INCLUSIVE FUTURE FOR ALL.

Seoul Metropolitan City
Climate Action in Everyday Life

1. *The SDGs Became Seoul's City Map*

From 17 SDGs global goals to one living urban system

- *Seoul translates global SDGs into a city logic*
- **Healthy City for All**
- **Thriving City of Economic Justice**
- **Leading City in Climate Action**
- **Inclusive City Built Together**
- *In Seoul, carbon neutrality is connected to children's education, older adults' health, energy bills at home, clean commuting, public buildings, citizen audits, district-level cooperation.*

Seoul teaches us that climate policy must be designed as a life policy.

Government Publications Registration Number

51-6110000-003194-01

SEOUL

VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEW 2025



2. Seoul Climate Card

:One Pass One City Less Carbon
Low-carbon mobility becomes cheaper, easier, and daily

- **Climate Card gives citizens one pass for Subway, bus, and public bike sharing**
- **It changes climate action from a campaign into a morning routine**
- **Pilot results showed about KRW 30,000 monthly savings per user**
- **Reduced around 9,270 tCO₂e, showing climate policy can benefit both people and planet**


Seoul's lesson:

the best climate education is the one people practice on their commute.

POLICY HIGHLIGHT: SDG 13-LINKED LINKED PROGRAM

CLIMATE CARD

Seoul's Flagship Climate Policy for Action and Affordability



- ONE CARD, MANY WAYS TO MOVE**
Ride city buses, subways, and use public bike-sharing.
- AFFORDABLE FOR EVERYONE**
Flat monthly fee for unlimited green mobility.
- BETTER FOR PEOPLE, BETTER FOR THE PLANET**
Promotes climate action, reduces emissions, and improves daily life.

PILOT RESULTS SHOW AVERAGE KRW 30,000 IN MONTHLY SAVING PER USER AND REDUCTION OF 9,270 t CO₂e.

840,000 PARTICIPANTS ENGAGED

1,576 TONS OF WASTE COLLECTED



3. SEOUL Green Remodeling Project **: Retrofitting the city we already have** **Buildings are Seoul's biggest** **climate classroom**

- *Seoul identifies buildings as a major source of emissions - **68% of city GHG emissions***
- *The **Green Remodeling Project** targets aging public buildings first*
- *Seoul plans to retrofit 1,079 public facilities by 2030*
- *Schools, welfare centers, and public buildings become visible examples of transition.*

Carbon neutrality becomes real when citizens can see it in public spaces.



13



SDG 13: Climate Action

**Create Carbon-neutral City in
Response to Climate Crisis**

Seoul's Vision:

Looking ahead to 2045, Seoul aims to become a carbon-neutral city ready to respond to the climate crisis. The city is improving its ability to manage climate risks and disasters, while guiding a fair and stable shift toward carbon neutrality. To support this goal, Seoul is strengthening environmental education, tracking greenhouse gas emissions more closely, and increasing climate response funding.

SEOUL
VOLUNTARY
LOCAL REVIEW
2025



4. SEOUL Energy Rights : Clean Energy Begins with Energy Dignity

*Clean energy must protect vulnerable
households first*

- *Seoul's SDG 7 focuses on **basic energy rights**, not only renewable energy supply*
- ***Energy Vouchers** support low-income households, older adults, persons with disabilities, and single-parent families.*
- *The 2030 target is to reach **99.6% of eligible households**.*
- *Seoul also expands renewables, EV infrastructure, and climate-tech support.*

*a climate transition is only credible when it
reduces inequality*



5. Learning Is Seoul's First Just-Transition Policy

Seoul Learn and Open Civic University make transition possible for those usually left behind.

- why learning is a climate justice issue
- Seoul responds through:
 - ✓ **Seoul Learn** for underprivileged youth
 - ✓ **Seoul Open Citizen University** for lifelong learning
 - ✓ adult literacy & vocational training
 - ✓ support for persons with disabilities.
- These are not “education programs” alone.
- They are human infrastructure for a just transition.

A carbon-neutral city needs people who are not only informed, but empowered.



6. *Before Seoul Acts, Seoul Listens* *Citizens Co-Wrote Seoul's 2045 Future* *Participation became climate* *governance*

- *Seoul's SDGs 2045 3rd Plan was shaped by 1,622 citizens, 104 experts, and 48 city departments.*
- *Youth, older adults, ESG actors, citizens, and district voices joined surveys and roundtables.*
- *Young people reviewed all 17 SDGs, projects, and indicators and wrote a Youth Declaration.*
- *Seoul also monitors SDG progress through reports, evaluation panels, and future dashboard planning.*

*climate ambition lasts when citizens are co-authors,
not spectators*

*Participation becomes powerful when citizens are
invited before decisions are finalized.*



EUNPYEONG

***Where Neighborhoods Become
Climate Classrooms***

1. **UNESCO GNLC AWARD CITY** **Sustainable City, Green Utopia** **EUNPYEONG**

Eunpyeong Turned a Waste Crisis into a Citizen System: Greenmoa-Moa / AI Greenmoa-Moa

- *Eunpyeong responded to rising mixed waste with **Greenmoa-Moa and AI Greenmoa-Moa***
- ***Green Moa brings people together to collect, sort, and turn waste into climate action.***
- ***Resident-participatory separation system- Korea's first model where public and private actors solve waste problems together***
- *Engaged 840,000 participants and collected 1,576 tons of waste*

***Eunpyeong makes carbon neutrality visible at the
doorstep, not only in policy documents.***



2. **EUNPYEONG, Children Put Their Homes on a “Waste Diet”-ZERO WASTE Movement**

Youth climate action begins from real household data

- The youth project “**Waste Diet**” moved climate education from awareness to measurement.
- At Nokbeon Elementary School, students tracked paper, cans, bottles, plastics, and daily household waste.
- The “**Waste-Free School**” experiment recorded an average 41% reduction in household waste.
- The model expanded into **ZERO Eunpyeong Eco Camp, carbon-neutral UCC contests**

Children are not climate audiences, they are climate changemakers.



3. EUNPYEONG, 16 Neighborhoods Village (Dongs) Become 16 Climate Action Colleges

Citizen's Participatory budgeting + 1 Village-1 University

- Residents proposed and operated environmental projects through participatory budgeting.
- Eunpyeong implemented 31 environmental projects across all 16 dongs
- Environmental participatory budget
- 1 Dong-1 University connects district office, community village centers, universities, and residents. Learning moves from lecture halls to gardens, kitchens, streets, forests, and community centers.

Carbon neutrality scales when every neighborhood has its own learning engine.



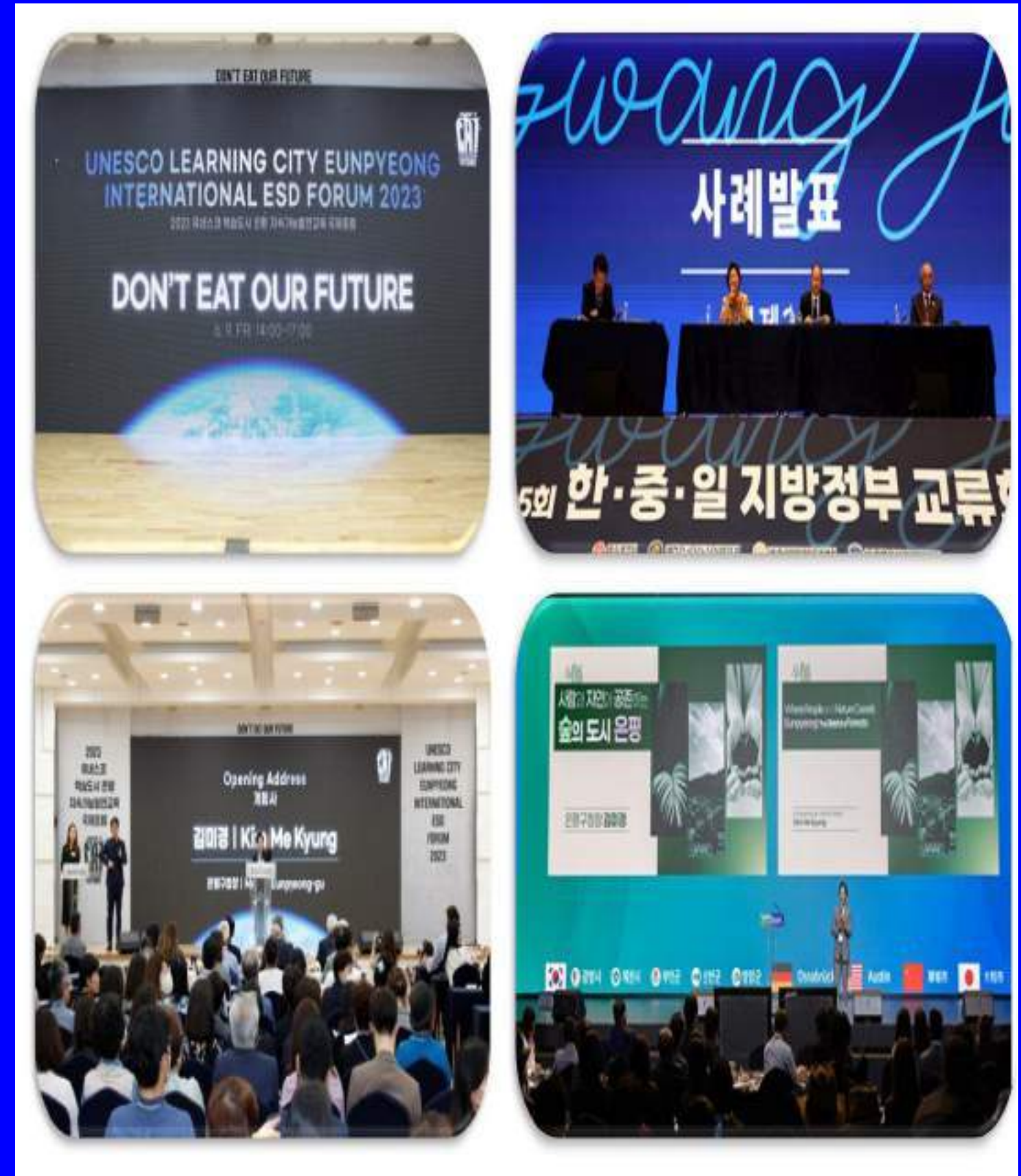
4. EUNPYEONG, SCALED CLIMATE ACTION THROUGH A CITIZEN MANUAL

Climate Action Guidebook for Everyday Life

- *Eunpyeong developed a practical Climate Action Manual for residents*
- *The guidebook translates carbon neutrality into simple daily actions at home and in communities.*
- *It is used in education programs and widely distributed across neighborhoods.*
- *Citizens learn, practice, and share the same standards of climate action.*

***Standardized learning → shared action
→ citywide impact.***

***Eunpyeong proves that climate action scales
when people follow a shared guide.***



5. Small Changes Earned a Global Voice

Eunpyeong's green skills travelled from the neighborhood to UNESCO

- *Eunpyeong connected local practice to global dialogue through:*
- *International ESD Forum +Carbon Neutrality Forum +UIL webinars-learning-city exchanges*
- *UNESCO described Eunpyeong as a city where lifelong learning supports civic engagement, environmental sustainability, and inclusivity.*

Small but significant changes become global impact when citizens own them.

**Together,
We Learn.
Together,
We Change.**



Suwon

People-powered

Citizen Driven Climate Action

1. **SUWON –UN Sustainable VLR City: UNESCO GNLC AWARD CITY SUWON**

Suwon -Car-Free Climate Laboratory

- *EcoMobility World Festival 2013 / EcoMobility Suwon New Festa 2023*
- *In 2013, Suwon ran a one-month car-free neighborhood experiment, where over 4,300 residents experienced **ecomobility in daily life** and won the **UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour Award**.*
 - 1,500 vehicles removed / 4,343 residents involved.
 - Streets became spaces for walking, cycling, learning, and community life.
- *In 2023, Suwon revived the memory through **EcoMobility Suwon New Festa**, with 30,000 participants and 39 learning programs*

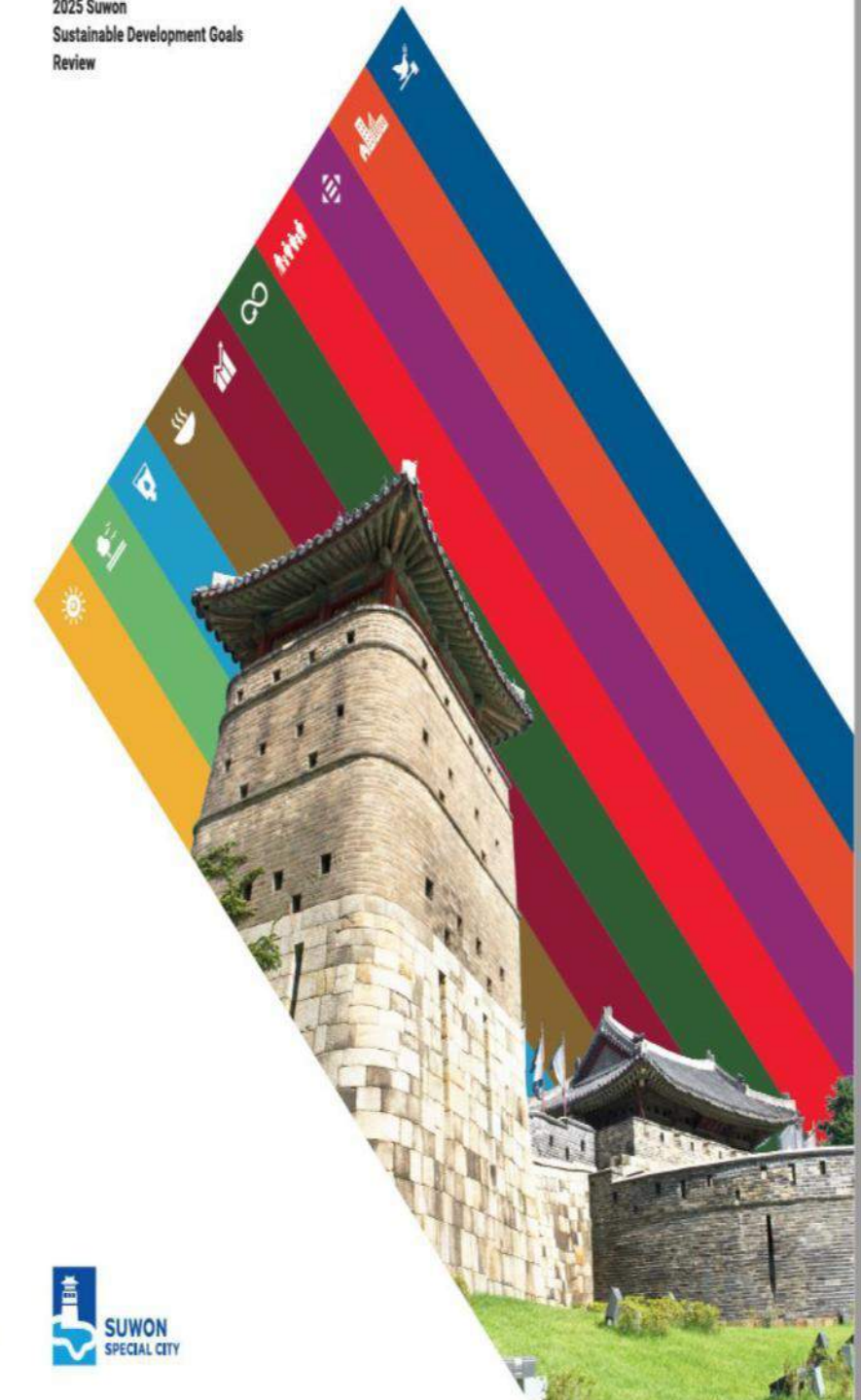
***climate mobility becomes powerful when citizens
experience
a different city with their own bodies.***



SUWON

SDG Report 2025

2025 Suwon
Sustainable Development Goals
Review



2. Gosaek Became Suwon's Carbon-Neutral Living Lab

Suwon : Carbon-neutral Green City / Planet-friendly Suwon

- *Gosaek Station area became Suwon's carbon-neutral living lab, Testbed*
- *Five action fields: energy transition, carbon sinks, adaptation, resource circulation, awareness.*
- *Resident Planning Group turned citizens into climate co-designers.*
- *My Home Carbon Monitoring makes household emissions visible through a mobile app.*

Carbon neutrality begins when citizens can see and shape the transition.



Best Practices of
Citizen-Driven Lifelong Learning
for Climate Action and Carbon Neutrality

in **SUWON**



3. A Bicycle Ride Became a Climate Movement

Suwon :Bike-to-Work Challenge

- *Bike-to-Work Challenge turns commuting into citizen climate action.*
- *Citizens choose **bicycles, walking, and public transport** instead of cars.*
- *Real-time app tracks **distance and CO₂ reduction**.*
- *Impact: **130,853 km cycled / 30,358 kg CO₂ reduced / 1,620 trees equivalent**.*

Climate action spreads when people can measure their own impact.

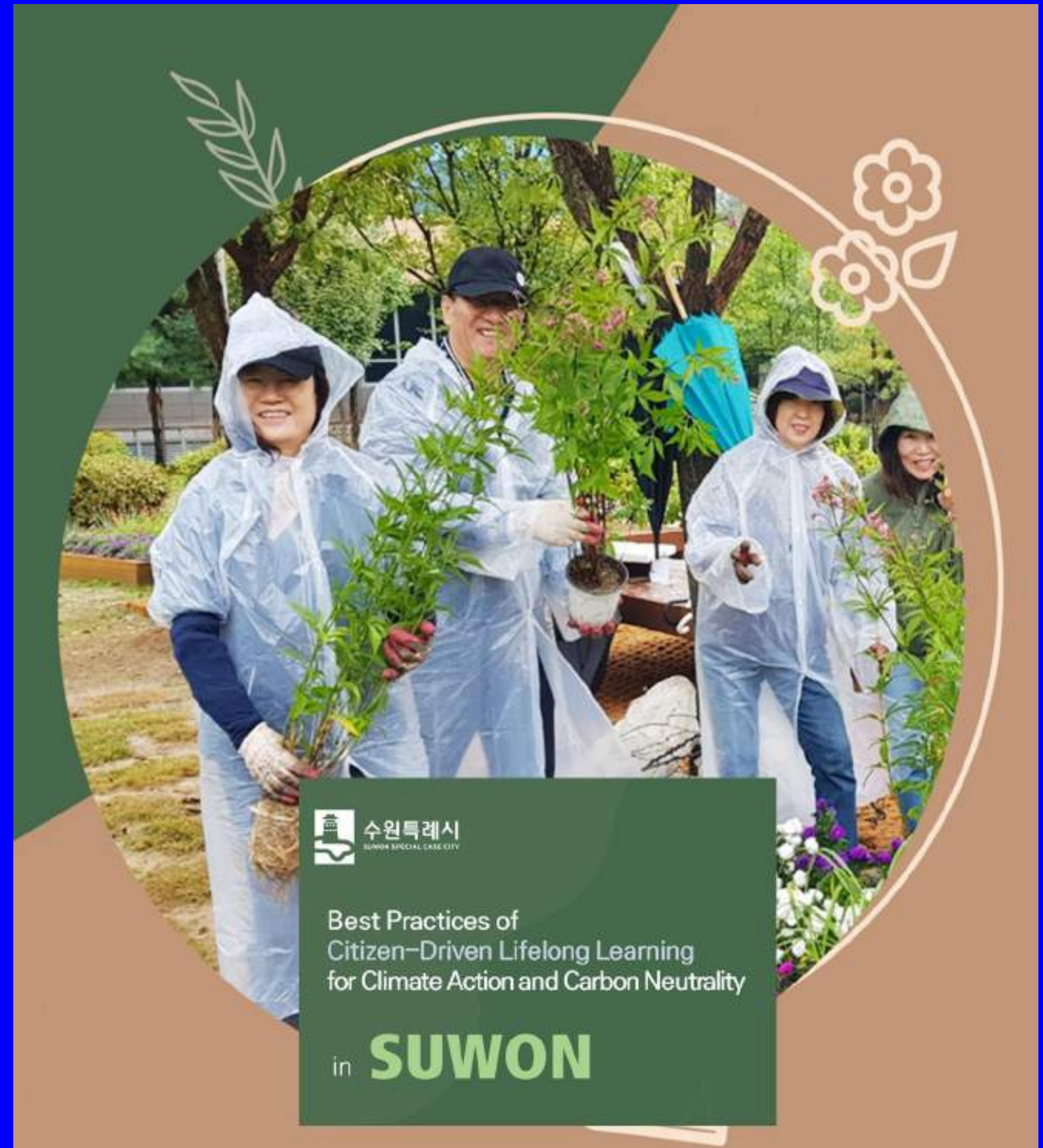


4. Pocket Gardens Turned Empty Spaces into Climate Classrooms

Sonbadak Palm Garden Project

- *Suwon transforms vacant lots, apartment edges, and roadside spaces into small citizen gardens.*
- *The Sonbadak / Palm Garden movement is designed and led by citizens as teachers and learners.*
- *By 2024, the project had created 624 gardens, moving toward 1,000 gardens by 2026.*
- *Citizens plant, maintain, learn, and build community through garden days, contests, and urban farmer programs.*

Nature-based climate action can begin in the smallest neglected space of the city.



5. Suwon Made Carbon Visible at Home and Water Flow Again in Rivers

Home Carbon Monitoring

Hwanggujicheon Ecological Water Resources Center

- **Home Carbon Monitoring** lets households check energy use and carbon emissions through a mobile app.
- The program reached **100,000 households and 100 apartment complexes**, helping residents compare and reduce emissions.
- **The Hwanggujicheon Ecological Water Resources Center** treats 45,000 tons of wastewater per day.
- **25,000 tons per day are reused** to revive dry urban streams and restore water circulation.

A sustainable city teaches citizens to see hidden flows carbon at home, water under the city, and life returning to rivers.



Thanks

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Deputy Secretary
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Inclusive Regenerative
Design Specialist,
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Town Hall COPs: Connecting climate action at all levels

23 April 2026



Town Hall COP initiative is a ground-up initiative to drive the connection of climate action at all levels

- Town Hall COPs are
 - **locally-led**
 - **nationally-relevant**
 - **transformation-oriented**
- In the lead-up to COP30 in Belém, 50+ communities across six continents hosted Town Hall COPs.
- National governments are seeing the value in the Town Hall COP model to help connect their local communities to country-level plans.



Facts & figures

51 Town Hall COPs

25 countries

6 continents

13,000+

residents attended
the events

9 hours

average duration of the
events

37 of 51

reporting Town Hall COPs said that they will
continue discussions with national
representatives

42 of 51

reporting Town Hall COPs said that the
event strengthened national-subnational
collaboration on NDCs

More than half

announced a new policy or plan

Town Hall COPs (as of 12 November)



What we learned from the 2025 Town Hall COPs

1. Local communities are shaping national climate ambition through demonstrated implementation and shared accountability.
2. The Town Hall COP model works
3. Inclusion drives innovation and legitimacy
4. Town Hall COP outcomes are informing national plans and the UNFCCC process



Where the Town Hall COP initiative is headed in 2026

- Town Hall COPs can become an **annual bridge** between national climate commitments and local implementation.
- ICLEI will expand the Town Hall COP ecosystem to engage **more cities, national partners and initiative partners** who can help deliver effective Town Hall COPs.
- We will **appeal to more national governments** by offering this ready-made, inclusive mechanism for connecting local action to national ambition.





Connecting
climate action
at all levels.

Learn more: iclei.org/town-hall-cop



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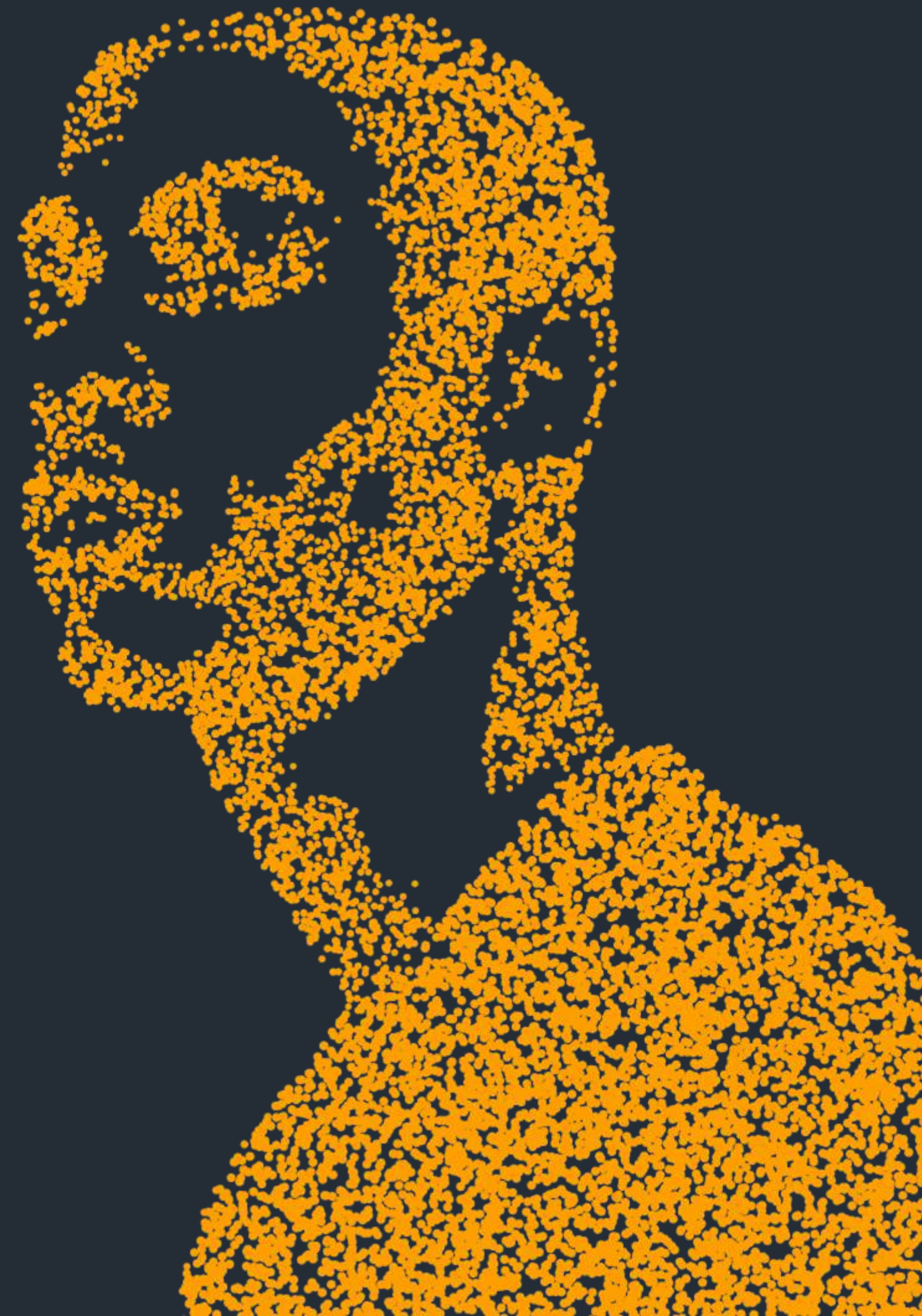


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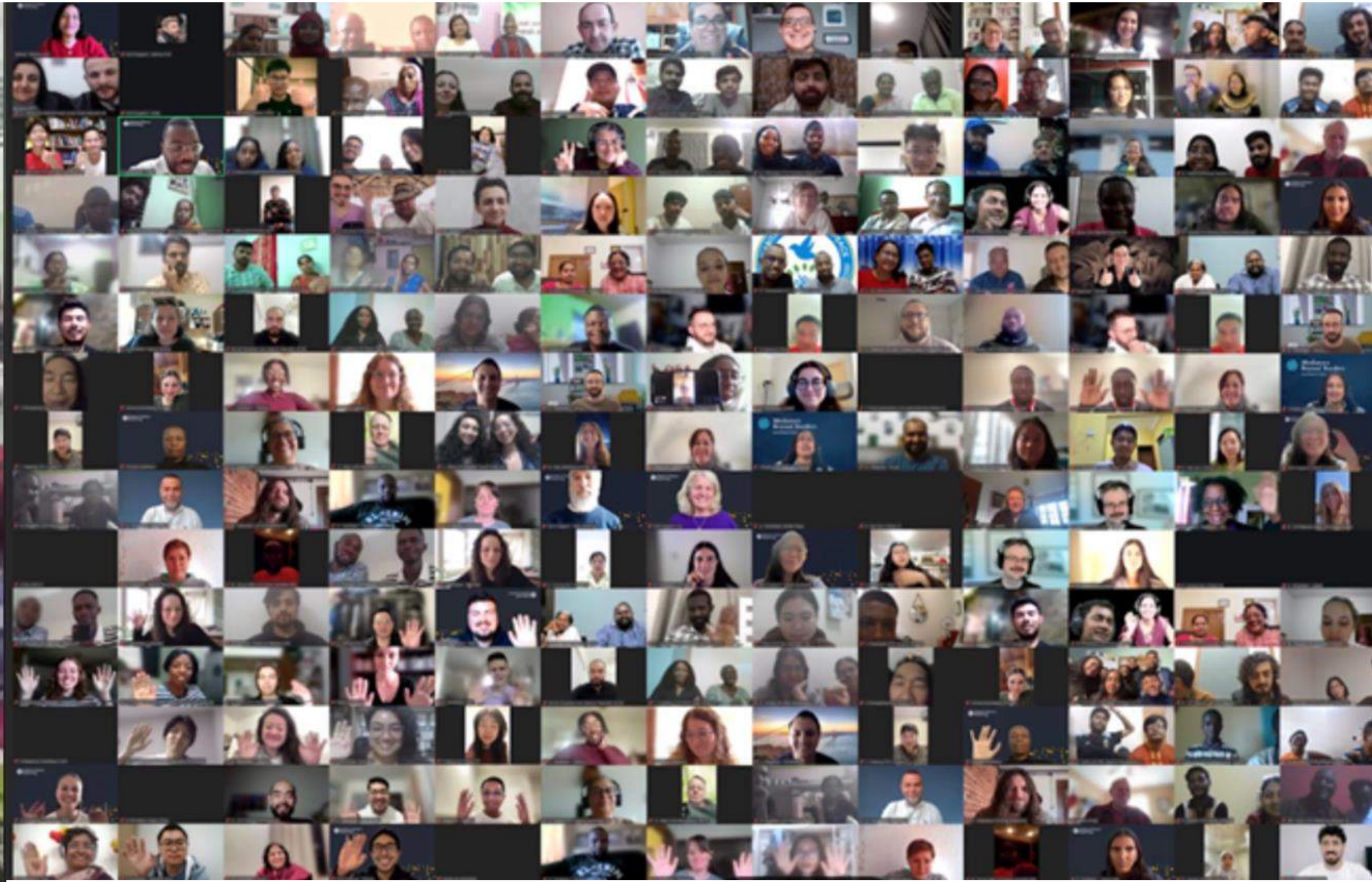
Citizen Assemblies: Scaling Actions for Climate Empowerment

Climate Week 3
Yesou, South Korea
23 April 2026



Sarah Queblatin
*Learning and Impact
Partnerships,*
Global Citizens Assembly





Meet the communities shaping Assemblis — and making waves in their communities



Saúde em Clima - Caruaru, Brazil

Transforming stories of drought, food insecurity, and resilience into political proposals and a traditional poem



Agricultors' Children - Maputo, Mozambique

Five young people turn isolation into community strength and concrete action.



Imagining an edible campus - Karnataka, India

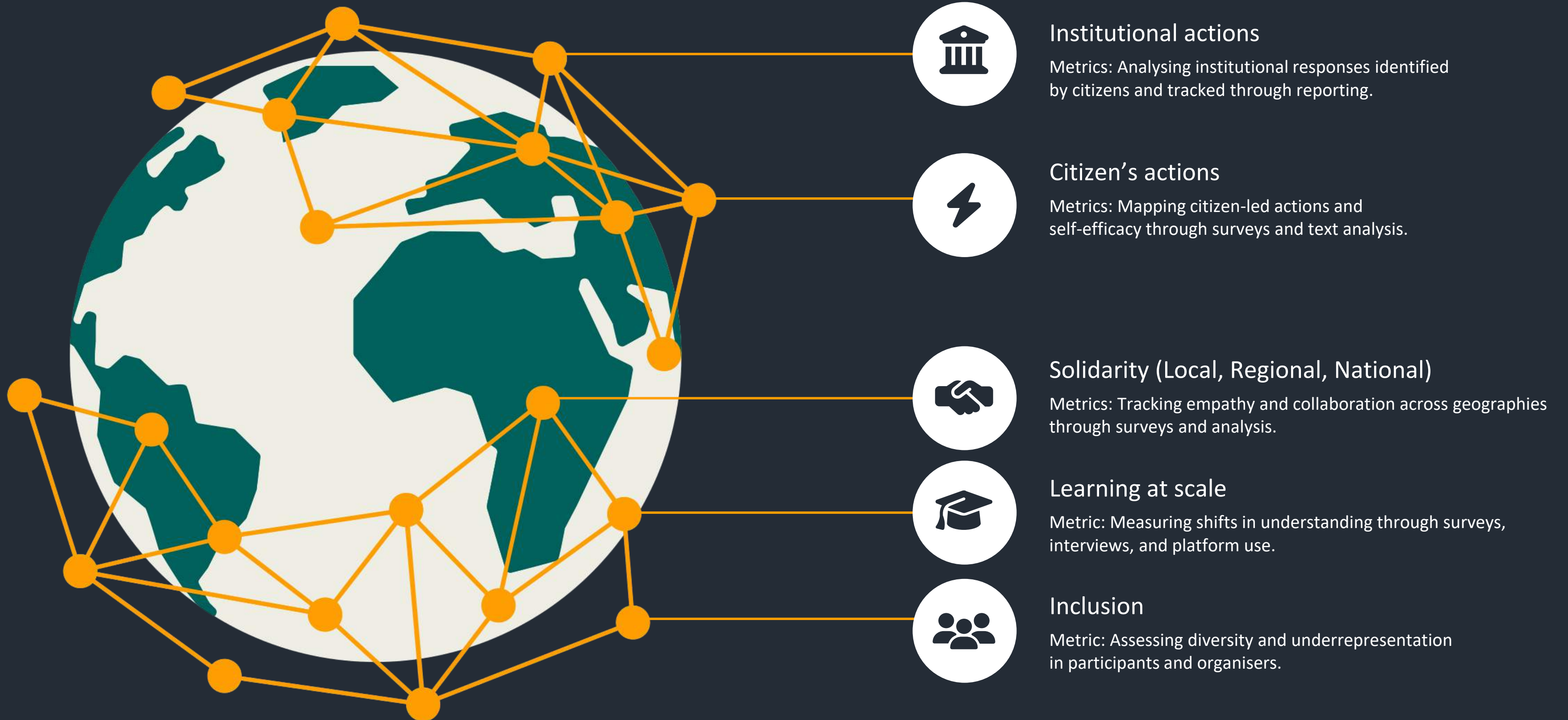
How students at Alliance University imagined their way to a better future of food



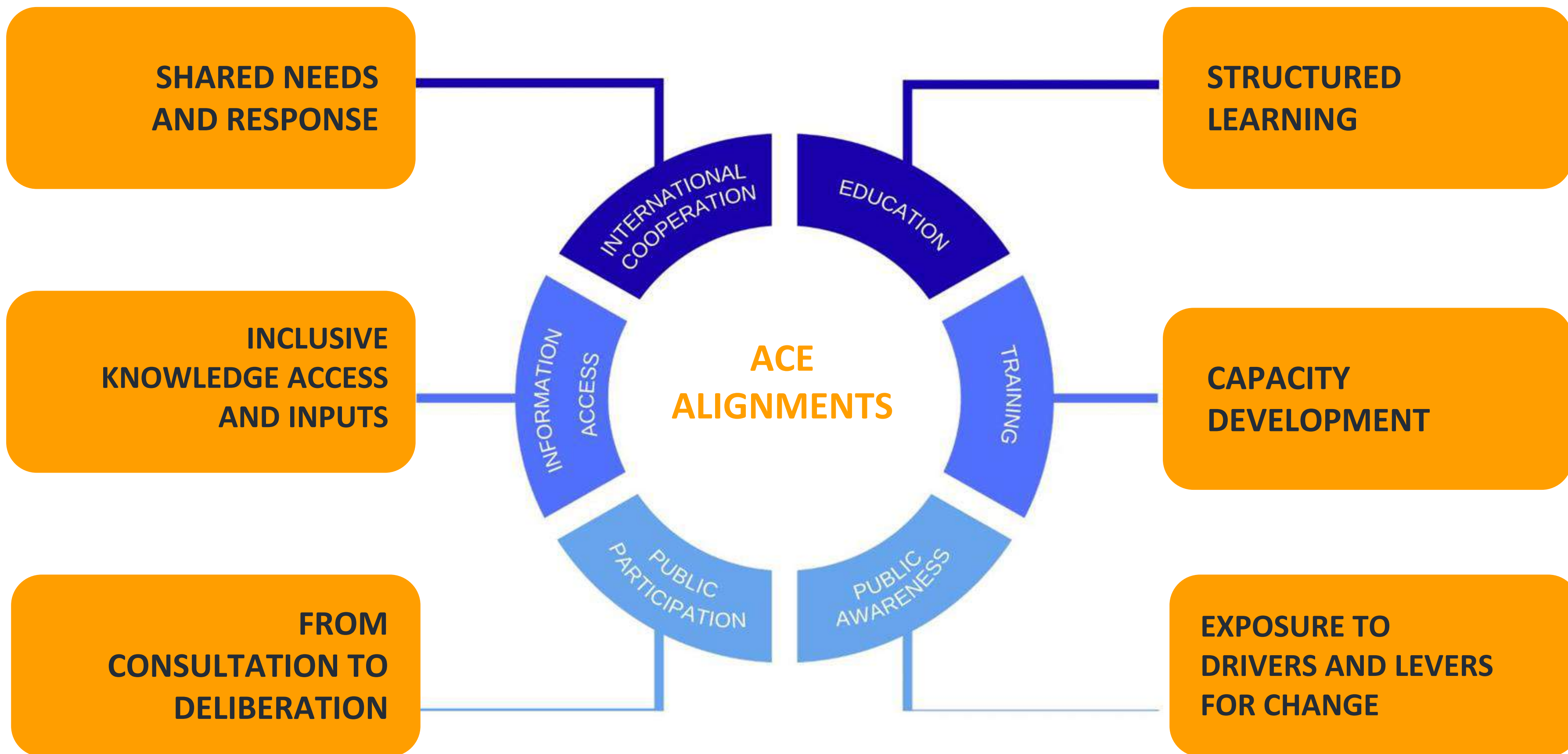
7243

- KNOCA
- LATINO
- OCDE2023
- ODP
- OPSI
- Participatory_budgeting
- Participedia
- PeoplePowered
- CommEngagementHub

Local, National & Global Impact









“I realised we are one world. I spoke to people on the other side of the world also dealing with crop loss, just like us.”

- Anna Mbabzi, Civic Assembly Member





Thank You

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Scan for
Global Citizens' Assembly



Scan for
Assemblis.org

CLIMATE
WEEKS

Breakout Discussion



CLIMATE

Subnational and local experience in enhancing climate ambition and implementation, and how can ACE act as an enabler and accelerator?

| | TABLE 1 | TABLE 2 | TABLE 3 |
|---------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| Round 1 | Energy/industry | Just transition | Transport |
| Round 2 | Health | Food security | Nature-based solutions |

Two 30-minute rounds – Choose the two topics of your choice.

For *online* participants, join the discussion at: bit.ly/acecw3



CLIMATE
WEEKS



Report Back



CLIMATE

CLIMATE
WEEKS

| Closing



CLIMATE

MIDTERM REVIEW

The SBI is requested to undertake a **midterm review of progress** at its 64th session (June 2026) of the Glasgow work programme **to evaluate its effectiveness, identify any emerging gaps and needs, and inform any consideration of improving the work programme**, as appropriate.

2026 ACE Dialogue

8 June 2026 (Mon)

Inform midterm review of the Glasgow work programme (Looking backward)

Technical Workshop

9 & 11 June 2026 (Tue & Thu)

Discuss potential elements for a new action plan (Looking forward)



Submissions by Parties and non-Party stakeholders on the matters to be addressed at the 2026 ACE Dialogue and the technical workshop (by 31 March 2026)

